Local cities condemn Brunei for ‘draconian’ new laws

L.A. councilman calls for boycott of two hotels owned by the monarchy

BY LUKE HAROLD

Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz and Controller Ron Galperin called for a boycott of the Hotel Bel-Air and Beverly Hills Hotel in protest of “draconian” penalties for homosexuality now in effect in Brunei. The royal family of Brunei owns the hotels.

Death sentences by stoning for same-sex acts and adultery, public flogging for women who receive

See Bruenl page 25

Crossroads project draws ire of activists

Displacement of current residents at the site under dispute

BY CAMERON KISZLA

On Jan. 22, the Crossroads Hollywood project, which aims to bring nine buildings, 950 apartments, 308 hotel rooms and 190,000 square feet of commercial space to the area around the Crossroads of the World at 6671 Sunset Blvd., passed the Los Angeles City Council by a vote of 13-0. An initial vote was held that same day and passed 15-0, but following further public comment, City Attorney Mike Feuer called for a second vote, for which Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, and Councilman Price, 9th District, were absent.

Though it had overwhelming support, not everyone is a fan of the project.

On a mid-March morning, Jill Stewart, executive director of the Coalition to Preserve LA and an advocate for banning developer campaign contributions to Los Angeles City Council members, railed against the development as she stood outside O’Farrell’s Sunset Boulevard office with a handful of Coalition supporters; Matthew Strugar, an attorney representing the organization; and a large cutout of a rat.

Stewart, an activist who also helped lead the charge to support Measure S, the failed proposal from 2017 that sought a two-year moratorium on new projects that would require a zoning change, said the Crossroads project would displace more than 100 residents in the near-

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Shane’s Inspiration celebrates 20 years

Griffith Park playground has welcomed a generation of children

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

For Max Akins, who has cerebral palsy, having a playground where he feels comfortable and can enjoy the company of others is paramount.

At least once a week, Max’s caregiver Clo Farias brings him from Winnetka to the Shane’s Inspiration playground in Griffith Park, a space designed with special play structures accessible to children with disabilities. The idea behind Shane’s Inspiration was to create a place where all children can play together, regardless of their physical ability. It has made a big difference in Max’s life.

“He likes to come here and it’s nice to be out in the outdoors,” Farias said during a recent visit to the playground with Max. “He interacts with the other kids. He can’t say much, but you can see he enjoys it.”

Caregiver Clo Farias said he brings Max Akins, who has cerebral palsy, to the Shane’s Inspiration playground in Griffith Park so he can enjoy the outdoors and interact with other children.

See Playground page 25

WeHo light rail extension staying on the fast track

BY CAMERON KISZLA

On March 28, representatives of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority held a meeting in the community room at the West Hollywood Library, which was bursting at the seams with people who came to ask questions and make their opinions heard about an extension of the light rail Crenshaw/LAX Line.

At a meeting hosted by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority at the West Hollywood Library, five potential routes were presented for an extension of the Crenshaw/LAX Line.

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**Corky Hale book signing**

Legenday jazz musician Corky Hale will sign and discuss her book "Corky Hale-Unsucked" on Thursday, April 4, at 7 p.m. at Vroman’s Bookstore in Pasadena. The book tells the extraordinary life story of the irrepressible jazz harpist, pianist, vocalist, pioneering social activist and plot anthropist. Hale has worked with supers of many generations including Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Billie Holliday, Tony Bennett, Labyrinth, Bjork and George Michael, as well as her husband of almost 50 years, Corky Hale Shuttler, of the legendary songwriting and producing team, Lohr and Shuttler Hale.

Hale's book will be available for purchase during the event at Vroman’s Bookstore, 695 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena. (626)449-5520, corkyhale.com.

**Book Sale**

Book lovers can find rarities and bargains at the John C. Fremont Library’s book sale on Friday, April 5, from noon to 4 p.m., and Saturday, April 6, from noon to 5 p.m. CDs, DVDs, audio books and videos can also be offered. 6121 Melrose Ave. (323)962-3521.

**‘Oil in the Blood’**

Enjoy a free screening of “Oil in the Blood” on Friday, April 5, at 7 p.m. at the Petersen Automotive Museum. Custom motorcycle culture is experiencing a renaissance. Bikies that were once a sign of rebellion are being customized and cherished, and are now a sign of individuality. “Oil in the Blood” is a documentary on the contemporary custom motorcycle culture. The screening is part of a pre-release tour for the movie. 6060 Wilshire Blvd. Petersen.org.

**Monterey Jazz Festival celebration**

LA Phil presents the “Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour: 60th Anniversary Celebration” on Friday, April 5, at 8 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Cécile McLorin Salvant, Bria Skonveda, Melissa Aldana, Christian Sands, Yasmine Akram and Jamil Sharif will perform in the all-star touring band, along with the SFJAZZ Collective performing the music of the bossa nova artist Antônio Carlos Jobim.

Collective performing the music of Jobim, along with the SFJAZZ Ross will perform in their all-star tour of the John C. Fremont Library’s book sale on Friday, April 5, from noon to 4 p.m., and Saturday, April 6, from noon to 5 p.m. CDs, DVDs, audio books and videos can also be offered. 6121 Melrose Ave. (323)962-3521.

**Petra Seeger tribute**

Will Gier’s Thematisc Botanicum presents award-winning activist recording artists Emma’s Revolution (Pat Humphries and Sandy O), personal friends of the late Pete Seeger, performing in the “Re-PETE Seeger Centennial Celebration” on Saturday, April 6, at 1 p.m. Audiences are invited to sing along at the tribute to the late singer-songwriter and activist. The performance also includes Peters Altop, Ellen Grr, Melora Marshall and Marshall McDaniel, with special guests Ross Altman, Michele Bouman, Matt Carter, Ernestine Phillips, Gerald C. Rivers, Elizabeth Tobias and more. Tickets are $25. 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd. (310)455-2222, theatricum.com.

**Comedy game show**

Play “Internet Explorer: A Comedy Game Show” with comedian Joe Kwaczala on Saturday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. at 1324 S. Normandie Ave. (213)378-8026, or email atvinyo@ Voycility.com.

**Japanese dance**

Lecturer and performer Umekawa Shinsohito presents “A Revolution in Movement: The Traditional and Innovative World of Dance” on Monday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Japana Foundation, Los Angeles. Shinsohito will demonstrate classical Japanese dance and the unique folk dance bengo. The presentation also includes movements to master basic performance. Admission is free, registration required. 5050 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 101. (323)781-7501, jflalc.org.

**Tap Dance Widows Club’**

Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers presents a multimedia/dance version of “Tap Dance Widows Club” on Sunday, April 7, at 1:30 p.m. at the Calver City Scitor Center. Past and present combines for an eclectic celebration of life. The 50-minute film and live dance production tells a story of the love of three performers for their late husbands, the bond it created between them. Admission is free. 4095 Overland Ave. lachoreographydance.org.

**Le Salon de Musiques**

Le Salon de Musiques is holding a concert of the Masters Rediscovered chamber music series on Sunday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Fifth Floor. The concert will feature works by Saint-Saëns, Bach, Chopin and Schumann. Guests will also enjoy French Champagne and a high tea buffet catered by Parisa. Tickets are $85, $45 for students. 135 N. Grand Ave. (310)498-0257, lesalon- demusiques.com.

**City attorney older adults panel**

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer will host a panel discussion for older adults on Sunday, April 8, at 10 a.m. at St. Sophia Cathedral. Feuer will be joined by an actor and singer James Darren, who is working and thriving in his 80s, as well as Joyce Riley, directing attorney at Bet Tzedek, and Dr. Daniel Stone, a gerontologist and medical director of Cedars-Sinai Valley Integrated Network. RSVP required. 1324 S. Normandie Ave. (213)378-8026, or email atvinyo@ Voycility.com.

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The Beverly Hills City Council approved a resolution to continue management of the plugging of 19 oil wells on the Beverly Hills High School campus. The City Council has previously authorized the city manager to execute all necessary contracts and documents with a qualified contractor or vendor and the Beverly Hills Unified School District for plugging the wells on the high school campus, as well as any ancillary work necessary to remediate the site.

The city retained WZI, Inc., an environmental consultant specializing in petroleum engineering, to provide technical assistance and oversight of the well plugging process. In April 2018, the city and school district contracted with ARB, Inc., to provide oil well monitoring and abandonment services. ARB continuously monitors the oil wells and maintains the pressure at a safe level. The oil well drill was removed in July and the oil well plugging operation began in August 2018. Six wells have been plugged to date. To expedite decision-making as the plugging process moves to the remaining wells, three methodologies have been approved by the state Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources for fishing out the equipment: milling down non-metallic structures, drilling and cementing in place.

Last week, the school district rejected an amendment from the city that would have limited the city’s funding of the plugging to $8 million out of a projected $21.26 million. The wells are on district-owned land, and both sides have profited from the revenue they’ve generated over the years.

To continue managing its unfunded pension liabilities, the Beverly Hills City Council voted at its April 2 meeting to establish a section 115 trust, a type of trust used for government functions such as pensions, with $81.7 million in funds that were set aside to address the issue. As of the beginning of the 2018-19 fiscal year, the city’s unfunded pension liability is $266.2 million, according to city staff. It’s liable for another $109.9 million in benefits other than pensions.

“The overall solution lies in systemic reform, which will have to come from Sacramento or from an initiative,” Beverly Hills Mayor John Mirisch said. “In the meantime, this makes sense.”

Approximately one in nine California residents are members of a public pension program. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, three-fourths of them belong to the California Public Employees’ Retirement System, the California State Teachers’ Retirement System and the University of California Pension System. The remainder belong to local, special district and other pension plans.

A number of factors have conspired to increase unfunded pension liabilities, including the surge in state residents 65 and older combined with birth rates projected to decline through 2030, resulting in fewer workers to support retirees.

In Beverly Hills, the Mayor’s Unfunded Liabilities Blue Ribbon Committee has been tasked with addressing the issue. A temporary Section 115 Trust Investment Committee, consisting of the city treasurer, director of finance, the city manager and members of the city’s Audits and Finance Committee, will oversee the creation of the trust. Reform at the state level has been elusive. The California Public Employees’ Pension Act was approved in 2012 under former Gov. Jerry Brown, who once referred to pension reform as a “morat calendar.” The act applied to employees hired after Jan. 1, 2013, when it went into effect. Statewide, unfunded pension liabilities are headed for the $300 billion mark.

Senator demand equal pay for U.S. women’s soccer

U.S. Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and 33 other senators called on U.S. Soccer to establish equal pay for female athletes. Despite their successes on the field, players on the U.S. Women’s National Team are still paid considerably less than their male counterparts.

In 2016, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution calling for U.S. Soccer to immediately eliminate gender pay inequity and treat all athletes with the same respect and dignity. Despite that resolution and other efforts, the pay gap has persisted, forcing 28 members of the women’s team to file a lawsuit earlier this month.

“While we recognize that the U.S. Women’s National Team and the U.S. Men’s National Team have different pay structures, the pay outcomes nevertheless demonstrate striking inequities,” the senators wrote. “For example, the U.S. Men’s National Team received nearly $5.4 million in total performance bonuses after losing in the Round of 16 of the 2014 World Cup, while the U.S. Women’s National Team received less than a third of that amount for winning the World Cup the following year. This type of pay disparity is difficult to justify, and in stark contrast to what the U.S. Senate unanimously urged in 2016.”

To read the full letter, visit feinstein.senate.gov.

Beverly Hills establishing new trust for pensions
More details emerge about death of second man in Ed Buck’s apartment

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

More information about the death of Timothy Dean, the second man found dead in the West Hollywood apartment of Ed Buck, was included in a coroner’s office report released on March 29.

The report indicated that no one called 911 for 15 minutes after Dean was found unconscious on Jan. 7 in Buck’s apartment in the 1200 block of Laurel Avenue. Buck and Dean were the only people in the apartment. The coroner’s office report does not name Buck, and only identifies the other person in the apartment as a “witness” who “relayed” that “he attempted CPR for 15 minutes before contacting 911.”

The coroner’s office ruled Dean’s death accidental and listed the cause of death as “drug overdose” with contributing factors including alcohol and underlying health issues. The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department released a brief statement after the coroner’s office report was made public indicating the matter is still under investigation.

Buck’s attorney Seymour Amster disputed the coroner’s conclusions and the determination that 911 was called 15 minutes after Dean was found unresponsive. Amster said Buck had taken a shower and found Dean unresponsive when he came out. Buck called 911 and began CPR, Amster added. The coroner’s report states that Buck began CPR and then called 911 after 15 minutes, but that was not corroborated by anything other than a statement that the witness “relayed” that information, including to whom it was relayed.

“It’s not what happened. There was not a 15-minute wait,” Amster said. “We believe the report is wrong.”

A statement via email from Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department spokesman Nicholasvitto contradicted the coroner’s office report about the 15 minutes.

“I checked with Homicide [Bureau] and all the reports reflect 911 was called and Mr. Buck was then instructed in how to perform CPR by a dispatcher,” Nicholasvito said. “I have no further statement from the department administration was available. The investigation is being handled by the sheriff’s department Homicide Bureau, as opposed to West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station personnel.

The coroner’s report states that methamphetamine was found in Buck’s apartment, including a pipe with traces of methamphetamine, and paraphernalia was collected as evidence.

Amster said Dean was allegedly acting strangely shortly after he arrived at Buck’s apartment and Buck claimed Dean ingested drugs before he arrived. He described the two men as longtime friends, and Buck reluctantly allowed Dean to come over on the evening he died.

Dean is the second man to die in Buck’s apartment of a methamphetamine overdose in the last two years. In 2017, 26-year-old Gemmel Moore died there of what the coroner’s office also ruled an accidental drug overdose. Drug paraphernalia was found in the apartment when Moore’s body was found and collected as evidence. The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office declined to charge Buck because of insufficient evidence he supplied the drugs to Moore.

Attorneys for Moore’s family allege that Buck preyed on young black men and supplied them drugs. Buck is white, while Dean and Moore were black.

Moore’s family filed a wrongful death civil lawsuit in March against Buck, Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey and Assistant Head Deputy District Attorney Craig Hum. The lawsuit claimed Buck provided drugs to Moore, resulting in his death. Lacey and Hum are named in the lawsuit because of their alleged failure to prosecute Buck.

“I think it exonerates Mr. Buck,” Amster said.

Capt. Ed Ramirez, who assumed command of the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station toward the end of March, addressed the West Hollywood City Council at its meeting on April 1.

“I recently met with the Homicide [Bureau] captain and the Homicide [Bureau] lieutenant in charge of the investigation, and because this case is ongoing, I am only at liberty to discuss very few things,” Ramirez said. “Homicide detectives are currently investigating this case, they are wrapping up their interviews with witnesses and they will shortly present their case to the district attorney’s office. I fully understand the frustrations of many but I am going to respectfully and publicly ask that we as a community collectively respect the investigative process as the case works its way through the judicial system.”

Ramirez added, however, that in light of the two deaths, a new protocol was implemented at the station that detectives will be assigned to review all overdose deaths in the city if they are not investigated by the sheriff’s Homicide Bureau. When someone dies of a suspected drug overdose, the coroner’s office typically handles the investigation because the cause of death is presumed to already be known.

The extra level of review by the sheriff’s station detectives is intended to definitively “rule out any foul play,” Ramirez added.

Police identify alleged driver in hit and run fatality

Los Angeles Police Department’s Central Traffic Detectives are searching for the driver of a vehicle involved in a fatal hit and run collision on March 26.

At approximately 6:10 a.m., a driver struck a 30-year-old man who was crossing Bonnie Brae Street just north of Sixth Street. The victim, Leonides Rivas, parked his vehicle on Bonnie Brae Street and was crossing eastbound. He was midway across the street when he was struck by behind by a truck traveling southbound on Bonnie Brae Street. The driver of the truck fled southbound from the scene. Rivas died at a hospital.

Authorities have identified the driver as Martin Gonzalo Rodas. Security camera video of the collision can be viewed by visiting lapd.la.gov. Anyone with information is urged to call detectives with the LAPD’s Wilshire Division at (213)922-8205.

A home invasion robbery on Longwood Avenue prompted a large police response on April 1. No injuries were reported and one suspect was taken into custody.

Police quickly thwart home invasion robbery

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

An unidentified male suspect in his 20s was arrested on April 1 after allegedly committing a home invasion robbery in the 1100 block of South Longwood Avenue, just south of Olympic Boulevard.

An occupant of the residence called police at approximately 4:30 p.m. to notify them about a suspect breaking in. Two residents then locked themselves in a room when the suspect forced entry into the home.

A police helicopter quickly arrived and began circling as officers rushed to the scene. Police personnel armed with rifles and shotguns were stationed in front of the residence and on surrounding streets until a K-9 unit arrived.

Officers sent a police dog to look for the suspect, and he was taken into custody near the rear of the residence shortly before 6 p.m.

Det. Bernard Romero, with the LAPD’s Wilshire Division, said the suspect was allegedly armed with a gun, but police were unable to locate the weapon. Two additional suspects, including one waiting in a vehicle, fled the scene before police arrived and are still being sought.

The two victims were not harmed. Romero said their quick action may have spared them from being injured. He also credited the police helicopter for arriving quickly and thwarting the suspect’s plan.

“These citizens had the good sense to call police right away and lock themselves in a room,” he added.

Romero said the detectives obtained security camera footage from the scene. Investigators have been unable to tie the suspect in custody to any other crimes in the area. Anyone with information is urged to call detectives with the LAPD’s Wilshire Division at (213)922-8205.

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Earth Day Celebration & Farmers’ Market

9300 Block of Civic Center Dr. ● April 7, 2019 | 9am - 1pm

- **Paper Shredding Event**: Starting at 9:30 am bring your confidential documents to be shredded safely and securely (no limit)
- **Petting Zoo and Pet Adoptions**
- **Quake Cottage**: Ride the mobile earthquake simulator
- **Over 50 local farms and vendors** offering a variety of seasonal fruits, vegetables, flowers, snacks, coffee, crepes, and more!
- **9:30 am Free Gardening Compost**
- **Enjoy live music at the market**
- **Bring the entire family, all ages welcome!**

For more information:
[WWW.BEVERYLHILLS.ORG/EARThDAY](http://WWW.BEVERYLHILLS.ORG/EARThDAY) | 310-285-2467

See below for street closures due to the Run to Remember Race until 9:30am | Event Day Info: 323-736-0615

**Legend**
- Red: Road Closed Due to Run to Remember Race
- Green: Route to Rexford Parking
- **P**: Rexford Parking Lot
- Blue: Earth Day Celebration
- Yellow: Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market 9AM-1PM

Map showing street closures due to the Run to Remember Race.
West Hollywood looks to add affordable housing

With bills aimed at increasing housing density and affordability pending in the California Legislature, the city of West Hollywood is considering pilot programs to add to its affordable housing stock.

The options include small sites acquisition, a first-time homebuyer program, an affordable accessory dwelling unit program and micro- or co-living units.

“… I think what we’re talking about is acquiring existing apartment buildings and preserving them with a mix of income levels within the apartment,” said Councilman John Heilman.

The program would involve city loans provided to nonprofit housing providers to maintain affordable housing units in existing buildings. San Francisco has a similar program.

The council also voted to take a neutral position on a housing bill that could impact development density and the city’s housing stock. SB 80, one of the most polarizing bills in the Legislature, passed its first committee on April 2. Introduced by state Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), the bill would override local zoning laws and allow higher density projects to be built near transit and jobs.

Councilwoman Lauren Meister said “there is still a number of items that have not yet been resolved” in terms of how it will impact housing and development in West Hollywood.

Mayor John D’Amico said the bill would be “ringing the death bell” for the West Hollywood West neighborhood. A new Metro rail line could be added along San Vicente Boulevard, thus making it a more transit-rich area that would be subject to new zoning under the bill.

“We’re basically saying single-family homes will not exist in West Hollywood if the train comes here and this bill passes in its current form,” he said.

Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), Wiener’s colleague in the Senate, was opposed to SB 827, a similar bill introduced in 2018, which died in committee. A spokeswoman for Allen did not respond to a request for comment about Allen’s position on SB 80.

West Hollywood City staff said they will continue to pursue amendments to the bill that would limit the changes imposed on West Hollywood, which is already one of the most densely populated areas in the county.

Beverly Hills Earth Day celebration set for April 7

From Sunday, April 7 through Sunday, April 14, the Beverly Hills Public Library will accept non-perishable food items in place of fines as part of its annual “Food for Fines” program.

In honor of National Library Week and the “Libraries = Strong Communities” campaign, the library will collect food donations to benefit the Westside Food Bank and waive fines during regular operating hours.

“Food-For-Fines is a wonderful opportunity to return overdue books and have library fees waived in exchange for non-perishable food donations,” said Marilyn Taniguchi, library services manager. “Whether you have library fines or not, everyone in the community is invited to drop-off food donations.”

For every one non-perishable food donation, the library will waive up to $5 in fines for adults.

Beverly Hills Public Library hosts annual food-for-fines

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Children who come to the circulation desk will have fines waived with or without donations. In previous years, the library has collected barrels of food sent to children in need, low-income families, unemployed and underemployed individuals, homeless people and others in need in our community.

The library is located at 444 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills. For information, call the library at (310)288-2222.
The West Hollywood City Council approved a formal censure of Councilman John Duran during its April 1 meeting, following accusations of sexual harassment against him from gay men’s chorus members.

The censure cites Duran publicly shaming and making “derogatory remarks about the ethnicity and physical appearance of his accusers.” In an interview with WeHo Times two months ago, Duran called one of the accusers, Jason Tong, “a skinny Korean kid with pimples on his cheek.”

“Unfortunately I said something that was very derogatory and body-shaming of another individual that I shouldn’t have said,” Duran said on Monday night. “I apologize for that.”

In a series of accusations that emerged publicly in February, Tong said Duran once slid a hand inside Tong’s waistband. Another chorus member made a similar accusation, and another member, Joey Fibron, who has since left the chorus, said Duran made a sexual advance as he was about to perform before a 2015 chorus performance. Duran has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing, except for making an offensive joke directed at Fibron, for which he said he apologized.

The censure also criticized Duran for suggesting “that there is a different standard of appropriate workplace behavior for gay men,” and for making comments “that trivialize alleged misconduct with a former employee that resulted in a settlement between the city and former employee.” Three years ago, the city of West Hollywood paid $50,000 to Ian Owens, a City Council deputy for Duran, following sexual harassment allegations against Duran from Owens.

On March 4, the council unanimously voted to restrict Duran’s city travel for one year, remove him from a council subcommittee that works on the Pride parade, and require the city manager to monitor Duran’s city emails and supervise his meetings with West Hollywood city staff. They were the first restrictions placed on a sitting council member since 1999, when then-Councilman Jeffrey Prang was accused of sexual harassment by a city employee at a Pride event in Portland.

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) testified before the House Natural Resources Committee on April 2 about the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act and urged Congress to adopt protections for the wilderness areas surrounding the tuleberry portions of Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley.

“The Rim of the Valley corridor is an area of striking natural beauty, and I feel strongly we must do everything we can to preserve that beauty for the benefit of L.A. residents, the millions each year who visit and for future generations,” Schiff said.

Last month, Schiff and Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris (both D-CA), introduced legislation that will add more than 191,000 acres of space to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The legislation will enable the National Park Service to implement improvements such as repairing hiking trails and maintaining facilities for public enjoyment.

It would also facilitate wildlife and habitat studies, and enable the National Park Service to participate in conservation with local landowners.

Schiff has worked to protect the Rim of the Valley since the early 2000s, and his latest Rim of the Valley legislation will next be considered by the full Natural Resources Committee before it can be sent to the House floor for passage. For information, visit schiff.house.gov.

The Los Angeles LGBT Center is holding an opening ceremony for the Anita May Rosenstein campus on Sunday, April 7, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event will include tours, entertainment and refreshments. The opening of the two-acre complex, which broke ground two years ago, coincides with the center’s 50th anniversary.

The complex includes 100 beds for homeless youth, a new senior community center, youth drop-in center and youth academy, as well as expanded space for programming, administrative offices and more. The facility will enable the center to expand intergenerational services and will be its flagship facility.

Following the opening of the Anita May Rosenstein campus, the center’s current headquarters at the McDonald/Wright Building in Hollywood will be transformed into an LGBT health center.

Envisioned by the center more than a decade ago, the campus was brought to fruition by more than 305 capital campaign donors, including an $8 million lead gift by Anita May Rosenstein and her family foundation.

The project was led by design team Killefer Flammang Architects, with the executive architects Flammang Architects. Phase II of the campus, scheduled to open in early 2020, will include 99 units of affordable housing for seniors and 25 supportive housing apartments for youth.

The Anita May Rosenstein campus is located at 1118 N. McCadden Place. For information, visit lalgbc.org.

The West Hollywood City Council censured Councilman John Duran in the wake of sexual harassment accusations that emerged publicly in February.

The council moved unanimously to restrict Duran’s city travel for one year, remove him from a council subcommittee that works on the Pride parade, and require the city manager to monitor Duran’s city emails and supervise his meetings with West Hollywood city staff. They were the first restrictions placed on a sitting council member since 1999, when then-Councilman Jeffrey Prang was accused of sexual harassment by a city employee at a Pride event in Portland.
The importance of community news

BY KAREN VILLALPANDO

In a big city like Los Angeles, it is sometimes tough to feel a sense of community. It is important to be active in your neighborhood, or local school, or being a member of the chamber of commerce is a great way to feel connected.

However, your local newspaper just might be the glue that holds the community together. Reporting on quality of life issues – development, crime, recreation, and important Covering business and politics is also good for the soul. Supporting local journalism. But one of the most rewarding aspects of publishing a local newspaper is helping the "Citizen Kane."

We recently published a story about one such person – Julie Stromberg – who through her activism in her Windsor Village neighborhood, created a program to plant new trees.

She discovered that when a dead tree was removed from from owner owned land, the city's Street Services, the stumps were left behind, impeding new trees from being planted. Julie worked with the Urban Forestry Division to get the stumps removed so that they could be replaced with new trees. This pilot project was such a success that the city is now analyzing it to adopt the program in other areas.

Another example is famed jazz musician, Corky Hale. Corky and her husband Mike Stoller have contributed financially to many charitable organizations, like Project bedroom. Recently, she read in our weekly newspaper that working together in good faith raises serious questions about the welfare of donor and recipient humans donate blood.

"Newspapers are the acoustic guitars of journalism." – Chris Erskine, Los Angeles Times Columnist. "It is a newspaper’s duty to print the news and to raise hell." The Chicago Times, 1861.

And we remind ourselves of the reality: "I think it would be fun to run a dog blood bank," Charles Foster Kane, "Citizen Kane." It’s been fun for the last 30 years, and we look forward to the next 30, with your help and support.

In a show of support for funding the Downey Recreation Center, amenities include multi-purpose athletic fields, basketball courts, a baseball field, main entry plaza, walking paths, a shaded adult fitness zone, children’s play area, grassy area, parking lot with permeable pavers, picnic area, and climate change. For information, visit albiriversidepark.com.

Hunt-Coffey appointed Beverly Hills asst. city manager

Incoming Beverly Hills City Manager George Cardenas announced Nancy Hunt-Coffey has been selected as the city’s assistant city manager. Hunt-Coffey, who currently serves as director of community services, will join Chavez in the city manager’s office when he announces the position on June.

Nancy is deeply committed to public service and to Beverly Hills. Chavez said that Hunt-Coffey has led the complex Community Services Department with poise and passion and has been an asset to our partner- ship in the years ahead. As assistant city manager, Hunt-Coffey will oversee the day-to-day operation of city services, provide oversight of select departments and work closely with the City Council.

"I am thankful that 70 of my colleagues in Congress have joined me in my efforts to support the family. Chavez fought for respect and human rights for all workers, regardless of how humble their job was. César Chávez once said, ‘We cannot seek achievement for our- selves and forget about the progress and prosperity for our community.’

That’s what I work to do every day to make sure my con- stituents and all Americans have access to the American Dream,” Cardenas said.

Chávez is perhaps best known for founding the National Farm Workers Association, which became the United Farm Workers of America. In 1994, Chávez was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

U.S. Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-Panorama City) introduced a res- olution in the House of Representatives recognizing the late César Chávez. This resolution honors the labor leader who organized migrant and farm laborers in the western United States.

"I am thankful that 70 of my colleagues in Congress have continued to support this bill and will advocate for its passage in the people’s house,” Cardenas said.

People” – truly the salt of the earth. We profile men and women who don’t seek headlines and quietly conduct their businesses and endeavors with dignity and without fanfare. These are "Our People” – truly the salt of the earth.

Our members of the Miracle Mile Chamber will continue to sup- port community journalism, both by reading the newspaper and by contacting us to get the stumps removed so that they could be replaced with new trees. This pilot project was such a success that the city is now analyzing it to adopt the program in other areas.

As a restaurant owner, I think it would be fun to run a dog blood bank,” Charles Foster Kane, “Citizen Kane.” It’s been fun for the last 30 years, and we look forward to the next 30, with your help and support.

In coming weeks with the formal opening of Albion Riverside Park by the Los Angeles River.

The Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and Councilman Gil Cedillo, 1st District, recently celebrated the grand opening of Albion Riverside Park by the Los Angeles River.

Located on the east side of the river, it will provide environmental benefits and space for recreation and education. In associa- tion with neighboring Downey Recreation Center, amenities include multi-purpose athletic fields, basketball courts, a baseball field, main entry plaza, walking paths, a shaded adult fitness zone, children’s play area, grassy area, parking lot with permeable pavers, picnic area, and drought resistant landscaping.

Albion Riverside Park also included low-impact development, green infrastructure, and best-management practice mea- sures to improve the water qual- ity of storm water prior to it being discharged into the Los Angeles River and Pacific Ocean. The diverted flows will be treated and filtrated or used within the park.

Albion Riverside Park exem- plifies mitigation practices between city and state entities to combat water supply challenges and climate change. For infor- mation, visit albiriversidepark.com.

International: Cardenas introduces resolution honoring Cesar Chavez

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Chávez is perhaps best known for founding the National Farm Workers Association, which became the United Farm Workers of America. In 1994, Chávez was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 2012, President Barack Obama declared March 31, Chávez Day, and later that year, the president of the interior to establish a César Chávez National Monument in Keene, California. Cardenas’ legislation recognizes the accomplishments and example set by Chavez, pledges to promote Chavez’s legacy, encour- ages the people of the United States to commemorate that lega- cy and honors Chavez’s famous rallying cry, “Si se puede.” Spanish for “Yes, we can!”

For information, visit carde- nas.house.gov.
For decades, late-night diners of all makes and models have satisfied their cravings at Canter's Deli, and for more nearly 55 years, Bella Haig was there.

Haig started as a waitress, working the night shift so either she or her husband, Gordon, could watch their daughter Sheila and son William without having to hire a babysitter.

She had waited tables before, but Canter's was a new challenge, she said.

"The menu was really big, and just as you got used to the prices, they'd change," Haig said.

She soon got a handle on it and stuck around. After 20 years, she was named manager, and more than 30 years after that, retired at the age of 84, a legendary figure in the Los Angeles dining scene. Haig has been interviewed by local news outlets and played trivia on Jimmy Kimmel Live!

In a restaurant known as a celebrity hangout, she developed relationships with stars. She befriended Louie Anderson, who brought Haig and her family to Las Vegas for his shows, and took beers away from Rodney Dangerfield after 2 a.m. She's waited on a veritable who's who of the entertainment industry of yesteryear and today, from Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward to John Travolta, Brooke Shields and Jerry Seinfeld.

And though she's not much of a sports fan, she served the royalty of athletics, from Muhammad Ali to members of the Lakers. She can't remember which players came in, only that they'd have to duck their heads when they went to pay at the register.

Co-owner Jacqueline Canter said Haig even served Bono of U2, whose thick Irish accent she couldn't understand. Haig just brought him a corned beef Reuben, which he loved so much she tipped her $150.

"She treated everyone like they were her family, but if they were celebrities, she'd do a little bit more to make sure they were treated like royalty," Canter said.

Through it all, she's become like family to the Canters, too. She's been around to see four generations of the family walk through the doors, and she's often invited to Canter weddings and bar mitzvahs.

"Bella took care of things like it was her own," said Marc Canter, Jacqueline's brother and a fellow co-owner.

Jacqueline Canter agreed and said Haig would even chase dine-and-dashers down the block over their unpaid checks.

"She treated the restaurant like it was her own," she said.

But all good things must come to an end, and last month, Haig retired. Jacqueline Canter said they held a retirement party for her, and about 50 people came out to toast the woman who helped make Canter's the legendary deli it is.

"It is never going to be the same without her because she put her heart and soul into it," Jacqueline Canter said.

"Bella took care of things like it was her own."

-Marc Canter, co-owner of Canter's Deli

After more than half a century, a late-night legend hangs up her apron
New exhibit is a cold blast from the past

BY CAMERON KISZLA

It might be hard to imagine, but the subzero glaciers of Antarctica once were home to a dinosaur-filled forest.

It’s been millions of years, and snow and ice have replaced the trees, but evidence of prehistoric life can still be found.

Nate Smith, associate curator of the Dinosaur Institute at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, did just that on his trips to the southernmost continent, and a new exhibit at the Natural History Museum celebrates his discoveries.

“Antarctic Dinosaurs” contains fossils and life-size replicas of four prehistoric creatures that once called Antarctica home, including one species discovered by Smith and the other researchers. The new dinosaur looks like a brachiosaurus, the head-turning giant plant eater from the 1993 film “Jurassic Park,” but this new species could be as small as a dog.

Smith said it was rewarding to see the work he completed with colleagues displayed as opposed to being put in a scientific paper or presented at a conference.

“You get to see people enjoy it, and you get to see the public and little kids [understand] the concept and then learn new things. It’s really fulfilling to see that full arc of science take place,” he said.

The exhibit, which focuses on a 2010-11 expedition to Mount Kirkpatrick in Antarctica led by Smith and Pete Makovicky, the curator of dinosaurs at the Field Museum in Chicago, has a comic book theme that lets the scientists be the stars. From the equipment they used to the plane that flew them to Antarctica, the people and their journey are as much a part of the story as what the paleontologists found.

The exhibit delves into the particular challenges faced by scientists who visit Antarctica and highlights the contributions of some of the southernmost continent’s first explorers, including those who died in pursuit of knowledge.

“We’re trying to tell the human story of it a little bit and hopefully give people a chance to see and feel what it’s like to actually travel to Antarctica and be down there on the mountainside collecting fossils,” Smith said.

Museum executives said they’re thrilled with how the exhibit turned out.

Lori Bettison-Varga, president and director of the museum, said: “It [is] really special for us to be able to show the public that we are doing research and making new discoveries here every day,” she said.

Gretchen Baker, the museum’s vice president of exhibitions, said the subject matter will appeal to a large group of people. Separately, she said, the freezing environment of Antarctica and the days of dinosaurs can each grab people’s attention, but this exhibit will “hit a couple of hot spots for people.”

Though the idea was hatched approximately five or six years ago, Baker said, a staff of 50 or so people has worked for three years to ensure the maximum impact would be had. The showcase features several interactive areas, including a touchscreen journey where attendees can plan and stage their own Antarctic expedition. Baker said the hard work paid off.

“It always is worthwhile when you get to come down to the gallery and see people have these aha moments, whether it’s pulling a friend over to look at something or they’re making a connection, it’s always worth the effort,” she said.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 W. Exposition Blvd. For information, visit nhm.org.

Nate Smith helped discover fossils in Antarctica. Now, the dinosaur remains are part of a new exhibit at the museum.

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County paleontologist Nate Smith helped discover fossils in Antarctica. Now, the dinosaur remains are part of a new exhibit at the museum.

photo by Cameron Kiszla

photo courtesy of Masters of Taste

This year’s Masters of Taste event will be hosted by Chef Michael Hung of Faith & Flower.

Masters of Taste takes the field at the Rose Bowl

The Fourth Annual Masters of Taste, Los Angeles’ premier outdoor luxury food and beverage festival, will take place on Sunday, April 7, from 3 to 7 p.m. on the field of the iconic Pasadena Rose Bowl.

Masters of Taste 2019 will bring over 2,500 food and beverage enthusiasts together from all over Los Angeles for one afternoon to celebrate this exhilarating festival, which will include the finest fare from over 95 culinary masters and restaurants, delectable sweets prepared by L.A.’s top sweet masters, and top beverage masters who will be featuring signature handcrafted cocktails, tastings from over 25 spirit brands and bars. There will also be a premier 50-yard line cocktail bar featuring top mixologists from four of L.A.’s most distinguished drinking destinations, select wineries, local craft breweries, cold-pressed juices, cold brew coffee, live entertainment and much more.

For the first time this year, Masters of Taste will be hosted by Chef Michael Hung, who was culinary master of the 2017 and 2018 events. Hung spent time with Traci Des Jardins’s James Beard Award-winning team at San Francisco’s Jardinière and oversaw the kitchen at Roland Passot’s Michelin-starred La Folie. Hung then left San Francisco to open Faith & Flower in downtown Los Angeles. Under his leadership, the restaurant was honored as “Best New Restaurant” by Esquire Magazine, Los Angeles Magazine and Travel + Leisure.

“Cooking and serving people on the field of the Rose Bowl could be a once in a lifetime dream, but I have been lucky enough to get to do it for the past two years,” said Hung.

All of the proceeds from Masters of Taste 2019 will directly benefit Union Station Homeless Services, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to helping homeless men, women and children rebuild their lives by offering an array of services including street outreach, meals, shelter, housing, case management and career development. In the last three years, Masters of Taste has raised over $1.5 million in support of Union Station’s life-saving programs.

“Homelessness deserves our attention, focused work and finances, and Union Station Homeless Services and Masters of Taste are truly leaders in helping those who are in need,” Hung said.

A VIP power hour will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. and general admission will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets are only available for guests 21 and over. Guests are encouraged to utilize car services, but complimentary parking is also available at the Rose Bowl.

The Rose Bowl is located at 1001 Rose Bowl Drive in Pasadena. For information, visit mastersoftasteLA.com/tickets.

“Homelessness deserves our attention, focused work and finances.”

-Chef Michael Hung, Faith & Flower
PATH opens first phase of villas for homeless

On March 26, People Assisting the Homeless celebrated the opening of the first phase of PATH Metro Villas, a 65-unit supportive housing development for individuals who previously experienced homelessness. PATH Metro Villas is a partnership with co-developers Affirmed Housing and PATH Ventures, an affiliate of PATH. Attendees included Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District; Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas; Joel John Roberts, CEO of PATH; Amy Anderson, Executive Director of PATH Ventures; and many others.

“Homelessness is the humanitarian crisis of our time, and we will only end it by building as much supportive housing as we can, as quickly as we can,” said Garcetti.

“We will overcome this challenge, one project by project and door by door – and days like this remind us what’s possible when everyone works together.”

“We are thrilled to welcome residents to this new community,” Roberts said. “Today’s event celebrates the start of a new journey for our residents, as well as the culmination of an incredible collaboration among many organizations.”

The David T.C. Ho Family Building will include 33 studio, 31 one-bedroom and 1 two-bedroom manager apartments, as well as community rooms, counseling and case management offices, and a Veterans Connections Center for service providers.

On-site services include case management, job training kitchen, health and wellness programs, a bike share program and support with independent living provided by four full-time PATH staff members. The facilities provide services in four key areas: housing, health care, employment, and veteran services.

“This supportive housing project will help those on the streets live a more stable lives,” said O’Farrell, who chairs the city’s Homelessness and Poverty Committee. “We need more of this type of housing to alleviate heavy rent burdens and improve the overall health of our neighborhoods while allowing residents to easily access critical services.”

A second phase of construction will bring the size of the whole project to 187 affordable housing units, plus a primary healthcare clinic and mental health clinic.

Phase two is set to open in March 2020 and is one of the first major developments to launch since voters across Los Angeles approved Measure H and Proposition HHH. For information, visit epath.org.

Fire destroys duplex south of Olympic Boulevard

A fire in a two-story duplex on Longwood Avenue south of Olympic Boulevard severely damaged the residence on March 31. Witnesses called 911 at approximately 1:10 p.m. after seeing smoke and flames in the duplex at 1259 S. Longwood Ave. Firefighters arrived to find flames emanating from both floors of the 3,300-square-foot building.

Approximately 75 firefighters prevented the blaze from spreading to adjacent residences, and the fire was extinguished in 32 minutes. Firefighters were challenged by a staircase that was compromised by flames and the storage of an excessive amount of items inside one of the units, said LAFD spokeswoman Margaret Stewart. It was unclear if anyone was home when the fire started. No injuries were reported.

The cost of damage was still being estimated, and the cause is under investigation. A neighbor who declined to give his name said nearby residents were temporarily evacuated.

“The house was in disrepair. It’s just a mess,” he said. “It was very scary.”

‘Charlie’ is a show as sweet as candy

BY CAMERON KISZLA

In “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” which runs through April 14 at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre, Willy Wonka tells Charlie Bucket the wonders of his factory “must be believed to be seen.” Just as Wonka rewards Charlie for his trust, audiences who buy tickets to the show will find a sweet surprise in the excellent performances of the cast and enthralling set design.

Noah Weisberg, who plays Wonka, is thrilling from beginning to end, even if this Wonka may differ from past depictions, especially the 1971 film starring Gene Wilder. Wilder’s portrayal of Wonka remains iconic, and even Johnny Depp’s turn as the famous chocolate manufacturer in the 2005 film was back on board by the time the Oompa Loompas appear in a series of highlights that shouldn’t be missed.

Overall, the Pantages production is an entertaining rendition of a well-known plot. “Charlie” makes enough changes and adds enough spectacle to make a trip to the theater worth the price of admission, even for those who’ve seen the movies or read the book countless times.

The Hollywood Pantages Theatre is located at 6233 Hollywood Blvd. For information and tickets, visit hollywoodpantages.com/events/det/charlieandthechocolatefactory.

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A second phase of construction will bring the size of the whole project to 187 affordable housing units, plus a primary healthcare clinic and mental health clinic.

Phase two is set to open in March 2020 and is one of the first major developments to launch since voters across Los Angeles approved Measure H and Proposition HHH. For information, visit epath.org.

The Pantages production of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” is an entertaining rendition of a well-known plot. “Charlie” makes enough changes and adds enough spectacle to make a trip to the theater worth the price of admission, even for those who’ve seen the movies or read the book countless times.

The Hollywood Pantages Theatre is located at 6233 Hollywood Blvd. For information and tickets, visit hollywoodpantages.com/events/det/charlieandthechocolatefactory.
The Los Angeles Convention Center, which is owned by the city of Los Angeles and managed by AEG Facilities, was recently honored by the Los Angeles Better Buildings Challenge Innovation Award for its significant energy savings.

The LACC was recognized in the public buildings category as the “Walk the Walk Energy Award” recipient for achieving the most significant ongoing energy savings and demonstrating innovative strategies at the fifth annual award ceremony on March 27 at the California Science Center in Los Angeles.

“The convention center isn’t just talking about the walk when it comes to sustainability; they’re walking the walk,” said David Hodgins, executive director of LABBC.

The LACC is acknowledged for its 2.21-megawatt solar panel array, the nation’s largest on a municipal convention center, which brings the facility’s total solar power to 2.58 megawatts. Since April 2018, the array has generated more than 3.3 gigawatt hours and reduced facility energy use by 11.4 percent.

“Mayor Eric Garcetti has set the goal of making Los Angeles the most sustainable city in the United States,” said Doane Liu, executive director of the Los Angeles Department of Convention and Tourism Development. “We are proud that the Los Angeles Convention Center is committed to operating in an environmentally responsible manner and is continuously seeking ways to reduce our environmental footprint and promote sustainable efforts within the tourism industry and with the millions of visitors to our great city.”

Other acclaimed LACC initiatives include the upgrade of more than 3,000 interior and exterior lights to LED lamps, saving over 1.5 million kilowatt hours annually and the installation of a 525,000-square-foot “cool roof” that reflects sunlight and heat away from the building.

The LACC team credits their success in sustainability to being innovative, leading by example and utilizing all resources. Under the management of AEG Facilities and by employing AEG EARTH strategies, the LACC has elevated and expanded its sustainable practices with the goal of decreasing its carbon footprint across five areas: energy and climate, water, waste and recycling, responsible purchasing, and education and communications.

“We are honored to be recognized by LABCIE for our energy conservation efforts,” said Ellen Schwartz, general manager of the LACC. “This award is a perfect celebration of the one-year anniversary of the solar array project and all of its success.”

In continuation of the LACC’s sustainability education and engagement, the facility will go dark for one hour on Saturday, May 30, in honor of World Wildlife Fund’s Earth Hour. From 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., the LACC will turn off its nonessential lights to join millions of individuals and organizations in support of climate action and protecting nature.

For information, visit lacclink.com.

On March 26, the California Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Center for Biological Diversity have reached a settlement in an ongoing lawsuit which claimed that the state’s lack of action in preventing whales from becoming entangled in commercial fishing will better protect the environment while also benefiting the struggling Dungeness crabbing industry.

According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association, there were an average of 40 whale entanglements per year from 2000 to 2014. However, since 2014, warming sea temperatures and El Nino weather patterns have caused that number to jump to 30 in 2014, 62 in 2015, 71 in 2016, 31 in 2017 and 45 as of November 2018. Scientists and activists worry that with another El Nino warming coastal waters, the state could see those numbers climb again.

In addition, warming oceans have affected the $68-million Dungeness crabbing industry with increased incidents of demodec and algae blooms.

“Effective and sustainable practices in state fishery management are more important than ever as we face increasing threats to ocean health from climate change, including ocean acidification, changing temperatures and altered ocean currents,” Bloom said.

For information, visit asmdc.org/bloom.

The Los Angeles Better Buildings Challenge awarded the L.A. Convention Center for being environmentally responsible.

On April 2, U.S. Reps. Adam Schiff (D – Burbank), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D – Los Angeles), and Jimmy Gomez (D – Los Angeles) wrote 12 congresswomen and congressmen from the Los Angeles area in sending a letter urging the House Appropriations Committee to provide strong funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for fiscal year 2020. The funds, including $30 million for preconstruction investigations and $2.6 billion for construction, will support the Corps’ important ongoing civil works projects across the nation, including the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Project, which will revitalize more than 700 acres of open space along a broad stretch of the Los Angeles River from Griffith Park to downtown Los Angeles.

“Four years, the city of Los Angeles has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to plan the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Project, which will restore the L.A. River to its original and natural beauty,” Schiff said. “I remain committed to ensuring this important work receives adequate federal funding to give residents across the region access to much-needed green space.”

“The Los Angeles River is much more than a vestige of our city’s past – it is a symbol of our future and the boundless potential that still awaits us,” Gomez said. “By transforming miles of concrete canals back into lush, green spaces, we can help the region become a place to reconnect with nature, celebrate our communities and learn about our city’s history. I urge the Appropriations Committee to provide the Army Corps of Engineers with the funding necessary to turn this dream into a reality.”

“The L.A. River is a national treasure running through the heart of our city – and a destination where Angelenos and visitors alike can interact with nature and connect our storied history with a more sustainable future,” Mayor Eric Garcetti said. “The leadership of our congressional delegation will help us restore the river and revitalize this essential natural, civic and cultural resource.”

In addition to Schiff, Roybal-Allard and Gomez, the letter was signed by Reps. Nanette Barragan (D – San Pedro), Karen Bass (D – Los Angeles), Julia Brownley (D – Westlake Village), Tony Cárdenas (D – Los Angeles), Judy Chu (D – Monterey Park), Gil Cisneros (D – Yorba Linda), Salud Carbajal (D – Santa Barbara), Brad Sherman (D – Sherman Oaks) and Maxine Waters (D – Los Angeles).

“Our ocean habitats are precious resources that provide environmental, economic, and recreational benefits. Unfortunately, our current management practices are not doing enough to protect these habitats in the face of climate change and other pressures. Introducing more innovation into the commercial fishing industry will better protect the environment while also benefiting the struggling Dungeness crabbing industry,” said Assemblymember Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica).

On April 2, the California Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Center for Biological Diversity have reached a settlement in an ongoing lawsuit which claimed that the state’s lack of action in preventing whales from becoming entangled in commercial crabbing lines violated the Endangered Species Act. The details of the settlement, which involved the crabbing industry, will see a shortened crab season ending on April 1 until 2021, when newer, innovative rope-less gear will be allowed.

“I applaud all parties for reaching a settlement. This is a win for researchers, for the commercial fishing industry and for the environment,” said Assembleymben Bloom (D-Santa Monica).

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Representatives seek funding for L.A. River restoration

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Beverly Hills Mayor John Mirisch explains comments at recent installation ceremony**

Re “Mirisch becomes new mayor of Beverly Hills,” March 28 issue

When I was installed as mayor on March 20, which coincided with the joyous Jewish holiday of Purim, I used the occasion for some political satire. While I did’t mention anyone by name, corporatist San Francisco state Sen. Scott Wiener would do much better if he worked towards dealing with the root causes of the state’s housing affordability problems, including reining in the “insane” profits of the tech oligarchs. Instead of arrogantly presiding over one of the largest wealth transfers from the public to the private sector in state history, he would do better to support policies which are specifically targeted at benefiting nonprofit affordable housing organizations. He would do better to respect the diversity communities throughout the state and to allow individuals and communities the same right of self-definition that he so gratuitously claims for himself.

Sadly, Wiener’s destructive corporatist policies worsen the affordable housing crisis for the benefit of developer profiteering. They are not only a disaster for communities with a large number of Jewish residents like Beverly Hills, but for all communities throughout the state who value self-determination close to home.

Scott Wiener took issue with my using the joyous Jewish holiday of Purim to call attention to the state’s problems, including housing affordability. Instead of concocting punitive legislation designed to maximize the PR, he can generate for himself, Sen. Wiener would do much better if he worked towards dealing with the root causes of the state’s housing affordability problems, including reining in the “insane” profits of the tech oligarchs. Instead of arrogantly presiding over one of the largest wealth transfers from the public to the private sector in state history, he would do better to support policies which are specifically targeted at benefiting nonprofit affordable housing organizations. He would do better to respect the diversity communities throughout the state and to allow individuals and communities the same right of self-definition that he so gratuitously claims for himself.

**First responders ‘Run to Remember’ lost colleagues**

Thousands of runners are anticipated to participate in the 2019 Run to Remember Los Angeles, an event on Sunday, April 7. Ironically, to its responders who have died in the line of duty.

This year, the Run to Remember begins and ends at the Westfield Century City Mall, 10250 Santa Monica Blvd. Runners can participate in 5K, 10K or half-marathon courses. Runners also have the option to create a virtual race packet and pick-up runs from 5 to 8 a.m. on April 7. The half-marathon stars at 6:25 a.m., followed by the 5K run at 7:30 a.m., 10K run at 8:15 a.m., and a Kids Fun Run at 10 a.m. The course will take runners past landmarks in Beverly Hills and Los Angeles, with participants passing through the POX, School back lot. The half-marathon route and 10K routes include South Santa Monica Boulevard, Rodeo Drive and Burton Way, as well as Avenue of the Stars and Pico Boulevard. The 5K course includes South Santa Monica Boulevard, Rodeo Boulevard and way he meant to be on northbound Avenue of the Stars, primarily in the area around the Westfield Century City Mall.

For information, visit runtorememberla.org.

**Voting opens for tunneling machine naming contest**

Metro has announced that the public can vote on the names for two new tunnel boring machines that will be used to dig tunnels for Phase 2 of the Purple Line Extension Project, as well as artwork that will be placed on the sides of the machines.

The names and artwork are submitted by students as part of Metro's Tunnel Boring Machine Naming and Art Contest. Tradition calls for tunnels boring machines to be named, with symbolizing good luck.

The potential names are Edith Clarke and Hedy Lamarr, submitted by Alexandra Kolodziej, a seventh grader at the Girls Academic Leadership Academy; Tohp and Saki, submitted by Amber Wang, a ninth grader at Gretchin Whitney High School; Ada and Hedy, submitted by Madison Alano, a seventh grader at Royal Oaks STEAM Academy; Harriet and Ruth, submitted by Ruby Santa Maria, a sixth grader at Turning Point School; and Andromeda and Marilyn, submitted by Scout Brodsky, an eighth grader at the Girls Academic Leadership Academy.

Artwork was submitted by Claire Michaud, a second grader at Good Shepherd Catholic School, Hans Smallwood, a third grader at Good Shepherd Catholic School; Khivi Grewal, a first grader at Good Shepherd Catholic School; Cheryl Wang, a first grader at Cullen Elementary School; and Angela Tsai, a first grader at Repetto Elementary School.

To view the submissions and vote, visit metro.net/projects/purple-line-extension-tbm/art-and-naming-contest.
**La Frutería opens at Grand Central Market**

Chef Fernando Villagomez brings authentic interpretations of spicy Mexican fruit cups, luscious fruits and aguas frescas to the Grand Central Market. Villagomez, who has three eateries at L.A.’s iconic food hall, also makes exotic fruit bowls with a combination of condensed milk and Mexican crema and topped with shredded coconut, raisins and granola. The newly built Mexican-themed stall is near the Broadway entrance to the market. It’s open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Sunday. 317 S. Broadway, (213)624-2378.

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**TAO Cares during World Autism Awareness Month**

For the fourth year, TAO Group kicks off a nationwide effort to support and shed light on World Autism Awareness Month in April. Throughout the entire month, new blue-themed dishes will be added to menus at TAO Group properties across the United States, including the bluefin tuna maki roll added to menus at TAO Group’s Los Angeles locations. Throughout the entire month, the Grand Central Market will also feature exotic fruit bowls with a combination of fresh lemon and simple syrup. TAO is made with vodka, blueberry jam, blue “Light It Up” Bramble, which is made with vodka, blueberry jam, fresh lemon and simple syrup. TAO restaurants will donate 10% from each cocktail sold to their partner organizations, and 10% of proceeds from select bottle sales will be donated to TAO Group’s Autism Awareness campaign. Participating properties include TAO Asian Bistro at 6421 Selma Ave., (323)593-7888; Beauty & Essex at 1615 Cahuenga Blvd., (323)676-8000; The Highlight Room at 6417 Selma Ave., (323)666-8007, and Luchini Pizza and Bar, 1607 Cahuenga Blvd., (323)593-7771.

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**Spring Beer & Wine Block Party**

The Garland is celebrating spring on Sunday, April 7, from 2 to 5 p.m. Enjoy a complete block party offering a variety of new activities such as lawn games, a pop-up shopping sphere, live music and gourmet snacks. Participating vendors include Executive Chef Larry Greenwood. Sip some wine and food education is offered by sommelier Lamar Engel of The Wine Militia. Guests for the event must be 21 and older. Tickets are available on Eventbrite at $65 per person plus a fee. For a schedule of events, go to theflowerfields.com/attractions-and-events/2019-calendar-of-events. 5704 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad.

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**L.A. Dodgers at Rocco’s Tavern**

Rocco’s Tavern will show all of the Los Angeles Dodgers games and offer food and drinks specials. Rocco’s has been in Los Angeles since 2000 with locations in Studio City, Pasadena, Culver City and Westwood, and a West Hollywood location with partner Lance Bass will open soon. Rocco’s signature dishes include wings, pizza, salads, pasta and hero sandwiches, as well as a full bar and beer specials. 12514 Ventura Blvd., (818) 985-8766; 44 W. Green St. (862)765-6810, 3843 Main St. (310)595-5800; and 1006 Gayley Ave., (424)324-3145.

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**Super Bloom at The Flower Fields**

A creus of colorful ranunculus blanket the hills in Carlsbad from now until Mother’s Day weekend. The Flower Fields offers special events that include Tea in the Gardens, arts and crafts, and weekly food truck fare by Organic Food Truck, Sushi Ono, Cousins Maine Lobster, Z’S Buddies Sushi and more. Dang Brother’s Pizza’s uses a wood-burning oven import ed from Italy that is built into the back of a firetruck and will be making pizzas to enjoy on April 14, 21 and 28. Premium wines and food bites are offered on Fridays, April 5, 12 and 19. There will be live musical performances from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wine and food education is offered by sommelier Lamar Engel of The Wine Militia. Guests for this event must be 21 and older. Tickets are available on Eventbrite at $65 per person plus a fee. For a schedule of events, go to theflowerfields.com/attractions-and-events/2019-calendar-of-events. 5704 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad.

![photo by Jill Weinlein](image_url)
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Starter
Choice of
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Entrée
Pomogranate Stuffed Leg of Lamb
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9 DESPERATE MEASURES
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12 PETTY OR NOT
PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS
19 ROSE & PACIFIC
NEW YORKER-ROCK
26 KING MERSEY
TRIBUTE TO BRITISH ROCK

SATURDAY NIGHTS
6 TRAVIS DAGGETT TRIO
STARDUST RAMBLERS
20 GARY MYER
27 MEERLE JAGER
TUESDAY THRU WITH SIMON

7PM NO COVER

Farmers Market • 3rd & Fairfax

3rd & Fairfax

Farmers Market • 3rd & Fairfax
Sunset at 2 a.m. burglary in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 1:50 p.m. An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

March 30
An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Fullerton at 4:38 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a vehicle parked in the 600 block of Almont at 9:50 p.m. An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of Almont. At 10:05 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Santa Monica and San Vicente.

Credit union manager faces embezzlement charges

A long-time manager at CBS Employees Federal Credit Union is in federal custody on a criminal complaint alleging he embezzled $40 million from his employer over two decades. The bank lost money on gambling, expensive cars and a private jet he traveled by private jet. Edward Marcus, 57, has been charged with two felony counts of bank fraud and aggravated identity theft. He was arrested on March 12 and has been ordered detained as a flight risk and an economic danger to the community. Roshtohar’s arraignment is scheduled for April 18.

The charges were made in conjunction with a March 29 announcement by the National Credit Union Administration, a federal agency that regulates credit unions, that it liquidated CBS Employees Federal Credit Union and discontinued its operations after determining the credit union was insolvent with the criminal complaint, beginning by paying the monthly balances on his personal credit cards with funds from the credit union’s online accounts or by forging checks, and later by forging his coworker’s signature on credit union checks and depositing them into his personal accounts, court papers state. Rostohar allegedly embezzled the $40 million from the credit union. An NCUA examination up to February 28 revealed a potential loss to the credit union of $40.5 million.

Prior to his 30 years of employment at the CBS Employees credit union, Rostohar was an examiner at NCUA, court documents state. Rostohar allegedly said he lost his job because of the background this gave him knowledge of what NCUA examiners look for when examining credit unions and avoided asking questions about this.

Rostohar allegedly said he lost much of the money gambling and spent the rest on traveling by private jet, buying expensive watches, and giving his wife a weekly allowance of $1,000. He also said he purchased two cars—a Porsche and a Tesla—with money he stole from the credit union, court papers state. Rostohar allegedly also admitted to starting a business in Reno, Nev., in December 2018, and he wrote tens of thousands of dollars’ worth of checks to himself to cover the business’s cost as well as to pay a $5,000 monthly mortgage on a home in Reno he recently purchased.

Rostohar faces a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years in federal prison and a $1 million fine on the bank fraud count, and a mandatory consecutive sentence of one year in federal prison on the aggravated identity theft count.

March 31
At midnight, an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Fountain at 2 a.m. An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica. Los Angeles Police Department Information about crimes in the LAPD’s Hollywood and Wilshire divisions was temporarily unavailable because of technical issues occurring between the department and the CrimeMapping.com website. It will return next week.

Beverly Hills Police Department

March 24
At 1:32 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 4:38 p.m. An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7700 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1000 block of Fuller at 4:38 p.m.

At 10:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. San Vicente.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9600 block of Sunset at 1:50 p.m. An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

A long-time manager at CBS Employees Federal Credit Union is in federal custody on a criminal complaint alleging he embezzled $40 million from his employer over two decades. The bank lost money on gambling, expensive cars and a private jet he traveled by private jet. Edward Marcus, 57, has been charged with two felony counts of bank fraud and aggravated identity theft. He was arrested on March 12 and has been ordered detained as a flight risk and an economic danger to the community. Roshtohar’s arraignment is scheduled for April 18.

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Rostohar faces a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years in federal prison and a $1 million fine on the bank fraud count, and a mandatory consecutive sentence of one year in federal prison on the aggravated identity theft count.

March 31
At midnight, an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of Robertson.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 8800 block of Fountain at 2 a.m.

Los Angeles Police Department

Information about crimes in the LAPD’s Hollywood and Wilshire divisions was temporarily unavailable because of technical issues occurring between the department and the CrimeMapping.com website. It will return next week.
Commerson Restaurant is now open for lunch.

Several dinner favorites, such as the red snapper ceviche, pasta Bolognese, and the wild-caught shrimp and chorizo burger, are on the lunch menu as well. There will also be many new items, such as the pork belly chicharrone with confit garlic puree, roasted cauliflower with red Thai sauce, and the Impossible Burger and a BLT sandwich.

Lunch will be served Tuesday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Commerson is located at 788 S. La Brea Ave.

For reservations, call (323)813-3000.

Also included is a pre-fixe dinner for two at the world-renowned Jean-Georges Beverly Hills restaurant located on the hotel’s ground floor.

When it is time to enjoy the night’s performance, guests will slide into the lavish Rolls-Royce Phantom, Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills’ chauffeured house car, to arrive in style at The Wallis, where orchestra seats await one of the renowned center’s fascinating shows. Guests can choose from all show selections at The Wallis in 2019. At the show’s conclusion, the designated private driver awaits mere steps away in the Rolls Royce, ready to escort theatergoers back to their junior suite at Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills.

“Because of the commitment and support of venues like The Wallis, local arts are thriving both here in Beverly Hills and throughout Los Angeles,” said Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills General Manager Vanessa Williams. “We’ve developed this new package as an elegant and easy way for newcomers to our city to explore the cultural offerings that exist right out our front door.”

The “Night of the Arts” package starts at $1,170 for two guests and includes a one-night stay in a corner junior suite, a pre-fixe dinner for two at Jean-Georges Beverly Hills, round-trip transfers to The Wallis, and two tickets to an evening performance at the center.

For tickets and information, call (800)074-1500 or visit waldorfastoriabeverlyhills.com and thewallis.org.

On April 1, Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills and The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts unveiled a new collaboration designed to give visitors to Los Angeles a taste of both the cultural and culinary scenes that set the city apart.

The “Night of the Arts” special collaboration package combines a one-night stay at Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills with an evening at The Wallis, who recently chose Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills as the venue’s preferred hotel.

Guests will stay in a junior suite featuring spectacular corner views and breathtaking interior design and artwork curated by famed designer Pierre-Yves Rochon.

Also included is a pre-fixe dinner at Commerson on La Brea launching lunch.

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The “Night of the Arts” package starts at $1,170 for two guests and includes a one-night stay in a corner junior suite, a pre-fixe dinner for two at Jean-Georges Beverly Hills, round-trip transfers to The Wallis, and two tickets to an evening performance at the center.

For tickets and information, call (800)074-1500 or visit waldorfastoriabeverlyhills.com and thewallis.org.

On April 1, Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills and The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts unveiled a new collaboration designed to give visitors to Los Angeles a taste of both the cultural and culinary scenes that set the city apart.

The “Night of the Arts” special collaboration package combines a one-night stay at Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills with an evening at The Wallis, who recently chose Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills as the venue’s preferred hotel.

Guests will stay in a junior suite featuring spectacular corner views and breathtaking interior design and artwork curated by famed designer Pierre-Yves Rochon.

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The Los Angeles County Arts Internship Program, now in its 19th year, will provide 203 university and community college students with paid on-the-job experience at over 100 arts organizations this summer.

Approved as one of the five initial recommendations from the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative that were funded by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors in 2017, the program was expanded last year to increase the total number of internships available and reserve at least 28 positions for community college students. With the addition of flexibility for working students and the expansion of the program in 2019, the program will continue to support increasing access to opportunities in the arts.

Students are encouraged to apply for the paid internships, which will start from June 1-14. Students can build professional skills and connections at nonprofit performing, literary and municipal arts organizations. They are required to complete 400 hours of service from June 1 through Aug. 25.

“The Arts Internship Program provides a wonderful opportunity for college students to explore career pathways into the arts and creative sector,” said L.A. County Arts Commission Executive Director Kristin Sakoda. “Paid internships allow students to gain valuable work experience, develop job skills and provide an edge in a competitive job market while cultural organizations throughout the region develop future arts leaders and discover new talent.”

Past participants have attained experience in finance, programming, marketing, arts education, fundraising and event production fields. In addition to the on-the-job experience, participants also take part in educational and arts networking activities funded by the Getty Foundation. The Getty Foundation also supports internships at the L.A. County museums and visual arts organizations through its Multicultural Undergraduate Internship Program, a companion program to the Arts Commission Program.

Any current undergraduate students, as well as any students graduating between May 1 and Sept. 1 are eligible to apply. All applicants must be currently enrolled in a community college or four-year university. Applicants must also be residents of or attending schools that are located in Los Angeles County, and cannot be previous participants in the program.

The positions are highly competitive and must be filled by May 15, so students are encouraged to apply early. For information, visit lacountyarts.org/internships.

New York Times bestselling authors David Sheff and Nic Sheff, the NFL Players Association, film-maker William “Michael” Barbee, and YouTube music sensation Alex Boyd will be honored at Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services’ 23rd anniversary Erasing the Stigma Leadership Awards on Thursday, April 25, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services is a nonprofit that has provided free mental health, substance use and suicide prevention services for over 75 years. The Leadership Awards are a fundraiser supporting the organization, which helps thousands of families each year from 10 locations and nearly 100 schools throughout Southern California.

David Sheff and his son Nic are authors whose memoirs about their family’s devastating experience with substance use disorders inspired the feature film “Beautiful Boy,” starring Steve Carell and Timothée Chalamet. David Sheff’s book “Beautiful Boy: A Father’s Journey Through His Son’s Addiction” helped launch him as an advocate for families struggling with substance use disorders. The National Football League Players Association, a union for professional football players, has launched initiatives to address holistic health, including the mental health, of players and their families.

Barbee is an entrepreneur, mental health advocate and producer, writer and director of “Beyond the Silence,” a movie about how people are often incarcerated instead of treated for mental illness.

Boyce is a multicultural musical artist who has shared the stage with Jay-Z, Tim McGraw and Justin Timberlake. He is passionate about spreading messages of hope and light through his music, especially to people struggling with mental illness.

For information and tickets, call (310)659-5517, or visit erasingstigma.org.

Students from Larchmont Charter School recently prepared welcome home kits for residents of a new bridge housing facility on Schrader Boulevard in Hollywood.

“They’re going to live in a long way in helping dozens of our neighbors settle comfortably into their new space,” said Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District.

The new shelter houses 73 individuals and is currently full after opening two weeks ago. It is being operated by People Assisting the Homeless and The Center at Blessed Sacrament. The goal is for the shelter to be in place for three years while permanent housing is built. For information, visit cel13.lacity.org.

Center Theater Group invites current high school students, parents and teachers to attend the fourth annual College & Career Fair for the Arts on Saturday, April 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Music Center Annex, 601 W. Temple St., downtown.

Representatives from more than 25 local colleges including USC, UCLA, Pepperdine and Emerson College will attend. The fair will also feature opportunities for students to meet with working theater professionals, receive one-on-one college counseling and attend free workshops. There will also be a free food truck from noon to 2 p.m.

Students are advised to RSVP for a chance to have free headshots taken.

The first workshop, which will be held at 10 a.m., is titled Applying & Paying for College. It will focus on what college admissions staff are looking for in applications and what options are available to fund a college education.

The second workshop, to be held at 11 a.m. for parents, guardians and educators only, is titled College Readiness: Financial Aid. Parents and students are offered an overview of paying for higher education, including scholarships and financial aid, as well as school and degree options.

Also at 11 a.m., a third workshop is titled Building a Living in the Arts. It will focus on how to fund jobs in the arts and what career options are available. Students will hear from working artists and theater employers in this practical workshop.

For information, visit centetheatre.org.
Students learn benefits of physical activity with Cedars and the L.A. Clippers

Cedars-Sinai Healthy Habits program and the Los Angeles Clippers recently hosted an after-school fitness program at Cahuenga Elementary School in Koreatown. Players Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Ivica Zubac, along with mascot Chuck the Condor and Clippers Spirit dance team members, joined 250 children for fun at physical-activity stations and playing games. Cedars-Sinai Healthy Habits health educators, who teach nutrition and fitness at the Cahuenga Avenue Elementary school on Hobart Avenue, led the activities.

Healthy Habits is a Cedars-Sinai Community Benefit program in 21 LAUSD elementary schools teaching healthy eating habits and fitness to children in the second through fourth grades. For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

Vote for a winner in Schiff’s Congressional Art Competition for local students

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) will hold the annual Congressional Art Competition Forum & Exhibit for the 28th District, featuring students’ artwork, on Monday, April 15.

The Congressional Art Competition receives submissions from students in Congressional districts throughout the country. The winner in each district has their work displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year. This year, 47 students from 23 schools participated in the competition.

For the last several years, Schiff has also presented a People’s Choice award, which will be decided through an online vote. To vote for the People’s Choice selections, visit schiff.house.gov/help/art-competition. Voting will run through Thursday, April 11.

Each year, I am blown away by the talent and creativity displayed in the submissions from students across the district. This year is no exception,” Schiff said. “I look forward to seeing all of the incredible artwork and welcoming young artists from our community to celebrate their accomplishments with their friends and families. I’m also excited to see which piece of art our community members choose to win the People’s Choice pick, so don’t forget to visit my website and vote.”

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of young constituents. Hundreds of thousands of high school students have participated in the nationwide competition.

The first-place winner’s artwork will be on display in the U.S. Capitol for one year, the piece awarded second place will be displayed in the Congressman’s Washington, D.C. office for one year, and the piece awarded third place will be displayed in his Burbank district office for one year. The People’s Choice winner’s artwork will be displayed in Schiff’s Hollywood district office.

The winners of the contest will be announced at the 28th Congressional Art Competition Forum & Exhibit on Monday, April 15, at Descanso Gardens in La Cañada Flintridge. All student participants will receive a Congressional certificate of recognition. The exhibit will be held in Descanso Gardens’ Van de Kamp Hall, 1418 Descanso Gardens, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The forum and exhibits presentation is at 7 p.m.

“Each year, I am blown away by the talent and creativity displayed in the submissions.”

-U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank

Dodgers partner with Up2Us Sports to train youth coaches

Up2Us Sports, a leader in engaging, training and supporting sports coaches to transform youth programs and communities, has announced a three-year regional partnership with the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation to identify, place and train Up2Us Sports coaches in youth sports programs.

“The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation has always shown a great commitment to transforming the lives of youth, and we’re honored that they’re turned to us to amplify their efforts,” said Paul Caccamo, founder and CEO of Up2Us Sports. “We both understand that sport is a proven vehicle for healing. This partnership is answering the call for those youth living with challenges and we look to provide real life skills to aid in their growth.”

Throughout the three-year partnership, LADF’s investment of $1 million will help Up2Us Sports recruit, train and place over 250 coaches in underserved communities in Los Angeles by giving young men and women from the local community the opportunity to serve as coaches to 20,000 youth. LADF’s Dodgers RBI program (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities), dedicated to increasing participation in baseball and using sports as an engagement tool to increase education, literacy, health, wellness and recreational resources, will be bolstered by 90 of the new Up2Us Sports coaches. Additional coaches will be placed throughout city parks, nonprofits and schools.

This year, LADF has assigned 15 coaches as Dodgers RBI field champions to help build capacity for its partners at 85 locations serving 10,500 children. Field champions will ensure increased communication between LADF and its program partners and increased youth participation in all aspects of the Dodgers RBI program.

“As we embark on our sixth season of Dodgers RBI, we are thrilled to adding Up2Us Sports to our growing list of partners, all focused on youth development through sport,” said Nichol Whitteman, CEO of the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation. “Up2Us Sports has demonstrated great success of empowering sports programs with an emphasis on the physical and mental health of youth through coaching and mentorship. We look forward to their support in our Dodgers RBI program and are proud to be their first Regional Partner, ensuring transformative sports experiences through coaches for hundreds of children in Los Angeles.”

For information, visit dodgers.com/ladf.
‘Railfest’ returns to Fillmore on the last weekend of April

Visitors at ‘Railfest’ 2019 on Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28 in Fillmore, California, can view a rare narrow-gauge locomotive, the Buckeye, that has never been on public display before in the United States.

Known as the Buckeye, the 1935 locomotive was built in Germany and moved to Arroyo Grande, California, in 1980. The Buckeye’s current owner, Peter Nott, had the locomotive primarily at industrial sites and forestry operations.

After its industrial application ended, the Buckeye was used as a children’s ride during the 1980s. The locomotive’s current owner, Peter Nott, had the engine shipped to his private workshop at Norgrove Gardens in Arroyo Grande, California. The Buckeye has been completely rebuilt and restored to mint condition.

At Railfest, it will be one of many vintage locomotives and trains on display at the family-friendly ‘Railfest 2019’, hosted by the Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society and the Fillmore & Western Railway. Described as a celebration of the “renaissance of railroading,” the festival showcases steam engines, antique tractors, vehicles and engines. It also includes unique performances, demonstrations on early transportation, vintage wares, oddities and culture mixed with steampunk fun.

Enjoy steam locomotive train rides, performances by the Orchard Bluegrass Band, a Fillmore Citrus Packing House Orchard Bluegrass Band, a Fillmore Citrus Packing House Caboose Ride Adventure, Dr. Solar’s Gypsy Wagon Medicine Show, antique carousel rides, unique exhibits, model train displays, movie props, live entertainment, food, wine tasting, vendors and more. The festival will be held at 364 Main St, Fillmore. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, visit steamrailfestival.com.

Pioneering LGBTQ activist remembered

Virginia “Gina” Urbe, a prominent LGBTQ advocate and activist, died on March 30.

“An educator, advocate, and activist, she devoted her life to helping nurture and protect LGBTQ youth. Believing every young person has the right to self-respect and dignity, Gina led the fight against anti-LGBTQ discrimination in our public schools for over half a century,” said Petersen Automotive Museum Executive Director Terry L. Karges. “Because of the growing popularity of e-bikes, we felt it was the right time to debut ‘Electric Revolution’ and show our audience how these ultra-stylish and contemporary designs are pointing the way to the future.”

“Electric Revolution” will close in November. The Petersen Automotive Museum is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (323) 948-6331, or visit petersen.org.

Kuehl honored as longtime advocate for seniors

Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District, recently honored Justice in Aging’s Impact Award, joining fellow advocates, policymakers, health care leaders and legal professionals in generating support for the organization’s work on behalf of older adults.

Justice in Aging is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization that fights senior poverty through targeted advocacy, litigation, training and resources. It also ensures access to social safety net programs on which many low-income seniors depend. Kuehl was joined by Justice in Aging Executive Director Kevin Fridvinde and fellow honoree Laura Trejo, from the Los Angeles Department of Aging. Trejo received the Paul Nathanson Distinguished Advocate Award. For information, visit justiceinaging.org.

Petersen displays groundbreaking e-bikes

The Petersen Automotive Museum will debut the world’s first exhibit focused exclusively on electric motorcycles on Saturday, April 6, replacing “Custom Revolution” in the Richard Varner Family Gallery.

The new “Electric Revolution” exhibit will explore the history and current state of the e-bike industry with 21 groundbreaking examples from visionary custom builders and established manufacturers.

Zero-emission vehicles have become a prominent part of the driving landscape, and e-bikes are one of the fastest growing sectors of new tech transportation. “Electric Revolution” will assemble a dynamic mix of custom, prototype, racing and production electric motorcycles from CAKE, Neil Connolly, Curtiss Motorcycles, Alta Motors, Shiny Hammer, Blatant Moto, Joey Ruiter and more.

American industry stalwart Harley-Davidson, which has underwritten this exhibit, will also provide three recent prototypes from its EV program, including the 2020 LiveWire. Other bikes on display will include CAKE’s Kalk, Sweden’s innovative, light and stylish off-road e-bike that sold out its first run and has won design awards around the world; Neil Connolly’s STROM 36, which was the first-ever electric bike to be featured in the AMD World Championship Custom Show in 2015; and Curtiss Motorcycles’ Zeus, which was the company’s debut bike after re-branding in 2018.

“The transportation industry moves toward electric-powered vehicles, it is our responsibility as a museum to accurately represent this progression with our exhibits,” said Petersen Automotive Museum Executive Director Terry L. Karges. “Because of the growing popularity of e-bikes, we felt it was the right time to debut ‘Electric Revolution’ and show our audience how these ultra-stylish and contemporary designs are pointing the way to the future.”

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An advertisement in the April 3, 1969, issue of the Park Labrea News followed a college basketball theme, which was fitting, as UCLA won the NCAA men’s basketball championship that year. The win occurred during a seven-year streak in which the Bruins won the college basketball tournament every year from 1967 to 1973, under the direction of legendary coach John Wooden. This year, the NCAA Tournament resumes on Saturday, April 6, with Final Four matches between Auburn and Virginia, and Texas Tech and Michigan State.

The sale is sponsored by Friends of the Library groups and the Los Angeles County Library. All proceeds will benefit individual branches. The sale will be held from April 6 to 13.

The Human Resources team consists of Director of Personnel Lisa Garrett, Assistant Director Murat Masood and Chief Information Officer Roosan Zarifian. This year’s award extends Los Angeles County’s past recognition. Mohammed Al Rawi, chief information officer for the county’s Department of Parks and Recreation, was named to the 2018 list for his work in modernizing systems and facilities. County Chief Information Officer Bill Kelbhe also received the award in 2015 for his work transforming a similar department in King County, Washington, prior being employed by Los Angeles County.

“I am so honored that our team was recognized with this prestigious award,” Garrett said. “It emphasizes the value of integrating H.R. and I.T. to innovate and streamline business processes and to make systems more user friendly and transparent for our employees and the public we serve.”

The department was also recognized for its collaboration with partner agencies on a series of large-scale initiatives to increase transparency and accessibility in county human resources practices. Recent projects include the digitization of all personnel records through an online system. With over 11 million employees in the Los Angeles County system, the overhaul will improve applicant experience, data accuracy, and customer relations.

“The motto has been to automate, digitize, and innovate,” Garrett said. “This has translated into a strategic roadmap to integrate H.R.’s services and provide on-demand services to applicants and employees alike.”

The department also implemented the Career Path Finder, an interactive career planning tool that helps employees and applicants plan future career choices. Less than a year after its launch, the unique platform has already received the 2018 Public Sector Innovation Award for its ground-breaking technology and impact on employee professional development.

For information, visit govttech.com.

COUNTY GETS ACCOLADES FOR TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS

The Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources has been chosen as one of Government Technology’s “Top 25 Doers, Dreamers and Drivers of 2019.”

The national award recognizes public-sector organizations that lead in technology innovation and process improvement. Recipients are chosen based on the effective use of technology to solve problems, transform internal processes and improve services. The Human Resources team consists of Director of Personnel Lisa Garrett, Assistant Director Murat Masood and Chief Information Officer Roosan Zarifian. This year’s award extends Los Angeles County’s past recognition.

Mohammed Al Rawi, chief information officer for the county’s Department of Parks and Recreation, was named to the 2018 list for his work in modernizing systems and facilities. County Chief Information Officer Bill Kelbhe also received the award in 2015 for his work transforming a similar department in King County, Washington, prior being employed by Los Angeles County.

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FRIENDS OF THE WEHO LIBRARY HOST APRIL USED BOOK SALE

The Los Angeles County Library is holding a book sale on Saturday, April 6, at branches countywide. With over 30,000 books, the sale will find a large number of books to choose from, including mysteries, novels, cookbooks, picture books and more.

The sale is sponsored by Friends of the Library groups and the Los Angeles County Library Foundation. All proceeds will benefit individual branches. The sale coincides with National Library Week, which runs from April 7-13.

The Friends of the West Hollywood Library Bookstore, located in the library at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. For information, call (323) 292-2359, or facebook.com/wehofol.

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following item:

LOCATIONS: 7424-7426 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, West Hollywood, California

REQUEST: Applicant is requesting to demolish an existing commercial building and construct a new, five-story mixed-use building with 2,000 square-feet of commercial space, and 31 residential units (five affordable) with at-grade parking, and one level of subterranean parking.

PERMIT(S): Demolition Permit, Development Permit, Subdivision Permit, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT(S): 7424 WH, LLC

TIME/PLACE OF HEARING: Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

ZONES: C11 (Commercial, Community 1) Mixed-Use Incentive Overlay Zone

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: Categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section §15132 (In-Fill Development Projects)

The staff report will be available on Thursday, April 11, 2019, at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, the W.H. Library, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, and on-line at www.weho.org.

IF YOU CHALLENGE this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in the written correspondence delivered to the West Hollywood Planning Commission, via the Planning & Development Services Department at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

To comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) will be available for checkout at the meeting. If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call, or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6409 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City TDD line for the hearing impaired is (323) 848-6496.

Special meeting related accommodations (e.g., transportation) may be provided upon written request to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6409 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For information on public transportation, call 1-323-GO-METRO (323/466-3876) or go to www.metro.net.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to attend said Public Hearing to express their opinion in this matter.

For further information contact Adrian Gallo, Associate Planner, in the Planning & Development Services Department at (323) 848-6475; or via email at agallo@weho.org.

Yvonne Quarker, City Clerk

Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.
The Los Angeles Board of Public Works recently celebrated Women’s History Month by recognizing trailblazing women who are breaking through barriers with nontraditional careers in the Department of Public Works.

The honorees included Nellie “Seffy” Wiles, of the Bureau of Contract Administration. She was the first woman to be appointed as chief construction inspector and currently serves as division manager for the Metropolitan Construction Division-East.

Also honored was Natalie Moore, a civil engineering associate in the Bureau of Engineering who plays a vital role on the project and construction management team for the Sixth Street Viaduct Division.

Honoree Jonelle Gardea, a superintendent in the Livability Services Division of L.A. Sanitation and Environment, oversees the development of regional facilities and deployment of the Clean Streets team.

Shabnam Shahriari and Melissa Wemesfelder were also recognized. Shahriari is a street lighting engineer who oversees the LED Conversion Project and the Bid and Award program. Wemesfelder is a geographic information systems supervisor who manages and maintains the Street Lighting Geographic Information System.

Gabriela Ortiz, a service coordinator who works tirelessly to enhance the quality of life for all Angelenos. They embody the best of what Los Angeles has to offer.”

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following item:

LOCATIONS: CITYWIDE, West Hollywood, California

REQUEST: Amendment to the General Plan to incorporate the recently adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan as an Appendix to the Safety and Noise Element.

PERMIT(S): General Plan Amendment, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT(S): City of West Hollywood

TIME/PLACE OF HEARING: Thursday, April 18, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

ZONES: Citywide

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: Categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section §15061 (Review for Exemption)

The staff report will be available on Thursday, April 11, 2019, at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, the W.H. Library, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, and on-line at www.weho.org

IF YOU CHALLENGE this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in the written correspondence delivered to the West Hollywood Planning Commission, via the Planning & Development Services Department at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

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ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to attend said Public Hearing to express their opinion in this matter.

For further information contact Tara Worden, Assistant Planner, in the Planning & Development Services Department at (323) 848-6475; or via email at: tworden@weho.org

Yvonne Quarker, City Clerk

Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.
Grand Park hosts return of Our L.A. Voices – L.A. Arts Festival

The Music Center announced Grand Park’s free spring programming lineup, which features some of the park’s signature events, including the return of Grand Park’s Our L.A. Voices – L.A. Arts Festival, a week-long arts gathering that focuses exclusively on the diverse and powerful artistic talent in Los Angeles County.

The park’s spring season also includes the fifth annual Earth Day L.A., which offers Angelenos ideas on how to live clean and go green, and Grand Park’s Lunch à la Park programs, featuring spring concerts by L.A.’s youth artists, food trucks and yoga throughout the spring months.

“Grand Park’s spring programming is quintessentially L.A., showcasing the boundless creativity of the county’s visionary artists while continuing to offer the experiences that Angelenos enjoy in Grand Park year after year,” said Rachel Moore, president and CEO of The Music Center. “The park is the perfect gathering place to celebrate L.A.’s vibrant cultural scene, connect with our dynamic artistic community and engage with each other through shared thought-provoking experiences.”

Grand Park’s Our L.A. Voices - L.A. Arts Festival is a free, three-day performing and visual arts showcase that transforms Grand Park into a home for L.A.’s creative communities. The festival features dance, music and theater performances, as well as visual artwork, all by L.A.-based artists. Designed to highlight and encompass the best of L.A.’s artist community, Grand Park’s Our L.A. Voices – L.A. Arts Festival will be Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28, with free luncheshine workshops the week leading up to the festival. The workshops will focus on creative practice, as well as the pragmatic side of making art in Los Angeles. While open to all, the workshops require pre-registration.

“The spring season is a time of renewal, and Grand Park is the perfect place to shed the winter blues and celebrate our county’s unrivaled creative community,” said Julia Diamond, Grand Park’s interim director. “Whether it’s Grand Park’s annual Our L.A. Voices Festival, a lunchtime concert or by one of the area’s many talented youth ensembles, or a noon-time yoga session, Grand Park offers Angelenos a myriad of ways to refresh and reconnect during this time of rejuvenation and discovery.”

Other events include Lunch à la Park Spring Concerts featuring L.A.’s Youth Artists on Saturdays in April and May, Grand Park Lunch à la Park Food Trucks on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays through May, Grand Park Lunch à la Park Yoga eTREAT on Wednesdays and Fridays through May, and Earth Day L.A. on Thursday, April 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For information, visit grandparkla.org.

Chadwick exhibition arrives at Beverly Hills gallery


“Art at its best possess an uncanny ability to communicate ideas and feelings that we need to understand,” according to a news release from the gallery. “It seems that especially in times of struggle or unrest, art helps us connect to the personhood of others. Art creates dialogue. Dialogue promotes reflective discussion. And reflection can lead to change.”

Chadwick’s paintings are crafted as reflecting devices that mirror and focus the viewer’s attention on where we are as a society.

Our L.A. Voices – L.A. Arts Festival is one of several free events scheduled for Grand Park this spring.

New exhibits at tricky museum

After a brief closure for upgrades, the Museum of Illusions has reopened to the public. All of the three-dimensional artwork has been replaced throughout the two-story museum, and the new interactive exhibits continue the original mission of transporting guests into a world of fantasy and imagination.

Guests can look forward to unique photo opportunities such as getting up close and personal with the elephants on an African safari, taking stage in front of a massive crowd of adoring fans with some of the music industry’s greatest acts of all time, walking on the ledge of a skyscraper in a daring escape attempt, stealing treasure from a bloodthirsty leather-winged dragon in the depths of a cavernous dungeon, and walking the red carpet of a film premiere with some of the most famous A-List actors and directors in Hollywood.

Tickets are $25 for general admission, $12 for children between 6 and 12, and free for children 5 years old and under. Strollers are allowed inside the museum, and military, student and senior discounts are available at the front desk with a valid ID. A 20% discount is available for groups of six adults or more if the tickets are purchased together.

The Museum of Illusions is located at 6751 Hollywood Blvd. For information and tickets, visit laillusions.com.

Two new members to join The Music Center’s board

The Music Center is welcoming two members of the Los Angeles business community to its board of directors.

Charles “Chuck” E. Adams, a partner at Goldman Sachs; and Stefanie Kane, Southwest market managing at PwC, are joining an increasingly diverse group of leaders who provide guidance and support for the multi-faceted performing arts organization. The Music Center manages four world-class theaters, an outdoor plaza, and Grand Park through its operations division known as The Music Center Ops, and produces programming throughout its artistic division, The Music Center Arts.

“Adams and Kane bring to our Music Center board a broad experience and invaluable perspective that will enrich our board’s work,” said board chairwoman Lisa Specht. “Their strong financial backgrounds and interests in both education and the arts will be of great value to The Music Center as we strive to deepen the cultural life of Los Angeles County.”

Adams is responsible for Goldman Sachs’ West Region Advisory business, which includes healthcare investment banking. He works with many of the firm’s largest healthcare clients in the medical technology, biopharma-

expertise and civic leadership that both The Music Center and Audis Husar Fine Art bring to our Music Center board,” said board chairwoman Lisa Specht. “Their strong financial backgrounds and interests in both education and the arts will be of great value to The Music Center as we strive to deepen the cultural life of Los Angeles County.”

Adams joined Goldman Sachs in 2005 as a managing director and was named partner in 2010. Kane is responsible for all aspects of PwC’s service delivery in Southern California, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado and Utah. She has more than 25 years of experience with the company and has been a partner for over 15 years. Kane’s expertise ranges from privately held companies and start-up enterprises, with a primary focus in the technology, media and telecommunication sectors.

For information, visit musiccenter.org.

Chair of the Museum of Illusions unveils a new collection of three-dimensional paintings.
French filmmaker to be honored

On the eve of the nationwide release of her latest film, “High Life,” the American Cinematheque is proud to present several films in celebration of Claire Denis, a writer and director who has created a distinct cinematic language over the past 30 years. The evening, called “Salt, Sweat and Sunshine: The Cinema of Claire Denis,” is co-presented by the French Film and TV Office of the French Consulate.

At 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 12, the Aero Theatre will show “Chocolat” and “White Material.” The program will begin with a discussion with Denis.

At 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, “Beau Travail,” which many consider to be Denis’s masterpiece, will be shown, followed by a discussion with Denis.

At 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, “Nineteen and Boni” and “35 Shots of Rum” will be shown. At 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, “Trouble Every Day” and “Let the Sunshine In” will be screened.

Denis entered the public consciousness at the Cannes Film Festival in 1988, when her feature debut “Chocolat,” a semi-autobiographical story of a young girl in colonial French Central Africa, competed for the coveted Palme d’Or. A maverick from the get-go, she followed up in 1990 with “No Fear, No Fage, No Bia,” a bizarre film about illegal cock-fighting, and four years later with “J’attendrai,” a story about a “I can’t sleep,” which was loosely based on a French serial killer. With 1996’s “No Fear, No Fage, No Bia,” she began to move from the shadow of the father-daughter drama “35 Shots of Rum” and take on vampirism and one of the most shocking films of 1998. Since then, Denis’s films have continued to impress moviegoers and generate intense critical and filmmaker alike. Highlights include the nearly wordless “The Intruder,” in which Juliette Binoche, a woman who has seen the end of the world, heeds a rabid dog’s warning of the coming of a new species called the Tethered. As Red, she completely transforms into something else, a ghost of a human hellbent on completing a singular mission.

The true value of a horror film resides in the third act, the grand showdown between (normally) the final girl and the film’s big bad. The climax of “Us” overflows with imagery and even a few concrete answers. And it never fizzles out or descends characters haphazardly in service of an obvious, irrational twist.

While “Get Out” functioned more like an episode of “The Twilight Zone” – which certainly aided writer-director Peele’s recent revival of Rod Sterling’s small screen gem now streaming on CBS All Access – “Us” disguises its true meaning behind layers of abstract imagery and exposition that raises more questions than answers.

Welcome to filmmaking meant for roundtable discussions and provocative analysis. This is audacious filmmaking. “Get Out” was a rich but simply explained premise. “Us” resists aha moments. Only meditation and a deep dive into critical theory can truly offer possible myriad meanings. Trust me though, if the spinning totems from “Inception” infuriated you, this one might break you. Or perhaps this is just what you need: something smart that doesn’t need to further broaden its meaning into a single line. But be warned: The whole ordeal might ruin bunnies and Hands Across America for you. That’s just fine. Anyone filmmaking like this requires sacrifice.

The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, in conjunction with Yahad-In Unum present the Southern California debut of “Women at the Frontline of Violence Worldwide,” an exhibit running from Sunday, April 14, through Sunday, Aug. 11. The exhibit gives voice to female survivors of mass violence and genocide in numerous countries over 70 years. It includes 19 portraits and excerpts of testimony from female Jewish survivors of the Holocaust, anti-Bolshevik rebels in Eastern Europe; female Roma survivors of the Porajmos, a genocide against the Roma population during World War II, indigenous women from Guatemala, victims of internal armed conflict in that country during the 1980s; and Yazidi female survivors, victims of ISIS in Iraq.

The exhibit is curated by Yahad in Unum, an international, legally recognized organization focusing on uncovering and denouncing genocide. "From our investigations into the victims of genocide and mass violence, Yahad in Unum has learned that women have suffered in a distinct way: as victims of sexual violence, forced abortion, sterilization, or sexual slavery," said Marco Gonzalez, executive director of Yahad. “Violence against women during mass killings and genocide is an issue in its own right that needs to be further studied by scholars and better known by the public at large. "Women at the Frontline of Violence Worldwide" opens at Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust with a special event on April 14, at 3 p.m. with Gonzalez and Sandra Grenier-Domini, a researcher on Guatemalan genocide, and Beth Kean, executive director of the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust.

Admission is free, but reservations are required for the opening event. The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust is located at 100 The Grove Drive. For information, visit lamoth.org.
Gun safety advocates call for streaming services to end affiliation with NRATV

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 1st District, on Wednesday introduced a resolution that would call on streaming services to end their current affiliation and contractual partnership with the NRA and NRATV.

The resolution calls out video streaming services such as YouTube, Amazon Prime, and Apple TV for having contractual ties to the National Rifle Association and to NRATV. According to O’Farrell, NRATV has over 8 million followers on YouTube and has a major presence on Amazon Prime and Apple TV.

“While the majority of Americans favor common sense gun laws, the NRATV is working to normalize violence and promote gun culture,” said O’Farrell. “The public would benefit from the City Council call on streaming services such as Amazon and Netflix to sever their ties with NRATV.”

The resolution calls on streaming services to end affiliations with the National Rifle Association and NRATV.

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Metro rail plans coming into focus for WeHo

The extension, which would connect riders to the Expo, Purple and Red subway and light rail lines, is expected to begin construction in 2041 and be done by 2047, but West Hollywood officials are working to accelerate that schedule by as much as 20 years, and they have strong public support. Even U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), whose district includes West Hollywood, has been working to accelerate the process.

He sent a letter to Phillip Washington, Metro’s CEO, asking the transit agency to accelerate the process.

In news that’s sure to please Schiff and many West Hollywood residents, Roger Martin, the project’s supporters’ organization, also belongs to the crowd that it’s “pretty much” guaranteed that within a year, the environmental impact report will begin.

Joanna Hankamer, West Hollywood’s principal planner, who is overseeing the potential rail project, told the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press last month that the EIR is “where the project really becomes a real project” because that’s where the public technical details will get tested and consequential decisions will be made.

Martin, who was joined by Jody Litvak, Metro’s director of community relations, and Alireza Moosavi, deputy project manager, in giving a half-hour presentation, said the request for proposals for the EIR is almost done and could be released as early as May or May 2023, putting the EIR in line to begin 2024.

The Metro officials also said the comment cards sent by those in attendance and answered audience questions, including from the West Hollywood City Council members in attendance, Linda Halpern, Harriett Halpin and Lauren Meister.

Concerns were raised about everything from the project’s price to the potential impact on crime, and the overall timeline of the preferred route, most residents seemed to support the San Vicente Boulevard plan, according to Litvak. In an interview before the Highland/Hollywood subway stations.

The route is also the closest to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, allowing hospital employees to use public transportation.

The San Vicente route, along with a similar route on La Cienega Boulevard, is being considered to have the most riders per day, per 100,000. The San Vicente and La Cienega route would have nine stations each, which is a little higher than the alternative.

Horvath, who said she was thrilled at the large turnout, said it was clear that the San Vicente Boulevard route was so popular because “it will serve the highest number of riders, and it’s the highest rider density of any of the alignments ... as you heard from Mr. Litvak, they’re considering all alignments.”

Litvak said Metro officials hadn’t yet had a chance to go through the feedback and identify the most popular route options, but he added that he and Metro, said the most popular option changes depending on discussions with the community meetings.

But if the meeting attendance figures are any indication, the desires of West Hollywood residents are likely to carry a great deal of weight in the process. More than 100 people attended the four meetings, three of which were in Los Angeles; the approximate number were at the West Hollywood meeting.

David Fenn, an associate planner for West Hollywood, said it’s important for the community to be involved in a project, especially one that could be a “game changer.”

“Ento engage more than 200 people on a project that isn’t technically scheduled until 2041 just shows how excited people are about this potential connectivity and excited they are about accelerating the project,” Fenn said.

Litvak said he’s also seen a broad support for the extension, through some of the details still have to be figured out.

“Think by and large most people want this project in some way shape or form,” he said. “People have opinions about what they want it to be, where they want it to go, where they don’t want it to go, where they do or don’t want stations, and people get it.”

In a best-case scenario, Metro said, the extension wouldn’t be done for eight or 10 years, so in the meantime, Metro is working on its NextGen Bus Study to make service better for all, Litvak said.

“Our buses are stuck in that same traffic that everybody else is,” Litvak said.

If West Hollywood residents want to stay involved in the process, Fenn said the City Council will consider a public outreach plan at its April 15 meeting,

which is important because public outreach can help determine which route or routes West Hollywood supports.
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27 April 4, 2019
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