‘We’re not going back’

By Cameron Kiszla

West Hollywood councilwomen, local activists speak against other states’ restrictive abortion bans

On May 20, the City Council voted unanimously for a resolution that denounces Georgia’s law and suspends official travel to Georgia and any other state that passes similar legislation. The next morning, May 21, West Hollywood Mayor Pro Tempore Lindsey Horvath.

When West Hollywood Mayor John D’Amico was sworn in on May 20, he wanted everyone in attendance to know that he’s not leading the city alone.

When West Hollywood Mayor John D’Amico was sworn in on May 21, he wanted everyone in attendance to know that he’s not leading the city alone.

John D’Amico sworn in as WeHo mayor

Councilwoman Lindsey Horvath becomes mayor pro tempore

First reading of tobacco sale ban passes in Beverly Hills

The ban would take effect in January 2021

The Beverly Hills City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance that would ban tobacco sales in the city during May 21 meeting.

The first reading was passed as part of the council’s consent calendar. The law, scheduled to take effect in January 2021, would make Beverly Hills the first U.S. city to ban tobacco sales. It also includes exemptions for the city’s three cigar lounges and businesses that apply for and receive a hardship exemption if their revenue streams rely significantly on tobacco sales. Hotel concierge services would still be allowed to sell tobacco to hotel guests.

Protesters march outside Hollywood hospital

Kaiser Permanente employees are fighting for better terms in their next contract

Chanting “stand up, fight back” and “corporate greed has to go,” hundreds of protesters marched along Sunset Boulevard on May 21 in front of Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Hollywood.

Organized by SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West, a union representing more than 55,000 Kaiser Permanente employees in California, the demonstration was part of a series of protests planned in May at Kaiser Permanente facilities throughout the state. Union members said Kaiser has “drifted” from its mission of providing quality health care, is outsourcing too many jobs and putting quality health care, is outsourcing too many jobs and putting

The reorganization meeting marked the official start of D’Amico’s second one-year term as mayor, though he has filled the role since Councilman John Duran relinquished the title in March. Duran said he was unable to continue as mayor due to health issues, but he was also facing accusations of sexual harassment from members of the Gay Men’s Chorus.

D’Amico, who was first elected to the City Council in 2011 and served his first mayoral term in 2014-15, addressed the packed council chambers and outlined his priorities for the upcoming year.

First, he said he wants to see the city find “the correct level of social services funding” to ensure help for seniors, homeless individuals and those with HIV.

D’Amico also said he wants to...
Outdoor Film

Enjoy an outdoor screening of “Coming to America” (1988) on Saturday, May 25, at 7 p.m. in the Central Garden and First Street Entrance, Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, 300 East California, Arcadia. Rain date is the following Saturday, May 26. The event is free and is part of the Arboretum’s50th Anniversary celebration. Reservations are required; email outdoorfilm@lacaa.org.

Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith performance

Classical music fans won’t want to miss Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith’s performance at a May 26, at 6 p.m. in the Getty Center’s Production Stage, 1200 Getty Center Drive. Smith is the recipient of The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts’ 2018 Vanguard award. The performance will be preceded by a guided meditation, and will feature Aurelia Smith and Chicago-based ensemble Calder Quartet. Admission is free; reservations are recommended through the Getty Center’s website.

Salistina Music Society

Kali Atayla

A Salistina Music Society performance

Society

Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith for a guided meditation on Saturday, May 25, at 6 p.m. in the Getty Center's Production Stage, 1200 Getty Center Drive. Smith is the recipient of The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts’ 2018 Vanguard award. The performance will be preceded by a guided meditation, and will feature Aurelia Smith and Chicago-based ensemble Calder Quartet. Admission is free; reservations are recommended through the Getty Center’s website.

Enjoy “Dirty Tricks” with the New Bad Boys of Magic. Doors open at 7 p.m. for cocktails and refreshments. Admission is free but tickets are required and are available at the box office one hour before the program. 10361 W. Pico Blvd. (310)286-0553, thebroadstage.org.

French play

Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz presents the play, “Talfeur pour dames,” by George Feydeau, on Thursday, May 30, and Friday, May 31, at 7:30 p.m. At the Majestic Theatre, 1352 N. Western.Hall. Kahane is recognized by audiences around the world for his mastery of a diverse repertoire ranging from Bach, Mozart and Beethoven to Gershwin, Glass and John Adams. Tickets are $35, $20 for students. 200 S. Grand Ave., downtown. pianospheres.org.

Beverly Hills Chamber

Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce is hosting a workshop on “Podcasting for Your Business” on Wednesday, May 29, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the chamber office. Speaker Deborah Deras will discuss how podcasting can grow business. According to Edison Research, online radio including podcasts has grown 56% in the past 10 years. Admission is $15 for members, $30 for nonmembers. 940 S. Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 200. Beverly Hills chamber.com.

Art discussion

Journalist Jori Finkel will discuss her book, “It Speaks to Me” on Thursday, May 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hammer Museum. Finkel will be joined by Shinsuke Smith and Rirkrit Tiravanija, two of the artists interviewed in the book, for a discussion on their transformation of museum spaces. Smith is known for creating sculptures out of used clothing and fabrics, and recently included a donation center for homeless individuals in an exhibition. Tiravanija has long made hospitality a part of his art and has served Thai curry and rice to gallery and museum visitors. Admission is free but tickets are required and are available at the box office one hour before the program. 10899 Wilshire Blvd. (310)444-7000, hammer.ucla.edu.
SB 50 tabled by Sen. Appropriations Committee

The housing density bill has sparked the ire of local homeowners and city councils

BY LUKE HAROLD

Local opponents to SB 50, a controversial housing bill that would have added more development density throughout the state, had a moment of respite last week when it was deferred to 2020 by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

“Solving this housing crisis will take hard choices, but they are choices we should be making together,” Los Angeles City Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, said in a statement. “Last year, Los Angeles built more units of housing than any other city in California. If Sacramento lawmakers want to find real solutions to this crisis, they should be looking to Los Angeles, not trying to ignore or override us.”

The Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously on a resolution to oppose SB 50, which would have overruled local zoning regulations to add more housing near transit and jobs. Smaller cities such as West Hollywood and Beverly Hills, whose city councils also voted to oppose the bill, were concerned that almost all of their land would be impacted.

The bill’s author, state Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), said they were disappointed SB 50 did not advance.

“The war is clearly not over,” said Jill Stewart, a local activist who has been protesting the bill, on a conference call hosted by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which had also rallied opposition against the bill.

Other SB 50 opponents met May 22 for a town hall at Holman Methodist Church, with speakers including Los Angeles City Councilmen Paul Koretz, 5th District, and Herb Wesson, 10th District, urging their neighbors to continue paying attention.

“The war is clearly not over,” said Brad Kane, president of the South Carthay Neighborhood Association, another one of the speakers. “We have stopped the bill, but there is no better time to keep weed away from children

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Nury Martinez, 6th District, introduced a motion at a City Council meeting calling for a cannabis enforcement program.

“The legalization of cannabis in Los Angeles has had many names since I took office: Proposition D, Measure M, and now Proposition 64,” she said. “But no matter what we have called it, my position has always remained the same: The safety of our families and youngest residents must come first. It is my responsibility to serve not only the Angelenos who voted in favor of cannabis legalization, but also the children of my district who could not vote yet are targeted by cannabis billboards and flavored products every single day,” Martinez continued. “Moreover, my district has long been home to an over-concentration of cannabis businesses which negatively impacts the safety and quality of life for all of our residents.”

“I applaud Councilmember Martinez for her leadership on this issue,” Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer said. “Her proposal would complement existing enforcement and add an important safeguard to protect our kids.”

Please Join Us

Beverly Gardens

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019
5:30pm - 7:30pm
Located at the Beverly Hills Sign & Lily Pond
Join us for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Light Refreshments & Live Entertainment

Hosted by
City of Beverly Hills Community Services Department
Recreation & Parks Commission
Friends of Beverly Gardens Park

www.beverlyhills.org/beverlygardensparkrestoration
For event information, call (310) 285-6830
BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Hollywood Hemp Museum goes up in smoke

A fire that erupted in a building at 6440 Hollywood Blvd. on May 19 was extinguished in approximately 20 minutes, but left questions in its aftermath.

The blaze was reported at approximately 8:40 p.m. in a building with a sign identifying it as the Hollywood Hemp Museum. Firefighters arrived from the corner of Hollywood Blvd. and Cahuenga Boulevard, just west of the Fonda Theatre.

The Hollywood Hemp Museum’s website states it is “a showcase venue which houses the best events and artistic expressions that the 420 culture has to offer.” The website also states the museum is open for weekly tours, it’s looking for partners to conduct events and the building is open for event rentals.

Los Angeles resident and film director Scott Speer pleaded not guilty on May 17 to charges stemming from an alleged domestic violence incident in April, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced.

Speer, 36, was charged with one felony count of making a false statement to a financial institution, one felony count of making a false statement to a customer or investor, one felony count of possessing child pornography, one felony count each of arson, injuring a spouse, child abuse, making criminal threats and stalking.

On Nov. 28, images of child pornography were discovered on an external hard drive during a search of Baker’s Hollywood Hills residence, and a tripwire was found next to the house.

For example, Aminpour made false statements to Mirae Bank in an application for a $4.2 million loan in connection with the purchase of a car wash in Maywood. When he pleaded guilty, Aminpour admitted that he falsely stated that the purchase price of the car wash was $6.65 million on the application, when the real purchase price was $3.25 million.

In his plea agreement, Aminpour further admitted that his scheme involved false statements in six loan applications submitted between November 2005 and February 2007 for loans totaling $16.7 million, and that losses on those loans exceeded $7.5 million.

In addition to the loans charged as part of the fraud in this case, Aminpour referred approximately $150 million in loans to Mirae Bank. Aminpour additionally allowed borrowers to circumvent the bank’s down payment requirements by misrepresenting the businesses being purchased. Aminpour additionally allowed borrowers to use escrow accounts to make down payments.

However, Aminpour made false statements to the bank and obtained $16.7 million in losses on those loans. The resulting 70-month sentence was based on the potential maximum sentence of 25 years in state prison.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced.

Clark Warren Baker entered an open plea to the court, which means a sentence was not negotiable with the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office.

The couple’s 7-month-old daughter was inside the home at the time, prosecutors said. The fire was extinguished and Speer was arrested.

Speer faces a possible maximum sentence of 11 years and eight months in state prison. The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department.

Retired police officer convicted of child porn possession

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 61-year-old Los Angeles resident and former police officer pleaded no contest on May 17 to one felony count of possessing child or youth pornography, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced.

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With some slight tweaks, a proposal by Los Angeles City Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, to limit the impact of money on local elections is moving forward.

After a 14-0 City Council vote on May 22, City Attorney Mike Feuer will draft three ordinances banning behested payments and developer contributions. Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson, 8th District, was absent during the vote.

The first draft ordinance, based on Ryu’s proposal, will prohibit contributions from developers from the time they file an application for a planning entitlement with the city until a year after their application has been resolved. The second will also focus on developer contributions, though it includes an expanded definition of who qualifies as a developer put forward by the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, which approved the proposal in February.

The third potential ordinance will focus on behested payments, such as gifts to a charity or nonprofit solicited by an elected official.

Once drafted, Feuer’s proposals will go to the council’s Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, which will then consider sending the draft ordinances back to the full council for a vote. The council will be able to approve two of the three proposed ordinances, one each for developer contributions and behested payments. If approved, the ordinances will be effective after the 2020 election cycle.

Ryu’s initial proposal included bans on developer contributions and behested payments, but after many questions and much discussion about which groups would be included in restrictions on behested payments and how that could negatively affect many nonprofits and charities, the two restrictions were separated.

Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, one of the council members who supported bifurcating developer contributions and behested payments, said he didn’t want to “self-incriminate” for supporting nonprofits doing good work in his district and across the city.

“[The discussion] illustrates the complexities involved in this,” O’Farrell said.

Councilman Gil Cedillo, 1st District, questioned if there actually was a problem with untoward payments in Los Angeles City Hall and encouraged more study to ensure there is an issue.

“Perception is reality in many instances, but so are hysterias,” Cedillo said.

When he addressed the council, Ryu was undeterred by the questions.

“With trust collapsing in our government, we need to send a strong message that the Los Angeles City Council cannot be bought or sold and that the voices and votes of everyday residents count more than money from special interests,” López-Calderón said.

"This is a historic moment for our city. What we are doing today would be ... the greatest campaign finance reform our City Council has ever passed, which is why it’s no surprise we’re having such healthy debate,” Ryu said.

Despite the concerns, Ryu’s proposals went forward with overwhelming support, and Ryu said he’s looking forward to seeing the city attorney produce ordinances that are “effective, enforceable and legally sound.”

“The one key thing we all agree on in [City Council] is that doing nothing is not an option,” Ryu said.

Ray López-Calderón, the executive director of California Common Cause, said in a statement that Ryu’s reforms will “help end the perception of pay-to-play politics at City Hall.”

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“Proposed developer contribution, behested payments ban passes City Council vote”

BY CAMERON KISZLA

Three draft ordinances to be considered by council’s Rules Committee

L.A. City Councilman David Ryu

GILMORE HERITAGE AUTO SHOW

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019
11am – 5pm

The Gilmore Heritage Auto Show is proud to celebrate its landmark 25th Anniversary with “Roar with Gilmore – A Tribute to American Muscle Cars and The Joy of Horsepower.” Enjoy nearly 100 breathtaking American classics on display, including signature muscle cars, customs, hot rods, trucks and more. Open to the public.

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Beverly Hills considers elimination of hotel room cap

A 1984 law placed a 1,000-room limit on future hotel development in the city.

BY LUKE HAROLD

Beverly Hills might eliminate a 1984 law that placed a limit on the number of new hotel rooms in the city.

The Planning Commission received direction from the City Council on May 21 to consider striking the law, which placed a cap of 1,000 new hotel rooms that could be added in the city after 1984.

“The nature of what drives our economy is changing,” Beverly Hills City Councilman Robert Wunderlich said.

Based on the number of rooms that have been constructed or are in the planning process, there has been a net increase of 838 hotel rooms in Beverly Hills since 1984. Back then, the City Council approved the hotel room cap due to concerns about the quality of life, preserving the character of nearby residential areas, minimizing traffic impacts and other environmental impacts due to new hotel developments, according to city staff. Beverly Hills City Councilman Julian Gold said the law is “at best arbitrary,” and council members agreed that the law is no longer relevant.

“We have protections in terms of impacts for hotels,” Beverly Hills City Councilwoman Lili Bosse said.

The city approved one hotel in 2016, One Beverly Hills, that would add 134 units once it’s constructed. Two projects that have been proposed but not yet approved include an eight-story hotel at 55 N. La Cienega Blvd. that would add 195 new hotel rooms, and a four-story, 94-room hotel at 140-150 S. Lasky Drive.

High Speed Rail Authority sues Trump administration

Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) issued a statement hailing the California high-speed rail agency’s decision to sue the federal government over the Trump administration’s recent cancellation of approximately $900 million in planned funding for the state’s high-speed rail project.

“The federal government has failed as a partner and has failed in its duties,” Bloom said.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration has chosen the latter, repeatedly undermining California’s high-speed rail project and the interests of our state. I support Governor Newsom’s effort to fight for California and applaud his ongoing commitment to completing a statewide high-speed rail system as our voters have mandated.

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The California high-speed rail is a critical component of California’s transportation policy in a progressive direction. The federal government has repeatedly undermined the California high-speed rail project and the interests of our state. I support Governor Gavin Newsom’s effort to fight for California and applaud his ongoing commitment to completing a statewide high-speed rail system as our voters have mandated.

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Committee vote on Tom Bergin’s delayed

**BY CAMERON KISZLA**

The Los Angeles City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management Committee deferred to May 28 its consideration of the building once home to the Irish bar Tom Bergin’s.

The Miracle Mile Residential Association and the Los Angeles Conservancy are pushing for historic-cultural monument status for the Fairfax Avenue building, which housed Bergin’s until the restaurant and bar closed after St. Patrick’s Day 2018.

Ken Hixon, senior vice president of the MMRA, said the delay wasn’t announced until the beginning of the committee’s May 21 meeting, when the vote was originally scheduled.

“We’re utterly perplexed, and I’m embarrassed and angry,” Hixon said.

Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, who supports awarding landmark status to the Bergin’s building, said attorneys hired by Bergin’s owner Derek Schreck used a procedural issue to force a delay, and “out of an abundance of caution,” City Attorney Mike Feuer’s office requested a couple of days to study the issue.

Schreck did not return a call for comment, but Benjamin Reznik, an attorney for the firm Jeffre Mangels Butler & Mitchell, which represents Schreck, submitted documents to the committee on the day of the hearing that indicate an organized resistance to the building being given landmark status. Reznik said signatures and letters have been collected from more than 100 people who do not want the building declared a landmark.

Advocates of a plan to declare the Tom Bergin’s building a landmark will have to wait until next week for the Los Angeles City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management Committee to consider granting the structure historic-cultural monument status.

The City Council file on Bergin’s shows the last day to act is June 5, and Hixon said he’s worried this delay might be enough to derail his group’s quest for a historic-cultural monument designation.

“This is the sort of situation that leaves a very bad taste in people’s mouths and makes people cynical about government … you do what they tell you to do, then they pull the rug out from under you,” he said.

Ryu, however, said he’s confident the building will still be awarded historic-cultural monument status.

“I have no qualms this is going to move through,” Ryu said.

New exhibits rebuild the hit shows of yesteryear

**Photo courtesy of the Hollywood Museum**


Guests included Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District; Donelle Dadigan, founder and president of the Hollywood Museum; Lee Majors, star of “The Six Million Dollar Man,” and his wife, Faith Majors; Peter Mark Richman, who acted in “The Six Million Dollar Man,” and his wife, Faith Majors; and Kenny Johnson, who created “The Six Million Dollar Man” and “The Bionic Woman.”

The museum is located in the Max Factor building at 1660 N. Highland Ave. For information, visit thehollywoodmuseum.com.

Learn the business of Hollywood at 2019 Expo

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Hollywood Expo tonight, May 23, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Hollywood Palladium.

The annual chamber function is a premiere networking event specifically geared toward travel and tourism professionals and provides attendees an opportunity to learn what’s hot and happening in Hollywood.

The Hollywood Expo attracts over 300 concierges, group travel planners, business owners and community members. The event will kick-off promptly at 5:30 p.m., with Starline Tours showcasing its digital double-decker bus in honor of the company’s 50-year anniversary.

The expo features museums, attractions and entertainment venues, as well as a hosted bar.

Found Agency will feature a variety of talent on display, including Joolo Aerial Artists performing overhead and muralist Gared Jozolo Aerial Artists performing overhead and muralist Gared Jozolo Aerial Artists.

Body painter Letta Art will be painting their faces. Also, hair stylist Claudra Macias will showcase “hair art.”

DJ Complex Lex will spin on the overhead balcony and award prizes throughout the night. Samples will be featured from Hollywood’s best restaurants. The night also features an interactive photo booth, a virtual reality room, an Instagrammable art wall, caricature artists and Gift of Fame’s display, which features self-portraits with a mock “Walk of Fame” star.

The Expo will end with a private VIP after-party in the Lawrence Welk Lounge, a step back into the glory of Old Hollywood with a performance by lounge singer Haley Copello, followed by an on-stage performance by the Brandon Brown Collective. Desserts will be provided by Diddough Cookiebar, Food & Bounty and CAKE-Gourmet Sugar Services.

The Hollywood Palladium is located at 6215 Sunset Blvd. For information, email Kaylee Kiecker, executive vice president of the Hollywood Chamber, at kaylee@hollywoodchamber.net.
Gilmore Heritage Auto Show to celebrate a milestone at the Farmers Market

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Original Farmers Market will be a classic car and vintage auto lover’s dream when more than 100 vehicles go on display at the 25th annual Gilmore Heritage Auto Show on Saturday, June 1, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors can walk among the classic cars and see rarities from private collectors. This year’s theme is muscle cars, and the show promises to feature some beauties.

Highlights include a 1956 Shelby Cobra 427 SC, a 1971 Plymouth Roadrunner, and multiple Cobra 427 SC, a 1971 Plymouth to feature some beauties. The Petersen Automotive Museum will display a 1957 Lincoln Premiere once owned by actress Jayne Mansfield. Many other classic cars will be included, such as Corvette Stingrays, and Ford Model As and Model Ts.

“Twenty-five years is a milestone. We have really taken a lot of time curating some beautiful cars,” said Ilysha Buss, marketing manager for the Original Farmers Market.

“We have really taken a lot of time curating some beautiful cars.”

Ilysha Buss, marketing manager for the Original Farmers Market

“The Gilmore Heritage Auto Show pays homage to the history of the A.F. Gilmore Company, which became well-known for its special-formulated gasoline and filling stations that operated throughout the first half of the 20th century. The company was also known for creative marketing campaigns. Visitors can see a replica of a Gilmore Oil filling station at the market.

Over the years, the A.F. Gilmore Company created many other attractions on the property, including a stadium used for football, auto racing and other events, a baseball stadium and drive-in movie theater. The Original Farmers Market was established in 1934 and has been a popular destination for residents and tourists ever since.

A.F. Gilmore Company Vice President Mark Panatier said the car show debuted during the Farmers Market’s 60th anniversary celebration and has grown into a much-anticipated annual tradition.

“The Gilmore Heritage Auto Show is a treasured part of our deep automotive history and we are so proud to celebrate its 25th anniversary with a magnificent show of classic American muscle cars,” Panatier said. “Each year, we exhibit an in-depth collection of some of the world’s finest classic cars in a truly unique format where attendees can get up close with both the cars and their owners. Our 25th anniversary event is going to be sensational.”

Panatier said a fun part of the show comes at the end when owners fire up their cars before leaving. “We do a drive-off at 5 o’clock,” he added. “People get in their cars and rev their engines as they are starting to head off. It’s really a fun show.

The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. For information, call (323)933-9211, or visit farmersmarketla.com.

‘Beastly Ball’ benefit raises $1.2 million for L.A. Zoo

The Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association raised nearly $1.2 million at its annual “Beastly Ball” benefit on May 18.

More than 800 guests attended the fundraiser, which honored oceanographer, explorer and author Dr. Sylvia Earle. Dubbed “Her Deepness” by The New Yorker, Earle has dedicated her life to protecting the ocean and its wildlife. GLAZA also recognized Glen Curado, founder and CEO of the World Harvest Charities and Family Services, with its inaugural Conservation Hero Award, and honored retired GLAZA President Connie Morgan for her 16 years of service to the Los Angeles Zoo.

“Saturday’s event was a tremendous success and we are so grateful to our community who came out in support of GLAZA and the L.A. Zoo,” said intern GLAZA President Dawn Petersen-Amend. “The monies raised this past weekend go towards many important programs, including education to enhance the public’s understanding of the challenges facing wildlife and the need for conservation action.”

“Beastly Ball” guests, dressed in safari casual attire and enjoyed an evening stroll that began in the zoo’s Australia section. Animals on display included Tasmanian devils, western grey kangaroos and cassowaries. Participants also enjoyed zookeeper talks, entertainment, beverages and samples from many of Los Angeles’ well-known restaurants, and local wine and artisanal spirit purveyors.

The event culminated with a program focused on the event’s honorees, followed by a live auction benefiting the zoo’s conservation and habitat protection programs. For information, visit lazoo.org.

Your donation to the 125th Anniversary Legacy Campaign contributes to the restoration and preservation of our historic Clubhouse and grounds.

The Ebell of Los Angeles is a community founded by women, for women in 1894. Our mission is to participate in and encourage the educational, cultural and social growth of the diverse Los Angeles community and to conserve and protect our historic Clubhouse, grounds, collections and Wilshire Ebell Theatre.

Donor support for our building is the foundation of our ability to educate, serve and empower.
On May 19, hundreds of moms, dads and kids came to the Harvey Morse Auditorium at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center to celebrate the 40th annual neonatal intensive care unit reunion. Children, teens and even grown-ups who were once tiny preemies in the NICU had an opportunity to reunite with their caregivers and show how much they’ve grown.

The giant party featured superhero characters including Superman, Batgirl and Paw Patrol characters, and many of the children were dressed in superhero costumes.

Adding to the fun, Rampage, the mascot of the Los Angeles Rams, posed for photos with families. The event also featured face painting, mask decorating, a game booth and music.

Los Angeles mom Grace Fontana brought her daughter Frankie, who was born five weeks premature in November, to the reunion. “It’s thanks to the nurses that Frankie had such a good start,” Fontana said. “I want to see the nurses at the reunion, thank them again and show off Frankie so they can see what a good job they did.”

The staff of the Cedars-Sinai NICU, part of the Maxine Dunitz Children’s Health Center, welcomed families and the hundreds of babies they once cared for.

Dr. Charles Simmons, chair of the Department of Pediatrics and director of the Division of Neonatology, said the reunion was “a day of gratitude and celebration for the families and the medical center.”

Cedars-Sinai is located at 8700 Beverly Blvd. For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

WeHo to host CicLAvia in August

BY CAMERON KISZLA

On Aug. 18, people will have to navigate some major streets in Hollywood and West Hollywood on their own two feet.

The Meet the Hollywoods CicLAvia event will close 6.5 miles of streets – about 2.5 miles in West Hollywood – to cars, motorcycles and electric scooters. Instead, people can bike, walk, roller skate, skateboard or use any other non-motorized option. CicLAvia will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., though the streets will be closed to cars from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be nine points for cars to cross the route, though the cars will not be permitted to travel on closed streets.

The West Hollywood City Council voted 4-1 to approve the event at its May 20 meeting. Councilman John Duran voted against the plan because “it’s a great idea, just not in one of the most dense areas of Southern California.” He said the street closures go “too far” and create too much of a disruption.

“I think it’s an incredible burden on our residents and their ability to travel freely on a Sunday in the summer,” Duran said.

The other council members, however, said as long as the concerns of the business community – especially businesses that would be negatively impacted by a day without cars – were heard, CicLAvia would be a great way to get people out from behind their steering wheels and into face-to-face communication, which could help develop a better sense of community.

“It’s important to remember that these are our streets. It’s our public space, and we forget how much public space we give up to cement and cars,” Mayor Pro Tem Lindsey Horvath said.

The street closures will start at the intersection of Santa Monica and San Vicente boulevards, then travel east down Santa Monica Boulevard to Highland Avenue, where the route turns north. At Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue, the route turns east again and travels along Hollywood Boulevard to the intersection with Vermont Avenue.

Similar CicLAvia events have been attended by more than 50,000 people, according to West Hollywood’s staff report, and on Aug. 18, the city plans to host information booths at two activity hubs, one near Plummer Park and another at Santa Monica and San Vicente boulevards.

For information, visit ciclavia.org.
Dodgers to host seventh annual LGBT Night

The Los Angeles Dodgers will host their seventh annual LGBT Night at Dodger Stadium on Friday, May 31, for a 7:10 p.m. game against the Philadelphia Phillies, and an exclusive Dodger LGBT-themed duffel bag is available as part of a special ticket package.

For the third consecutive year, the Dodgers have partnered with LA Pride and will host the official 2019 LA Pride kickoff party at Dodger Stadium beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Right Field Plaza Bar and lasting until first pitch at 7:10 p.m. Produced by non-profit organization Christopher Street West, LA Pride is Southern California’s biggest LGBTQ+ celebration, with the LA Pride Festival and LA Pride Parade taking place in West Hollywood on the weekend of June 8-9. The festival will feature Grammy-winning superstar Meghan Trainor and British electronic pop trio Years & Years as its headliners. LGBT Night at Dodger Stadium will feature a ceremonial first pitch by Dodger owner, tennis legend, and gender and LGBTQ rights advocate Billie Jean King. King will be honored during pregame ceremonies with a Dodgers Community Hero Award. The national anthem will be performed by singer and actress Nikki Blonsky, who is best known for her roles in “Hairspray,” “Geography Club” and “This is 40.” The Dodgers will also welcome the cast and creator David Collins of Netflix’s hit show “Queer Eye,” and former Dodger Billy Bean, who currently serves as Major League Baseball’s vice president and special assistant to the commissioner, as special guests on LGBT Night.

“We look forward to creating a fun and memorable night as we strive to grow this annual event into the largest in all of professional sports,” said Dodgers Senior Vice President of Marketing, Communications and Broadcasting Erik Braverman.

LGBT Night on May 31 will also include Friday Night Fireworks presented by Denny’s and will feature a special music mix by DJ Bowie Jane. Fans are invited on the field immediately following the game for the fireworks show.

Dodger Stadium is located at 1000 Vin Scully Ave. For information or tickets, visit dodgers.com/lapride.

LA Galaxy to host Pride Night in Carson

As part of its 50th anniversary celebration, the Los Angeles LGBT Center – the world’s largest LGBT organization – is teaming up with the professional soccer team LA Galaxy for its sixth annual Pride Night on Sunday, June 2, at Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson. The five-time Major League Soccer Cup champions will be competing against the New England Revolution.

Prior to the match, American Idol Season 14 finalist and Los Angeles LGBT Center supporter Rayvon Owen will sing the national anthem.

“LA Galaxy has an excellent track record of inclusivity, particularly regarding the LGBT community. When former LA Galaxy player Robbie Rogers – who is also a center supporter – became the first openly gay male athlete to join MLS, he received nothing short of moral support from his teammates,” said Melinda Hodge, the center’s strategic partnership manager. “We are thrilled to partner with LA Galaxy for their Pride Night, especially as part of the center’s 50th anniversary year.”

Pride Night ticket packages range from $20-$116, with proceeds benefiting the center. Every ticket holder of the specially-priced ticket packages will receive an exclusive Pride Night fanny pack designed with rainbow-colored straps.

“We are extremely excited to host our sixth annual Pride Night on and partner with the Los Angeles LGBT Center in conjunction with this event,” LA Galaxy President Chris Klein said. “For the past 50 years, the center has done outstanding work in Los Angeles and beyond for the LGBT community, and we are proud to collaborate with them as we celebrate soccer for all during our match.”

Dignity Health Sports Park is located at 18400 Avalon Blvd. in Carson. For information or tickets, visit lagaylxy.com/pride or lgbt-center.org.
House of Representatives passes Equality Act

On May 17, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Equality Act in a historic moment marking the first time a chamber of Congress has approved comprehensive federal protections for the LGBTQ community.

The Equality Act would provide national, consistent non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people in all aspects of life, amending current civil rights laws to explicitly prohibit discrimination against the LGBTQ community and strengthen non-discrimination protections for women and other minorities.

The bipartisan bill known as HR 5 received unprecedented support, with over 240 co-sponsors and hundreds of businesses and national organizations urging the lawmakers to pass the legislation.

U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles) voted for the legislation. “With my brother and his husband in mind, I proudly voted to pass the Equality Act through the House of Representatives. For far too long, our government has failed to provide our LGBTQ constituents with the civil rights and federal protections they need and deserve. But now, with the passage of this historic legislation, we can finally help our communities heal from the wounds inflicted by those who turned a blind eye to their oppression. I call on the U.S. Senate to follow our lead, reject discrimination disguised as religious freedom, and send the president the Equality Act to be signed into law,” Lopez said in a statement.

Over 150 LGBTQ community centers signed on to CenterLink’s letter endorsing the Equality Act. “Many operate with limited staff and finances, yet centers across the nation spent hours advocating for the bill by holding letter writing campaigns, lobbying their representatives, sharing client stories of discrimination, and engaging in outreach within their communities. Centers are the hearts of their communities and they are making a significant difference in the fight for equality,” CenterLink CEO Lora L. Tucker said.

A similar bill has been filed in the Senate, and CenterLink urged Senate leadership to allow it to move forward.

For information, visit lgbtcenters.org.

State Senate passes bill for increased access to HIV meds

With a 34-1 vote on May 21, the California Senate passed legislation by state Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) and Assemblymember Todd Gloria’s (D-San Diego) to reduce barriers to accessing HIV-preventative medications. The bill now heads to the Assembly for committee hearings in the coming weeks.

SB 159 authorizes pharmacists to furnish pre-exposure prophylaxis and post-exposure prophylaxis to patients without a physician prescription. The legislation also prohibits insurance companies from requiring patients to obtain prior authorization before using their insurance benefits to obtain PEP or PrEP.

Both provisions will expand access to PrEP and PEP by increasing the places where people can access these medications, including the number of healthcare professionals who can provide it and removing onerous and unnecessary insurance barriers.

PrEP is a once-daily pill for HIV-negative people that almost entirely eliminates the risk of contracting HIV. PrEP is medication that a person takes after being exposed to HIV in order to prevent the virus from taking hold. PEP is a 28-day course of drugs that, if started within 72 hours after exposure to HIV, can prevent the virus from taking hold.

Some barriers to accessing HIV-preventative medications, according to SB 159’s authors, include: Difficulty obtaining insurance coverage, difficulty navigating the process, and difficulty accessing medications from pharmacies.

SB 159 would allow pharmacists to provide PrEP and PEP to patients without a prescription, allowing patients to take these medications without needing to obtain prior authorization from their insurance companies.

The legislation would also allow pharmacists to provide PrEP and PEP to patients without a prescription, allowing patients to take these medications without needing to obtain prior authorization from their insurance companies.

The staff report will be available on Wednesday, May 29, 2019, at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, the W.H. Library, 625 N. Sun 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 City Council (or the Planning and 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 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 Tara Worden, Assistant Planner, in the Planning and Development Services Department at (323) 848-6475, or via email at: tworden@weho.org.

Yvonne Quarker, City Clerk
Work continues at many sites along Purple Line Extension subway project

Metro is offering updates on construction along Wilshire Boulevard for the Purple Line Extension project.

Near Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue, excavation, concrete and street maintenance work are occurring. Metro plans to extend work hours at the Wilshire/Western construction staging area in mid-June as tunneling for the Purple Line extension project progresses. Work will require 24-hour use of the staging yard.

The twin tunneling machines that began excavation last fall are nearing the Wilshire/Western staging yard. It is anticipated the machines will be disassembled and removed from the ground over several weeks in July and August. They will be reassembled in the Wilshire/La Brea staging yard and future tunneling will proceed west from the Wilshire/La Brea station toward Beverly Hills.

Hauling and deliveries to and from the Wilshire/La Brea construction staging yards will continue as tunneling progresses under Wilshire Boulevard. Underground support is also being provided at the center opening work zone at Wilshire Boulevard and Sycamore Avenue. Wilshire Boulevard will be intermittently reduced to one lane in both directions between Sycamore and Market avenues for deliveries. Intermittent lane reductions on Wilshire Boulevard and side streets between Western and Fairfax avenues may be also in place as tunneling continues.

Near Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue, excavation and hauling are ongoing. Ogden Drive will be closed intermittently at Wilshire Boulevard from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Intermittent lane closures may also be necessary to support deck panel maintenance and concrete pouring in the area. Anticipated work hours are 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., Monday through Friday.

Subway construction work is also ongoing in Beverly Hills. Near Wilshire and La Cienega boulevards, excavation, hauling, instrumentation and street restoration is occurring. North Gale Drive will be intermittently closed at Wilshire Boulevard to support excavation activities, and intermittent lane reductions in the area may be necessary. Hauling hours are anticipated to increase as excavation continues under Wilshire Boulevard.

Advance utility work is also occurring at the western end of the project in Century City, near Constellation Boulevard and Avenue of the Stars. Work on a temporary bus layover area has also resumed in the median on Santa Monica Boulevard between Avenue of the Stars and Century Park East.

For questions and concerns, call the 24-hour project hotline at (213) 922-6934, email the project team at purplelineext@metro.net or visit metro.net.

Get some satisfaction at Morrison Hotel Gallery

In 1968, the then-tour manager for the Rolling Stones introduced “the greatest rock ‘n’ roll band in the world.” If half a century of packed stadiums, chart-topping albums and worldwide acclaim are any indication, the Stones have more than lived up to the moniker.

In conjunction with the Rolling Stones’ ongoing “No Filter” tour, Morrison Hotel Gallery presents “Keith. Unfiltered” — a celebration of Keith Richards, a guitar legend and the driving force behind a band that is the epitome of rock royalty. The exhibition will be open to the public May 24 through June 22.

Photographs within the exhibit showcase Richards and bandmates in classic portraits, candidly at work and in moments of relaxation beyond the stage. Morrison Hotel Gallery is located at the Sunset Marquis hotel, 1200 Alta Loma Road. For information, visit morrisonhotelgallery.com.

Letters to the Editor

Crossword puzzle answers mistakenly omitted

I enjoy reading the weekly Park Labrea News/Beverly Press to get the local news. I also enjoy solving the crossword puzzle each week.

However, the answers [dif] not appear anywhere in [the May 16] paper. The puzzle was there but not the solution.

I’m very disappointed when I’ve put a lot of effort into completing the puzzle that I can’t check my answers.

Margot Siegel

Editor’s note: The answers to the crossword puzzle in the May 16 issue were erroneously omitted and later posted online. The crossword and answers will be published weekly in the newspapers.

Kudos on selection as finalist for journalism award

Re “Magazine named finalist for SoCal Journalism award,” May 16 issue.

Congratulations on being named a finalist for the SoCal Journalism Award from the Los Angeles Press Club. Well deserved. I believe the Park Labrea News/Beverly Press sets an excellent example for other newspapers on true, unbiased journalism and provides us readers a thorough reporting of what is happening in our community. I look forward to receiving it every Thursday morning along with the Los Angeles Times.

In this regard, your editor, Edwin Folven, deserves our plaudits for his outstanding journalistic endeavors. We thank you.

George Epstein

DetroIt Street

Congratulations, Graduates!

We’ve got all the decorations to make your Graduation Party a BIG SUCCESS!

Get 10% off merchandise in the store with this coupon! discounted merchandise, balloons and balloon delivery excluded.

Vine American Party Store

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Margot Siegel, from the Los Angeles Office of Community Beautification, helped educate attendees.

Construction continues at the future site of the Wilshire/Fairfax substation on the Purple Line Extension.

L.A. celebrates beautification at conference

To kick off National Public Works Week, the city of Los Angeles Board of Public Works, Office of Community Beautification, and Keep Los Angeles Beautiful hosted the second annual Beautification Conference on May 18.

Nearly 400 attendees including local leaders, community members, non-profit organizations and city agencies gathered at City Hall to network, share ideas and discuss beautification initiatives and efforts. Board of Public Works Commissioner Aura Garcia served as the master of ceremonies and gave remarks on monies and gave remarks on efforts to engage, educate and encourage communities to take action in transforming their neighborhoods into clean, green and improved environments.

“The growth and success of the second annual Beautification Conference reflects the need for events like ours that connect people and inspire collaboration among groups with a passion to create a clean and sustainable Los Angeles,” said Garcia. “The creativity and excitement from attendees to expand beautification efforts within our communities makes me proud to be part of this important conference.”

The Beautification Conference included panel discussions and presentations on topics such as curbside beautification, zero emis- sions, urban green spaces, water conservancy and transportation. Attendees also heard from industry experts about what they can be do in their personal lives and homes to help reach the sustainability goals laid out in Los Angeles’ Green New Deal, which was recently launched by Mayor Eric Garcetti. Additionally, a Youth Leadership Panel included the next generation of leaders advocating for beautification and sustainability causes in Los Angeles.

“Our goal with the Beautification Conference is to bring together people who share a similar vision for clean and green communities while showing them the resources that are available throughout Los Angeles,” said Paul Rac, director of the Office of Community Beautification. “As this conference continues to grow, we will keep finding ways to encourage collaboration throughout the city to build a sustainable future for generations to come.”

The 2019 Beautification Awards Ceremony was held during the luncheon portion of the conference, honoring organizations and individuals for outstanding beautification projects and efforts. Recipients included the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council’s Beautification & Cultural Affairs Committee and the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council for their work to beautify their respective communities. Michael Kick, executive director of the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education, received an award for being an outstanding and active member of the Keep Los Angeles Beautiful Committee.

For information, visit laocb.org.

Margot Siegel, from the Los Angeles Board of Public Works, Office of Community Beautification, helped educate attendees.

Kudos on selection as finalist for journalism award
Memorial Day Weekend BBQ

Gourmet Burgers & Hot Dogs
$5.98 per lb.

Gourmet Ground Beef Blend
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FMBARS.COM
The following crimes occurred at West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and the area patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between May 11 and May 19. The information was compiled from www.crimemap.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-4376; Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department, (310)455-4951.

Beverly Hills Police Department

May 11 At 6:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of Canon.

May 12 At 2:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in a vehicle in the 300 block of S. Linden.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 100 block of N. Highland.

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of Sunset.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

May 13 An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Robertson and Santa Monica at 12:56 p.m.

At 2:54 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 10 a.m.

At 9:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Olive and Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 7800 block of Santa Monica at 1:30 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 6:91 a.m.

At 12:42 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of N. Fairfair.

At 7:45 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6100 block of Wilshire.

At 3:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1100 block of N. Orange.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of N. Cusson at 6 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of Wilshire.

A suspect robbed a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of Sunset.

A suspect assaulted a victim in the 7500 block of Melrose at 7:50 a.m.

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in 100 block of The Grove at 10 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of Plymouth.

A suspect assaulted a victim in the 7500 block of Melrose at 7:50 a.m.

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 500 block of S. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of S. Fuller at 10:15 a.m.

At 4:55 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7000 block of Lanewood.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft near the corner of Clinton and Gardner at 8:50 p.m.

May 14 An unknown suspect committed a grand theft near the corner of Spaulding and Eighth at 8:15 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Cote and Rothen at 1:45 p.m.

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7600 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary near the corner of Spaulding and Eighth at 8:15 p.m.

May 15 At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 900 block of N. Orange.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of N. Cusson at 10:30 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1100 block of N. Orange.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of N. Cusson at 2:45 a.m.

At 4:55 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 800 block of Wilshire.

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 900 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 600 block of N. Martel at 11 a.m.

At 11:15 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 400 block of Cottage Lane.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of Fountam Place at 7 a.m.

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1600 block of Vine.

May 16 At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of Sunset.

At 6 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of Santa Monica.

At 6 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 600 block of Four Plan.

May 17 At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of N. Stanley.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle near the corner of First and Fairfax at 1:30 a.m.

At 2:43 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Fairfair.

At 8:45 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of W. Third.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Fountain and El Centro at 9 p.m.

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. June.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Ogden and Wilshire at 10:50 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1700 block of N. Cherokee.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 900 block of Burton Way at 4:50 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. Fairfair.

May 18 At 6:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of Robertion.

An unknown suspect committed a merchant burglary in the 8900 block of Wilshire at 1:41 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of Wilshire at 2:30 a.m.

At 6 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of Wilton Place at 7 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1600 block of Vine.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of Wilton Place at 7 a.m.

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of Sunset.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of Massenet.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6400 block of Sunset at 6 p.m.

SHOULD I SEEK HELP WITH MY ESTATE PLANNING?

I t is possible to prepare one’s own estate plan using do-it-yourself blank forms. It is unlikely, how- ever, that these methods will result in a suitably comprehensive document. For a comprehensive document, it is generally advisable to consult with a qualified attorney who can interpret the various laws dealing with probate, trusts, wills, trusts and probate.

If you choose not to seek the assistance of an attorney, carefully review organizations or business- es which offer assistance in the area of estate planning without the use of a qualified attorney. As a client satisfaction with particular attorneys may vary, so too will the satisfaction experienced by those individuals using non-lawyers to assist them in dealing with estate planning issues. Always use common sense. It will most often be your best guide.

If you decide to consult with an estate planning attorney, you can save time and money by preparing your own estate plan using do-it-yourself software or fill-in-the-blank forms. If you choose not to seek the assistance of an attorney, carefully review organizations or businesses which offer assistance in the area of estate planning without the use of a qualified attorney. As a client satisfaction with particular attorneys may vary, so too will the satisfaction experienced by those individuals using non-lawyers to assist them in dealing with estate planning issues. Always use common sense. It will most often be your best guide.

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**Maddalena Restaurant delights at San Antonio Winery**

by Jill Weinlein

At Maddalena Restaurant, guests can enjoy the best eggplant parmi- giana in town, plus the excell- ent output of the San Antonio Winery, the oldest producing win- ery in L.A. and home to Maddalena.

For National Malbec Day (April 17), I joined Melissa Gonzalo, the winery’s public relations director, for a taste of the eats and drinks at San Antonio Winery, which was named “American Winery of the Year” for 2018 by Wine Enthusiast. Part of the annual Wine Star Awards, the prestigious title repre- sents the highest standard of excell- ence for an American winery and heritage.

In the 1880s, the Mediterranean climate made Los Angeles the premier city for grow- ing grapes and winemaking in California, according to记载 in 1917. Santo Cambianica from Lombardy, Italy, immigrated to L.A. and start- ed this winery, which is named after his patron saint, St. Anthony. However, over its 102-year his- tory the winery has faced many challenges. In 1919, the U.S. Congress passed the Volstead Act which made it illegal to drink in America. Cambianica partnered with the Catholic Church to make altar wines for communion, keep- ing the winery running when the Great Depression hit. Nearly all of the wineries in Los Angeles closed their doors, except for San Antonio Winery.

After prohibition and with the help of his family – including Italian nephew Stefano Riboli and his wife Maddalena Santaguida – the business bloomed. San Antonio Winery purchased vine- yard properties in the first-name Keystone Mountain County in the 1970s and in the prestigious Rutherford appellation near St. Helena. In the 1990s, the family also planted vineyards in the Paso Robles region, where it opened a winery facility and tasting room.

The geographic diversity is on display in the winery tasting room in Los Angeles, where a vari- ety of wines are available, includ- ing many that bear family names: Riboli Family Wine Estates, Stella Rosa, Maddalena, Bodegas San Antonio, Santaguida, and more. Vinemaking tours are also avail- able, and visitors may receive com- plementary wine sips or a $15 artisan flight for premium tasters, including whites, reds, sparkling wines, or a sweet and semi-sweet selection. The tours are available on the hour on weekdays from noon to 4 p.m., and weekend tours are available on the hour from noon to 5 p.m.

There’s plenty to offer for diners, too, and as we walked into Maddalena’s Restaurant, we admired many of the fresh pastas, grilled meats, gourmet salads, sandwiches and large desserts on display. Gonzalo told me the chefs make the best lasagna and eggplant parmigiana dishes anywhere in Los Angeles. We ordered both, as well as grilled salmon and a vegetarian burger with crispy fries.

We enjoyed our Italian fare with a glass of Oprea Malbec made at their Paso Robles. This special dinner and hands-on class includes a stay in a deluxe room at the Orlando in Beverly Hills. Giuseppe Manco from the Restaurant at Mr. C Beverly Hills, and “sfoglina” Roberta Galletti of Amerigo 1934 in Savigno, Italy, will be passed hors d’oeuvres, with a Bellini upon arrival. There will be culinary demonstrations will take place poolside at Mr. C starting at 6:30 p.m. The event will be offered from 7 to 9 p.m. When you’ll poll all types of Angelenos enjoying a meal, including Maddalena herself or other Riboli family members, as they’re similar to a banana soufflé with the beignets, caramel glazed and mignardises. It’s plated tableside for an authentic Italian table for a night and runs through May 31.

This special dinner and hands-on culinary demonstrations will take place poolside at Mr. C. Starting at 6:30 p.m. and running through May 31.

**BEVERLY HILLS**

**Pasta lovers unite at Mr. C**

Tonight, May 23, join others at a pasta-centric culinary journey of classic and contemporary interpreta- tions presented by some of Los Angeles’ most celebrated chefs at Mr. C Beverly Hills. Giuseppe Manco from the Restaurant at Mr. C, Giorno Angeline of Angeline Restaurant Group, and Jackson Kahl of Jamie Enoteca will be joined by pasta chef Maria Marinì and “sfoglina” Roberta Galletti of the Michelle-started Antica Amerigo 1934 in Savigno, Italy. This special dinner and hands-on culinary demonstrations will take place poolside at Mr. C. Starting at 6:30 p.m. and running through May 31.

Many of the servers and staff have worked here for years. They know the regulars on a first-name basis, including ladies lunch groups, downtown L.A. lawyers, bankers and a handful of pilots and helicopter pilot who sit near us and told us he eats here once a week.

Next time you are in downtown L.A., enjoy a fun culinary outing at San Antonio Winery for memorable Italian and American dishes with award-winning wines. The restaurant is open every day for brunch, serving breakfast and lunch favorites starting at 9:30 a.m. The wine list is open Sunday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Parking is free in a lot at the winery. 5577 7th St., (323)223-1401.

**WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**Secret Food Bowl**

On Thursday, May 2, a stellar female chef lineup will be in the kitchen at Pacifica offering their unique twist on fried chicken. Chefs Danielle Sobel (Pacifique), Kuniko Yagi (Pikuniku), Nykea Arrington and Kat Turner (Highly Likely) are preparing a $45 per per- son special LA Times Food Bowl menu. The special food pairing is $35 to $45 per guest.

**DOWNTOWN LA**

**Magic carpet ride at OUE SkySpace LA**

Throughout May, OUE SkySpace LA is partnering with Disney to offer visitors magic carpet ride mat rides at the Skyslide with Aladdin-themed decorations and photo opportunities. Enjoy this experience 1,000 feet above Los Angeles at California’s tallest open-air observation deck at the 69th and 70th floors of the US Bank Tower in DTLA. Raise a glass with a crisp beer from one of L.A.’s vibrant breweries or a glass of the finest Southern California wines at the new SkySpace Bar, which also offers handcrafted bites. There are plenty of areas to sit, sip, eat and enjoy 360-degree, breathtaking views of Los Angeles County.

**RESTAURANT NEWS**

**Pasta lovers unite at Mr. C**

Tonight, May 23, join others at a pasta-centric culinary journey of classic and contemporary interpreta- tions presented by some of Los Angeles’ most celebrated chefs at Mr. C Beverly Hills. Giuseppe Manco from the Restaurant at Mr. C, Giorno Angeline of Angeline Restaurant Group, and Jackson Kahl of Jamie Enoteca will be joined by pasta chef Maria Marinì and “sfoglina” Roberta Galletti of the Michelle-started Antica Amerigo 1934 in Savigno, Italy. This special dinner and hands-on culinary demonstrations will take place poolside at Mr. C. Starting at 6:30 p.m. and running through May 31.

Many of the servers and staff have worked here for years. They know the regulars on a first-name basis, including ladies lunch groups, downtown L.A. lawyers, bankers and a handful of pilots and helicopter pilot who sit near us and told us he eats here once a week.

Next time you are in downtown L.A., enjoy a fun culinary outing at San Antonio Winery for memorable Italian and American dishes with award-winning wines. The restaurant is open every day for brunch, serving breakfast and lunch favorites starting at 9:30 a.m. The wine list is open Sunday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Parking is free in a lot at the winery. 5577 7th St., (323)223-1401.

**BEVERLY HILLS**

**Magic carpet ride at OUE SkySpace LA**

Throughout May, OUE SkySpace LA is partnering with Disney to offer visitors magic carpet ride mat rides at the Skyslide with Aladdin-themed decorations and photo opportunities. Enjoy this experience 1,000 feet above Los Angeles at California’s tallest open-air observation deck at the 69th and 70th floors of the US Bank Tower in DTLA. Raise a glass with a crisp beer from one of L.A.’s vibrant breweries or a glass of the finest Southern California wines at the new SkySpace Bar, which also offers handcrafted bites. There are plenty of areas to sit, sip, eat and enjoy 360-degree, breathtaking views of Los Angeles County.
Photographs in the Nov. 13, 2003, issue of the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press showed West Hollywood and U.S. Navy officials at a dedication ceremony for the city's veterans memorial. In the upper photograph, West Hollywood City Manager Paul Arevalo (at podium) joined the late Councilman Sal Guarriello and U.S. Navy Admiral John Cotton at the ceremony, which also included the New Directions Color Guard. Cotton (left) and West Hollywood Councilman Jeffrey Prang prepared to unveil the memorial in the lower photograph. Guarriello, a World War II veteran who died in 2009, and Prang, who now serves as Los Angeles County Assessor, were instrumental in establishing the city’s veterans memorial, which is located at Santa Monica Boulevard and Holloway Drive. It provides a place for solemn tributes and commemoration of those who have served.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced that L.A. has been awarded $43.6 million from the California Transportation Commission’s Active Transportation Program to strengthen the city’s infrastructure.

These funds will help create three miles of new bicycle and walking paths along the L.A. River in the West San Fernando Valley, and improve street safety and dedicated bike lanes in South Los Angeles.

“The path to prosperity is paved with smart investments in our infrastructure,” Garcetti said.

The California Transportation Commission awarded two grants to L.A., which were secured with the support of the Southern California Association of Governments, the region’s Metropolitan Planning Organization, and L.A. Metro.

In the West San Fernando Valley, an $18.8 million grant will open three miles of LARiverWay trails to the public, providing Angelenos with a safe place to walk and bike. The new path will help Metro complete a project on their 28 By ’28 Project list: the L.A. River Bike Path.

In South L.A., $24.8 million will be directed toward the Broadway/Manchester Active Transportation Equity Project. It will fund L.A. dedicated bicycle lane; curb, sidewalk, and crosswalk enhancements; pedestrian islands and signals; new ADA access ramps; and urban shade along the corridor.

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Beverly Hills celebrates grand reopening of park

Beverly Hills Mayor John Mirisch and the City Council invite the public to Beverly Gardens Park Grand Reopening Rivet-Cutting on Thursday, May 30, at 5:30 p.m. at the Beverly Hills Muniments sign and Lily Pond on Santa Monica Boulevard at Canon Drive.

After a multibey, multimillion dollar renovation, the park has been restored.

The city’s 112-year-old treasure graces Santa Monica Boulevard for 1.9 miles from Wilshire Boulevard to Doheny Drive.

The park’s treasured gems, which include the electric fountain, cactus garden, Beverly Hills monument sign and Lily pond, the Alta Arden Fergola Garden and fountain, the Footwall Rose Garden and the Doheny Fountain, are restored or replicated to honor the city’s history.

The park’s design maintains the original vision from 1907 while making it environmentally sustainable and incorporating sustainable trends to bring it into the 21st Century. Turf reduction and drought-tolerant plantings provide a water savings of nearly 50% while bioswales and recycled water irrigation and runoff. Linear pathways with raised crosswalks provide flat crossways for walkers and joggers. Ambient lighting and ADA furnishings provide safety and accessibility.

Dog trash receptacles and water bowls provide pet-friendly amenities.

In 2012, then-Recreation and Parks Commissioner and Beverly Hills resident Robert Andrade recreated the iconic Beverly Hills monument sign, one of the most recognizable landmarks in the city. This inspired Beverly Hills resident Steve Gordon to launch a grassroots fundraising effort through Friends of Beverly Gardens Park to help the city restore the park, which had lost some of its luster over the years. Friends of Beverly Gardens Park raised just over $45 million and the city appropriated funds of nearly $8 million to the restoration effort.

The park’s four water features that use recycled water, four pergolas, two rose gardens, one palm garden and its historic cactus garden make this park a beautiful, expansive green space for everyone to walk through, relax and enjoy. Beverly Gardens Park is a tremendous asset in continuing to improve the quality of life for a population of 90,000 and tourists.

Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills appoints new director of sales and marketing

Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills has announced the appointment of Drew Clarke as the new director of sales and marketing, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the award-winning property.

Clarke will oversee the sales and marketing teams, divisions essential to the growth and success of the hotel. He returns to his home state of California with his new position at the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills after a career in luxury hospitality at locations around the world. Over the last two decades, he has worked in various capacities including food and beverage, human resources, and sales and marketing at the Four Seasons properties in Santa Barbara and Hualalai. Clarke most recently served as director of sales and marketing at the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills and Hualalai.

Clarke started his career with Marriott International as the director of sales and marketing at the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills, helping to advance the growth and reputation of the five-star property.

“We are thrilled to have Drew join our exemplary team in Beverly Hills and know that he will be a tremendous asset in continuing to drive awareness, forge creative partnerships and increase reservations as we enter our third year since opening,” said Vanessa Williams, general manager of Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills.

The Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills is located at 9850 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit WaldorfAstoriaBeverlyHills.com.

Raymond Taylor appointed interim community services director

The Beverly Hills City Council approved a contract with Raymond Taylor to serve as interim community services director for the city of Beverly Hills.

The city’s current director of community services, Nancy Hunt-Coffey, was recently appointed to the position of assistant city manager to fill the position left vacant with the promotion of George Chavez to city manager.

Taylor is expected to serve in the position while the recruitment for a permanent director of community services is conducted over the next several months. The community services director oversees the city’s Recreation, Library, Human Services and Administrative Support divisions.

Taylor is a lifelong employee of city government, most recently serving as the city manager of Westlake Village for more than 25 years. Additionally, Taylor was the first city manager for the city of Malibu and also served as city manager for Rolling Hills Estates. His diverse experience includes work in the fields of public works, planning and human resources.

Taylor holds a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree from California State University at Chico.

Bar Association hosts annual Supreme Court Luncheon

The Beverly Hills Bar Association, in conjunction with the Beverly Hills Bar Foundation, will host the 65th annual Supreme Court Luncheon honoring the Justices of the Supreme Court of California on Tuesday, June 4, at 11:30 a.m., at Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills.

All of the court’s justices are slated to attend. Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye will make extended remarks about the current state of the judiciary. Also in attendance will be associate justices Ming W. Chin, Carol A. Corrigan, Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar, Leondra R. Kruger, Goodwin H. Liu and Joshua P. Groban.

Scholarships will also be presented to five low-income, academically qualified students. For information, visit bhba.org.

A redesigned, user-friendly beverlyhills.org debuts

The city of Beverly Hills launched its newly designed website at beverlyhills.org.

The site is divided into six main categories for ease of navigation: City Government, Resident Resources, Community, Doing Business, News & Events and How Do I.

“This is the digital front door of our city and a vital communication tool,” Public Information Manager Keith Sterling said. “With new dropdown menus and improved responsive design for mobile devices, we believe information will be more easily accessible.”

The city’s homepage features a scrolling newsletter, an “In The Spotlight” section to showcase community events, and a dynamic events calendar with motion timeline.

The site will also provide easy access to live streaming of City Council meetings, the Beverly Hills Public Library and visitor information.

The city is seeking feedback on the new design through a survey link on the homepage at beverlyhills.org.
El Rodeo PTA disbands ahead of school construction

The El Rodeo PTA met for the final time before the school closes for two years of construction. The El Rodeo students in grades K-5 will move to Hawthorne School, and 6-8 grade middle school students will start the 2019-20 school year at a newly dedicated middle school, Beverly Hills Middle School, established through the Beverly Hills Unified School District's reconfiguration.

During the meeting, Principal Kevin Allen (left) and Assistant Principal Ivan Parker were thanked and recognized with Golden Oak Service Awards. Many past PTA El Rodeo presidents were present along with staff and packaged programs. "Speakers tearfully shared their fond memories of El Rodeo over the years, the meeting was buzzing with awards, gratitude, anticipation, and excitement for what is to come within the district in the future," according to a district news release.

Bill to expand insurance coverage for child hearing aids advances

Legislation to expand insurance coverage for children’s hearing aids recently passed unanimously out of the Assembly Health Committee. The measure, introduced by Assemblymember Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica), would make California the 24th state in the nation to mandate such coverage.

"Most insurance plans in California treat hearing aids as superfluous accessories when they are actually important medical devices that can assist a child’s language acquisition and educational advancement," Bloom said. "Families shouldn’t be forced to choose between depleting their savings and providing their children with these tools.”

The California Newborn Hearing Screening Program provides all California newborns with a hearing status screening. Yet upon finding out their child’s status, parents of deaf and hard of hearing children are often stunned to find out that interventions and related services are not covered by their health insurance, Bloom said. Only one in 10 children in privately funded plans has coverage for hearing aids and hearing aid services, leaving over 8,000 children without any kind of health insurance coverage for their devices.

"All the research cited over the last decades says that cursive handwriting is taught in elementary school, where keystrokes and technology have overshadowed the need for students to use flowing penmanship," Vladovic cites research indicating that learning cursive can stimulate children’s brain development, enhance motor skills and may help them learn to read. The resolution also requests a plan to ensure that cursive writing is taught in elementary school, to be developed within 90 days.

"I am pleased Ms. Goldberg can begin serving on the board immediately," Beutner said. "The students and families in board District 5 have a strong, experienced advocate on the Board of Education.

"I look forward to working with our new colleague to address our critical need to increase school funding and get resources back into classrooms," added board Vice President Nick Melvoin. "I know that Board Member Goldberg’s years of local and state experience will be invaluable as we work to reverse decades of disinvestment in public education.”

For information, visit lausd.net.

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For information, visit lausd.net.

Jackie Goldberg approved by LAUSD board

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education voted unanimously on May 21 to appoint Jackie Goldberg to fill the vacant District 5 board seat temporarily until the results of the May 14 election are certified by the county of Los Angeles and declared by the city of Los Angeles. The resolution to appoint Goldberg was co-sponsored by all board members.

Goldberg, who defeated Heather Repenning, a long-time aide to Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti during the election last week, pending the certification of final voting results, called for increased investment in public education.

"I am overwhelmed by the support of so many teachers, administrators, classified employees, parents, volunteers and many others,” Goldberg said. “So many of us are doing all we can to help our children succeed. But we all have something in common. We know we are not getting enough investment in public education. For all those who helped bring me here, we will continue the fight for more investment in our schools and we will not stop until our children are getting all they deserve.”

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, who appointed LAUSD board members in welcoming Goldberg.

LAUSD board supports cursive handwriting instruction

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education has approved a resolution on May 21 to ensure that cursive handwriting is taught in elementary school, where keystrokes and technology have overshadowed the need for students to use flowing penmanship.

The resolution sponsored by Board Member Dr. Richard Vladovic cites research indicating that learning cursive can stimulate children’s brain development, enhance motor skills and may help them learn to read. The resolution also requests a plan to ensure that cursive writing is taught in elementary school, to be developed within 90 days.

"All the research cited over the last decades says that cursive instruction is conducive to word and letter association, and can be helpful to students in their language instruction,” Vladovic said.

“We owe it to them to teach the fundamentals that can help build lifelong learners, because the bottom line is that this is good for kids.”

"Even in today’s high-tech world, learning to read and write cursive remains an important skill for our students,” LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner added. “Research tells us that many children learn best when they put pen or pencil to paper. Let’s make sure we help every student reach their full potential.”

For information, visit lausd.net.
**Students cook up careers in culinary arts program**

On May 20, 32 culinary students from Los Angeles County public high schools were awarded scholarships to continue their studies by Careers through Culinary Arts Program at its annual Los Angeles Region Awards Breakfast.

C-CAP President Karen Brossus, alongside C-CAP Los Angeles Program Director Lisa Fontanesi and Culinary Program Coordinator Gail Carney, awarded over $400,000 in scholarships and opportunities to the students. The scholarships were awarded to high school seniors to attend local culinary schools and some of the most prestigious culinary schools in the country. Some students also received C-CAP education scholarships that help defray the costs of books, supplies, housing and other expenses while at community colleges and culinary schools.

During the C-CAP Los Angeles Cooking Competition for Scholarships that was held on March 29, C-CAP re-created the intensity of a restaurant kitchen for the high school seniors to face off in a cooking challenge. Students were judged on the presentation of their dishes, knife skills, techniques in the kitchen, taste, sanitary food handling and timeliness.

The C-CAP program offers opportunities including exposure to the restaurant/hospitality business, useful life skills, scholarships and the potential for a fulfilling career. For information, visit ccapinc.org.

**Benefit raises funds for education and theater programs**

Playhouse Artistic Director Matt Shakman and emeritus Chris Stills. The event recognizes the accomplishments of leaders in the artistic community, supports the theater’s mission to produce original work and raises funds for education and community engagement programs. For information, visit geffenplayhouse.org.

**Burroughs to hold celebration for ‘Schools to Watch’ designation**

The California Department of Education has named John Burroughs Middle School to the 2019 “Schools to Watch” list, and the school is holding a special ceremony to celebrate on Thursday, May 30, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Burroughs was the only Los Angeles Unified School District campus to be named to the list. “This distinction is given to high achieving, high need middle schools and allows for schools from all over California to observe and learn the strategies that Burroughs employs to ensure student achievement,” Principal Steve Martinez said.

The designation adds to the campus’ growing list of accolades. In 2017, Burroughs became a California Gold Ribbon School with a Title 1 Academic Achievement distinction. In 2018, it was named a National Magna School of Excellence and was listed on the 2017-2018 California Honor Roll.

“Throughout my tenure as principal, my goal has been to lead John Burroughs Middle School to become a world class school of overall excellence,” Martinez added. “Together with the leadership team, the teacher leader cadre, faculty, students, parents, and with the support of strong community partnerships, we have achieved several milestones to that effect.” For information, visit burroughsms.org.

**Epstein Scholarships awarded to top Fairfax High seniors**

The Los Angeles Chapter of the International Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering awarded three Fairfax High School seniors with Irene Epstein Memorial Scholarship awards at an event on May 16 at Fortune House restaurant in the Fairfax District.

Students Sae Kim, Angie Shin and Jiho Kim each received $3,000 scholarships and a proclamation from the city of Los Angeles. SAMPE’s Los Angeles Chapter also provided $2,000 college book awards to three additional students.

The Irene Epstein Memorial Scholarship program was initiated in 1996 shortly after the death of Irene Epstein, wife of longtime Fairfax District resident and retired aerospace engineer George Epstein. The scholarships recognize the Epstein family’s desire to assist low-income, academically deserving students attend college to study engineering, science, mathematics or medicine. This year marks the 23rd year the scholarships have been awarded.

Sae Kim is in the top 1% of her class with a GPA of 4.532. She plans to major in math and biochemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, and her goal is to become an obstetrician or gynecologist.

Jiho Kim ranks in the top 1% of her class and will graduate with a GPA of 4.405. She plans to attend UCLA to study bioengineering. While attending high school, she also worked in the Clinical Trials Office at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and at the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine studying stem cells.

Shin is also in the top 1% of her class with a GPA of 4.327. She plans to attend Harvard University and major in physics.

**Students cook up careers in culinary arts program**

Southern California high school students were awarded more than $400,000 in culinary scholarships by the Careers Through Culinary Arts Program on May 20.

Geffen Playhouse raised more than $1.3 million for the theater’s education, community engagement and artistic initiatives at its 17th annual “Backstage at the Geffen” fundraiser on May 19.

Actor Danny Glover presented the Artistic Impact Award to Harry Belafonte, and the award was accepted by daughter Gina Belafonte. Actress Jane Fonda presented the Distinction in Theater Award to actress Lily Tomlin.

The evening of unscripted, unannounced performers and storytellers was hosted by Julia Sweeney and featured personal anecdotes from Academy Award and Golden Globe Award-winner Ben Affleck, actress Rosemarie DeWitt, Geffen Playhouse President Karen Brosius, C-CAP President Karen Brossus, alongside C-CAP Los Angeles Program Director Lisa Fontanesi and Culinary Program Coordinator Gail Carney, awarded over $400,000 in scholarships and opportunities to the students.

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For information, visit ccapinc.org.
'Pokémon Detective Pikachu' breaks video game curse

Since video game movie adaptations first infected Hollywood in 1993 (good ol’ “Super Mario Bros.”), none have become a bonafide hit. No number of “Mortal Kombat,” “Street Fighter,” “Resident Evil,” “Silent Hill” or “Final Fantasy” sequels add up to more than lining for a landfill alongside forgotten copies of Atari 2600’s “E.T.” The entire genre is a mess, one that gave us a very white Jake Gyllenhaal as the “Prince of Persia;” allowed Angelina Jolie’s Lara Croft to punch a great white in the nose, and spent more time in a boring lab than 15th century Spain in “Assassin’s Creed.”

When 2018’s yawnier “Tomb Raider” arises as the cream of the video game film adaptations, perhaps it is to commemorate another one of video game culture’s (infamous) missteps. But unlike the original Lara Croft movie, “Detective Pikachu” offers a more than likable take on the Pokémon franchise.

Tim and Pikachu, an unlikely buddy duo. Tim’s pride and discombobulated perspective on life. But he fancies himself a detective like his former master, god of thunder’s mouthy sarcasm and the Pokémon-human underbelly of modern day. And so, we enter the story through Tim Goodman (Justice Smith), just an average dude with a boring job. Unlike most folks without a Pokémon companion. Pikachu has another problem: he just hears adorable nonsense like “pika pika.”

To call “Detective Pikachu” bonkers is a ridiculous hot take that parses 24 years of franchise history and all the heroes and villains — as well as reserved seats, popcorn in 3D for this screening only — all fan event guests will receive a digital download of the film’s soundtrack, as well as reserved seat, popcorn in a souvenir bucket, and a 20-ounce bottled drink. Tickets to the fan event leading up to dad’s alleged accident. But he fancies himself a detective like his former master, and so the pair traverse the rich elite and the Pokémon-human underworld in search of answers.

“Detective Pikachu” is a murder mystery story that does its name proud, tipping its hat to film noir and other detective story classics. Beyond Pikachu’s deanstalker cap, à la Sherlock, the film’s nighttime sequences invoke noir’s overwatered visual aesthetic. Just imagine “Blade Runner” with a bubblier perspective on life. And so, we enter the story through Tim Goodman (Justice Smith), just an average dude with a boring job. Unlike most folks without a Pokémon companion. Pikachu has another problem: he just hears adorable nonsense like “pika pika.”

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The whole family is in for a magical time with our special guests. As an unpaid intern. (Pause: yes, that’s a real shorthand term for list articles; and no, it should never seriously be used in conversation.)

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Make no mistake, “Detective Pikachu” is a murder mystery story that does its name proud, tipping its hat to film noir and other detective story classics. Beyond Pikachu’s deanstalker cap, à la Sherlock, the film’s nighttime sequences invoke noir’s overwatered visual aesthetic. Just imagine “Blade Runner” with a bubblier perspective on life. And so, we enter the story through Tim Goodman (Justice Smith), just an average dude with a boring job. Unlike most folks without a Pokémon companion. Pikachu has another problem: he just hears adorable nonsense like “pika pika.”

Pikachu has another problem: he has no memories of his past or the event leading up to dad’s alleged accident. But he fancies himself a detective like his former master, and so the pair traverse the rich elite and the Pokémon-human underworld in search of answers.

The whole family is in for a magical time with our special guests. As an unpaid intern. (Pause: yes, that’s a real shorthand term for list articles; and no, it should never seriously be used in conversation.)
Introducing the L.A. County Development Authority

After 36 years as an established, trusted community leader in economic development, community development, and economic development, the Community Development Commission/Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (CDCHAA) has announced that it has rebranded itself as the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA).

Throughout the years, the agency has made a difference countywide and in the lives of families, homes, creating affordable rental housing opportunities for veterans and low-income seniors, experiencing homelessness, funding and constructing parks, libraries and other public facilities, and providing support to help businesses — small and large — start up or continue their success.

The rebranding offers an opportunity for the agency to reconnect with residents, partners and clients, and reintroduce its program portfolio, expanded service operation, and initiatives to meet the needs of the county’s residents and businesses. The LACDA combines the strengths of two agencies — the Community Development Commission and Housing Authority — into one agency, under one management structure, and one uniform voice, to ensure its endeavors of ending generational poverty and homelessness, encouraging community development, and empowering county residents and businesses to reach their full potential.

The clients served and the excellent quality of service provided will not change. The new structure simply allows the agency to streamline budgeting, staffing and programmatic operations, and more importantly, create a singular and more distinctive identity both internally and to our community partners.

The LACDA’s core mission, to build better lives and better neighborhoods, remains strong and intact and does its commitment to work with, and for, its partners.

Hertzberg bills on cannabis banking, consumer protection clear appropriations committee

Legislation by state Sen. Mike McGuire, D-San Rafael, and Assemblyman Bob Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys, which would establish the framework to allow licensed cannabis businesses to open bank accounts, along with bills to protect consumers wronged by for-profit colleges and the bail and immigration bond industries, was approved this week on the Senate floor.

“As policymakers, we have a duty to further the will of the voters while protecting public safety,” Hertzberg said. “We can’t set by while the safety of legal businesses, their employees and the general public are put at risk. SB 51 represents a first step in getting cannabis cash off the street and integrating these legal businesses into our economy.”

He also thanked the Appropriations Committee for approving SB 63, which will provide tax relief to students whose states turned upside down when Brightwood Colleges and Art Institutes suddenly closed, and SB 318, which makes it clear that consumer financial protection laws apply to the unfill bail and immigration bond industries,” he continued.

For information, contact Sen. McGuire’s office at (916) 653-1843.

MOCA admission to be free after trustee’s gift

During the Museum of Contemporary Art’s Benefit — Saturday, May 18, MOCA Board of Trustees President Carolyn Clark Powers announced that she has pledged $10 million to fund free general admission to the museum.

The museum will immediately begin working on a roll-out plan to implement this gift as soon as possible.

Powers is a long-time resident of Los Angeles, and her expansive charitable focus includes support for the visual and performing arts, music education, and children’s and women’s issues. Powers was elected president of the board in 2018 after serving since 2007.

“This is not a badge for me. Rather, it’s a way for me to support the museum and be of service to the Los Angeles community,” Powers said. ‘I am committed to the museum’s continued success and leadership to MOCA being at the forefront of diversity, inclusiveness and openness of spirit. Art has the power to unite us and to MOCA being at the forefront of diversity, inclusiveness and openness of spirit. Art has the power to unite us and it is such an inspiring role model as a example of philanthropy aligned with the museum that will literally resonate in millions of people’s lives. It is something the whole MOCA staff feels honored and proud to be a part of. I am now ready to do all that I can to help MOCA to grow and make the whole museum more accessible to the public.”

MOCA is located at 250 S. Grand Ave. For information, visit moca.org.

Boys & Girls Clubs hold annual gala

Boys & Girls Clubs of America held the annual Pacific Youth of the Year Celebration on May 9 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills.

Clubs alumnus Mario Lopez received the prestigious Champion of Youth Award, and Sabrina McFarland from Boys & Girls Clun of San Francisco was named the 2019 Pacific Youth of the Year. Television and radio personality Rocsi Diaz emceed.

The evening fundraiser featured vocal performances by club members from Boys & Girls Clubs of Venice, Boys & Girls Clubs of Burbank, and a dance performance by Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Valley John Lynch, general manager of the San Francisco-49ers; Steve Layton, principal and co-founder of L2 Reality; and Byron Roth, chairman and CEO of ROTH Capital Partners, co-chaired the event. Celebration attendees included Lance Bass, Jake T. Austin, Anthony Lanier II, and Camilla Banus.

Throughout the evening, the nine 2019 Pacific regional finalists, representing California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii, each spoke of their life experiences, and the value they gained from their membership to work with, and for, its partners.

Tobacco sale ban on pace for passage in Beverly Hills

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cigarette retailer permits, according to city staff, including gas stations, grocery stores and convenience stores. Some of those store owners told the council during public comment at a meeting earlier this month that they rely on tobacco sales, and would struggle finding ways to make up the lost revenue. The hardship exemption included in the ordinance is based on factors such as how much of their revenue comes from tobacco and whether they can develop a plan to eventually phase out tobacco products.

The list of smoking regulations already in effect in Beverly Hills includes prohibitions on smoking on public rights of way or within 20 feet of open air dining areas, unless actively passing by, a ban on smoking in multiunit housing and a ban on flavored tobacco that has been popular among teenagers.
Probation parolees want to launch multimedia foster parent recruitment campaign

Los Angeles County Probation Child Welfare is launching, “Finding your Home,” a creative advertising campaign urging L.A. residents to open their homes and hearts to one of the area’s thousands of children and teens in need.

The campaign is a collaboration with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and other nonprofit partners.

Probation Child Welfare currently serves more than 66,000 adolescents and teens with intensive support and foster care services.

The campaign encourages foster families to open their homes and become a foster parent. Video advertisements can be viewed on the site and will be airing across multiple digital platforms, streaming and television networks over the next several months.

Los Angeles County Probation Child Welfare is hoping to find families with the ability to care for teens and young adults. The agency works with local Foster Family Agencies to train and certify households to take in and care for a teen. Foster families receive tax credits and a monthly stipend to meet the needs of taking in a young person and foster youth. They are eligible for numerous county stipends to meet the needs of taking in a young person and foster youth. They are eligible for numerous county services, including health care, counseling and legal services.

“ ‘If you have ever thought about giving back by sharing your home with a young person in need, even in the smallest way, we encourage you to learn more. There are many ways to support a young person successfully transition into adulthood, so if you are interested, please check out our website at wearefriends.org wipeout,’” said Managing Director Laura Motton.

The Foster Home partnership will be hosting seven information events in the coming months. For more information and to RSVP, visit wearefriends.org/even.

To illustrate West Hollywood Mayor John D’Amico’s point that all West Hollywood residents help to perform the duties of mayor, colored shirts were laid out in a rainbow pattern in the City Council chambers.

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focus on building and safety for both seismic retrofits and sustainable building so the supply of ‘resilient and cost-controlled’ ‘small homes’ can be maintained and maximized.

Finally, D’Amico also wants to improve the health and wellness of young people in West Hollywood, especially when it comes to preventing drug overdoses. He wants to get city staff to work with the clinics on programs that focus on the health and wellness of young black and Latino women.

D’Amico said the May 20 reorganization meeting was “a little muted” compared to past events so that the cost savings from a smaller celebration could be passed on to such organizations.

“Our city leads while other cities and states are flailing, ineptly falling backwards,” D’Amico said. “In our city, our citizens jump up and start acting. If anyone else even entered the arena, there’s a whole world out there that needs us to help shepherd the way. We all know that together, we can help bring more of West Hollywood to life.”

Mayor Pro Tempore Lindsey Horvath, who was sworn in by her brother, Michael Horvath, was appointed to the council in 2009 and served until 2011. She first was elected to the council in 2004 and was re-elected earlier this year. She will serve as mayor pro tem for the first time in 2019.

“I think we are a small city with a big heart and an even bigger vision for the role we want to play in the world, want to be a good teammate to the people in our community who are working hard to create that vision and advance its values,” she said.

Beverly Hills to host staged reading of ‘Love’s Labour’s Lost’

The city of Beverly Hills is proud to have the Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles present a staged reading of William Shakespeare’s “Love’s Labour’s Lost” on Wednesday, May 29, at 7 p.m. in the municipal gallery at Beverly Hills City Hall.

A light, catered reception will take place prior to the performance at 6 p.m. The event is free to the public. Space is limited; reservations are required. Go to beverlyhills.org/thumb, to reserve your seats.

“Love’s Labour’s Lost” is one of William Shakespeare’s early comedies. It’s spring and every one is in love. What could possibly go wrong? The story sparkles with wit and romes including love letters delivered to the wrong lovers, Spanish swains, country maidens, and really, really, bad love poetry, courteous of the Bard’s love struck charmers.

The event is recommended for ages 12 years and up. The 90-minute staged reading is without intermission. Parking is available in the Civic Center parking structure, adjacent to the library on Robertson Boulevard.

Beverly Hills City Hall is located at 455 Robertson Drive. For more information, call 310-285-6850.
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