Chaotic Council Chambers

Despite disruptions, forum covers much ground

BY CAMERON KISZLA

In a contentious candidate forum hosted by the Southwest Beverly Hills Homeowners Association in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Feb. 11, the six hopefuls for City Council overcame several disruptions, including a disorderly protestor and a loud disagreement over the rules for questions from the audience, to debate a variety of topics of concern for Beverly Hills voters. One member of the audience attempted to ask a question about what she described as “outrageous” salaries for city employees, though moderator Ken Goldman, president of the HOA, said the audience member had exceeded the 15-second time limit and the question included too much personal opinion. Most of the candidates declined to respond to that question, but they weighed in on other topics, including parking and their bid. However, it was notified 2019, but was unsuccessful with long-term obligations when creat- Hamai said she wanted to finance the purchase of the 10.5-acre cam- ing the final proposal.

Supervisors submit bid for St. Vincent

County wants to use closed hospital to house homeless people

BY MORGAN KEITH

Following unanimous approval at its Jan. 21 meeting, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors submitted a bid to purchase St. Vincent Medical Center with the hope of turning it into housing for homeless individuals. “This is a significant opportunity for the board of supervisors to advance its work around the question of homelessness amidst this crisis,” said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District. “We can make good on our commitment to address homelessness with urgency and innovation. This is one heck of an opportunity. Let’s take advantage of it.” Los Angeles County CEO Sachi Hamai said she wanted to finance the purchase of the 10.5-acre campus upfront, adding that she didn’t want to enter into any short- or long-term obligations when creating the final proposal.

The board previously attempted to purchase St. Vincent in March 2019, but was unsuccessful with their bid. However, it was notified that the entity that outbid them could not secure the necessary financing to finalize the purchase, according to the motion by Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District, that sought to submit a second bid for the property.

“L.A. County is best suited to take the lead in turning St. Vincent Medical Center into a facility that could help address our need for more affordable housing, interim housing, and wraparound mental and medical health services,” Solis said. “Part of my strategy has been to repurpose underutilized or unused county assets to offset our lack of affordable housing.” The county’s Public Health Department deemed St. Vincent and its surrounding area as Service Planning Area 4, which contains the Planning Area 4, which contains the service, to debate a variety of topics of concern for Beverly Hills voters.

Academy Museum opening in sight

May’s plan seeks to address climate change

BY CAMERON KISZLA

During the Academy Awards on Feb. 9, actor Tom Hanks took the stage. However, instead of announcing a win for a director or cinematographer, the two-time Oscar winner had good news for the Miracle Mile and film lovers around the world. The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures will officially open its doors on Dec. 14.

“We’re all very proud of what has been accomplished so far in the landmarks that is taking shape at Fairfax and Wilshire … It’s going to be a very big deal, and we’ll see you there,” Hanks said.

Construction began on the Renzo Piano-designed, 300,000- square-foot museum in 2015, and several delays have pushed back the expected opening date, first from 2017 to 2019, then to a later date in 2019 and now to this year.

When the museum finally opens at 6067 Wilshire Blvd., guests will be exposed to approximately 50,000 square feet of gallery space containing memora- blia from many highly decorated and beloved films.

The second and third floors will house the museum’s permanent exhibits, including items such as the ruby slippers from “The Wizard of Oz.” An exhibit on the iconic film was once planned to be in the lobby, but it will now be part of a special gallery that focuses on each person’s role in working on a movie and how those parts come together to create a film.

“As we’ve been refining the narrative of the exhibition, we’ve realized there are so many stories in the iconic film that we could not fit them all in the lobby,” Hanks said.

Mayor Eric Garcetti signed a directive on Feb. 10 to create programs addressing climate change over the next decade.

Garretti’s ‘Green New Deal’ to address climate change

BY CAMERON KISZLA

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti signed an executive directive on Feb. 10 known as “L.A.’s Green New Deal: Leading By Example,” which will guide the city’s efforts over the next decade to reduce carbon emissions and address climate change.

“The science could not be clearer and the stakes could not be higher. We must act this decade to save the planet and create a more equitable, prosperous and healthy future for our children and grandchildren,” Garcetti said in a statement. “There is literally no time to waste, because what we do in the next 10 years will determine the health of our

Garcetti signed a directive on Feb. 10 to create programs addressing climate change over the next decade.

Mayor Eric Garcetti signed a directive on Feb. 10 to create programs addressing climate change over the next decade.
**CALANDER**

**February 13, 2020**

**Park Labrea News/Beverly Press**

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**Real Estate investment expo**

The Los Angeles Real Estate Investors Club is holding a veneros expo on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the third floor ballroom at the Olympic Club. Over 40 real estate professionals will offer information and services including lenders, property insurance agents, credit repair consultants, home inspectors, mortgage brokers and contractors, as well as experts in escrow, title insurance, landlord services, Airbnb, out-of-state investments and data services. Admission is free. 11301 W. Olympic Blvd. (310)379-6404, laticr.com.

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**‘Revenge Song’**

Geffen Playhouse presents Qui Nguyen’s ‘Revenge Song’ running from Thursday, Feb. 13, through Sunday, March 8. The play is a running, music-filled look at the life of Julie d’Aubigny, a gay 17th century French swordswoman and opera singer. “Revenge Song” is a heroine’s journey toward self-discovery and acceptance. In this world Premiere, Geffen Playhouse co-produced, conversations about gender and sexuality blend together with the outrageous fun and superhero style of the Vampire Cowboys Theatre Company, which created the production. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; 3 and 8 p.m., Saturday; 2 and 7 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at $30. 10886 Le Conte Ave. (310)208-2434, thebroadstage.org. 

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**Hammer Museum**

Join the Hammer Museum for “Panic Party” on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. The event is a dance party for a greater future through art, advocacy and action. It includes Cumbia DJs Sizzle Fantastic and Funky Caramelo, as well as DJ Suga Shay. Guests will enjoy short films, information about activism, after-hours admission to museum exhibitions, cocktails and food. 10899 Waldbillig Blvd. (310)443-7000, hammer.ucla.edu.

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**‘It Shoulda Been You’**

Musical Theatre Guild continues its 24th season with “It Shoulda Been You,” a concert on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. at the historic Alex Theatre. The show invites audiences to an unforgettable evening of sheet music, fashion and storytelling, the tension between form and meaning. General admission is $25. 13101 11th St., Santa Monica. (310)434-3200, thebroadroad.org.

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**Beverly Hills Chamber**

Join the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce for its February Networking Breakfast on Friday, Feb. 14, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at a location to be announced. Chamber members and local professionals will mingle and offer information and services to Chamber members and local professionals. Admission is $30. 10899 Le Conte Ave. (310)208-2434, thebroadroad.org.

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**‘Can’t Pay? Won’t Pay!’**

Actor Gang Theater presents a production of Dario Fo’s “Can’t Pay? Won’t Pay!” running from Saturday, Feb. 15, through Sunday, March 28, at the Actors’ Gang Theater. Directed by Bob Tutton with direction by Cam Diaver, the play follows homosexual housewife Antonia, who leads a revolt of women at a local supermarket. As the protest escalates, botching ensures and police search door to door for the culprits. Antonia and her friend Magda try to hide their “liberated” goods from their husbands and the police. The satirical face questions not only in a world of bailed-out banks and overspent prescription drugs, that it is only a crime when it is committed by those truly in need. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday. 9070 Venice Blvd. (310)883-4264, thecotsorag.org.

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**WeHo landlords workshop**

West Hollywood presents a workshop titled “Landlord Basics” on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. in the West Hollywood Community Center at Plummer Park. The event is the latest in a series of RSO Building Blocks workshops that educate property owners, managers, rental property community members about the city’s rent stabilization ordinance, as well as city policy and regulations. The event will include unregistered limits, rent increases, security deposits, annual registration fees and pass through, mandatory maintenance standards, temporary relocation, requirements for legal entry, and Airbnb and short-term rentals. 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. (323)848-6472, weho.org.

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Don’t Drink & Drive!
Amoeba selects Walk of Fame for new home

By Cameron Kiszla

Famed record store Amoeba Music has found a new home in Hollywood, but it’s not going anywhere for at least a few months.

The business is moving to the El Centro complex after Labor Day, according to a video announcement that featured Grammy-winning musician Tyler, the Creator. Amoeba has been located at 6400 Sunset Blvd. since 2001 and will continue to operate there until it relocates, according to Amoeba’s website.

In June, a 26-story mixed-use building was approved for the Sunset Boulevard site, which Amoeba sold in 2015 but continues to lease. The approved 232,000-square-foot building is expected to include up to 200 residential units, of which at least 10 will be for very low-income households, and 7,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor.

Jim Henderson, co-owner of Amoeba Music, said the Amoeba team wanted the new location to be on the eastern side of the Hollywood Walk of Fame, which offers “a more familiar energy and atmosphere for us and our customers. It’s hard to find a lot of large available spaces in that area, so the decision was made for us to a certain extent,” Henderson said.

Once the move is complete – as the process moves forward, the actual move might take place closer to the end of the year than Labor Day – Henderson said – Amoeba will be in a slightly smaller location that offers more natural light and open views of Hollywood Boulevard.

The record store will also be more accessible to public transit, including a subway stop at Hollywood and Vine, and pedestrian traffic, Henderson said.

“Being that close to the Pantages and the Fonda Theatre and a very like-minded customer base, we feel pretty good about that,” Henderson said.

Kristopher Larson, president and CEO of the Hollywood Property Owners Alliance, which oversees the Hollywood Business Improvement District that includes both Amoeba’s current and future locations, said Amoeba’s move to the El Centro will add pedestrian traffic of Hollywood Boulevard – including people who will be seeing a show at the Pantages or those visiting the Funko store across the street – to also visit the record store.

“You benefit from attracting the individuals that are attracted to your neighbors,” Larson said.

Larson added that the new Amoeba location helps balance the “barbell” of the Hollywood Walk of Fame, which is anchored on the west side by the Hollywood and Highland complex.

“This rounds out the attraction on the other end, which has the Hollywood and Vine station. We view this as a plus-plus,” Larson said.

In Amoeba’s announcement, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti lauded the selection of El Centro.

“Los Angeles is a creative capital, a place filled with dreamers who move and inspire us every day,” Garcetti said. “Amoeba Music reflects the best of this creative spirit, and Angelenos are fortunate this beloved cultural treasure has found a new home guaranteeing its place in our city for years to come.”

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, who recently revealed a proposal to renovate and revitalize much of Hollywood Boulevard and the Walk of Fame as part of his HEART of Hollywood initiative, was similarly effusive in the record store’s statement.

“I think I speak for most Angelenes when I say that we are thrilled that our beloved Amoeba Music is staying in Hollywood … and are even more delighted to welcome the store to the Walk of Fame, which we are actively trying to enhance with my HEART of Hollywood initiative,” O’Farrell said.

Alongside its core business, Amoeba was reportedly considering adding a cannabis business to its Hollywood location – Amoeba’s Berkeley location features a dispensary called Hi Fidelity – but Henderson said “that’s not something we’re focused on at the moment.”

“It might be something in the future, but we haven’t taken any steps in that direction yet,” Henderson said.

While the new location is not as amenable to the large murals and billboards of album covers that decorate the current location, Larson said the Hollywood BID is “looking forward to see what they can do in the space.”

“Every canvas is different. What they have at the current location, obviously, there’s nothing else like it, but the opportunity to be able to decorate a new canvas is something we look forward to learning more about,” Larson said.

Henderson said Amoeba plans to “bring a lot of personality to the space and not necessarily try to replicate something.”

“There’s plenty to be nostalgic about at the amazing shop that we’ve been able to enjoy for the past 20 years, but there will be time for that as we get closer to closing the doors. Ultimately, it’s a good move for us to have an opportunity to reinvent ourselves as a record store for the next 20 years and beyond,” Henderson said.
BHFD welcomes newest members to department

photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The city of Beverly Hills welcomed the newest members of the Beverly Hills Fire Department at its class of 2020 Recruit Badge Pinning Ceremony on Feb. 6. Christopher Balassanian (left), Ryan Givens, 29. Paramedics and firefighters were joined by Beverly Hills Fire Chief Gregory Barton at the ceremony. The Beverly Hills Fire Department operates the city’s three fire stations and responds to over 7,000 incidents per year. For information, visit beverlyhills.org/department/firedepartment.

Women sought for alleged theft of luxury watches

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Commercial Crimes Division are searching for two female suspects who allegedly drugged a male victim and stole expensive watches after they accompanied the victim and a friend home after dining at a West Los Angeles restaurant.

The alleged crime occurred on Oct. 28, but authorities only released the information on Feb. 10 after exhausting all leads, said Detective Manny Pedroza, with the Commercial Crimes Division. Burglary Special Section. The women, who were 20 to 30 years old, have not been linked to any other similar crimes, but Pedroza urged any other victims to come forward.

The incident began at approximately 9:35 p.m. on Oct. 28 when two male victims were dining at Javier’s restaurant in the Westfield Century City mall on Jan. 20 as Ryan Givens, 29.

Detectives are investigating the homicide and have no updates, said Detective Herman Frettlohr, with the Los Angeles Police Department’s West Bureau Homicide Unit. The motive for the shooting has not been disclosed.

The shooting was preceded by an argument between two groups of women in Javier’s restaurant at the mall. The situation escalated when the group left the restaurant and men who were with the women became involved in an argument with each other, police said.

When the two groups came together again at a valet station on Santa Monica Boulevard, one of the men pulled out a gun and the victim ran away. The suspect followed and fired, striking the victim multiple times. That man, identified as Givens, was found in the 10300 block of Santa Monica Boulevard and taken to a hospital, where he later died.

The suspect fled on foot on Santa Monica Boulevard. He was described as black, 5 feet 7 inches tall and 160 pounds. He was wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans.

Anyone with information is urged to call investigators with the West Bureau Homicide Unit at (213)382-9470. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD’s hotline at (877)LAPD247.

Driver who allegedly struck elderly woman sought

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A driver who struck and injured a 92-year-old woman with her vehicle and fled on Feb. 7 is being sought by police, who are asking the public for tips.

The collision occurred at approximately 8:30 a.m. as the driver was backing up at a slow speed near the intersection of Ninth Street and Burlington Avenue, east of Koreatown. The vehicle, a 2004 black Honda Accord, struck the victim and knocked her to the ground.

People in the immediate area helped the victim and spoke to the driver and told the driver to stay at the scene, but he drove away. Police and paramedics were called and the victim was taken in stable condition to a hospital, where she recovered.

Authorities obtained a license plate number, but the registration is not current and they were unable to identify the driver. He was described as a Latino man 18 to 25 years old.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Detective Messe Castillo, with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Central Traffic Division, at (213)833-3713. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD’s hotline at (877)LAPD247.

Securities camera photographs were released of the two women who allegedly stole watches after meeting two victims at a restaurant.

Victim in shooting outside Century City mall identified

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles County Office of Medical Examiner-Coroner has identified a victim who was shot and killed after an argument at the Westfield Century City mall on Jan. 20 as Ryan Givens, 29.

Detectives are investigating the homicide and have no updates, said Detective Herman Frettlohr, with the Los Angeles Police Department’s West Bureau Homicide Unit. The motive for the shooting has not been disclosed.

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Purple Line Extension Transplant Project

Wilshire/Rodeo Station Box Construction Continues

Piling activities to create the supports for the Wilshire/Rodeo Station box will continue on the north side of Wilshire Blvd from Beverly Dr to Crescent Dr. Upon anticipated completion on the north side in April, operations will move to the south side.

Traffic Alert

Two lanes will be open in each direction on Wilshire Blvd at all times. Beverly Dr will be open in one lane in each direction during work in the intersection.

Work Hours

Work will occur seven days a week. Please visit metro.net/purple for detailed work hours.

*Construction is dynamic and is subject to change.

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Wednesday, February 26, 2020
7:00 PM

The City’s Community Sing-Alongs are part of the Mayor’s initiative
to promote arts and culture in Beverly Hills.

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills
Box office Opens 5:00 PM / Doors Open 6:30 PM

Tickets are free; RSVP is required. | Light refreshments to follow sing-along.
For ticketing www.thewallis.org or call 310-746-4000 | Complimentary Parking available at 450 N. Crescent Drive.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts
to accommodate persons with disabilities. Please call 310-746-4000 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY).
On Feb. 4, a proposed mixed-use project on the site of the former Friars Club building was again before the Beverly Hills City Council, where it received partial approval. The item will come back before the council on Feb. 18.

Much of the project was approved unanimously; one vote by Mayor John Mirisch voting against it. However, once the project was approved, Mirisch joined his colleagues in supporting the development agreement the city reached with GPI Companies, which was approved unanimously. Some of the required votes, however, were delayed until Feb. 18—the time when some of the ordinance will receive their required second reading—because of one stacking point: noisy construction early in the morning.

“Noise is a big concern for the Peninsula, particularly early in the morning... Guests come to the Peninsula hotel for tranquility, for quiet, for peace. Starting noisy work at 8 a.m. is of great concern.”

—Offer Nissenbaum, managing director of the Peninsula Beverly Hills hotel

In 2018, the Belvedere Hotel Group, which owns the Peninsula Beverly Hills hotel, appealed the project’s approval, and the Peninsula’s representatives again made their case on Feb. 4 that loud noises in the morning would be disruptive to their business, which is across Charleville Boulevard from the Peninsula hotel.

“Noise is a big concern for the Peninsula, particularly early in the morning. As you know, guests come to the Peninsula hotel for tranquility, for quiet, for peace. Starting noisy work at 8 a.m. is of great concern.” said Offer Nissenbaum, managing director of the hotel.

Nissenbaum and Michael Tenner, the hotel’s general counsel, suggested that noisy construction such as jackhammering, drilling and heavy hauling—could begin as early as 9:30 a.m., and, in exchange, would continue later into the evening.

Cliff Goldstein, founder and managing partner of GPI, argued that not only would starting each day at a later time be expensive for the developers, but the cumulative effect of the delays could add up to eight months of additional construction time for a project that’s already expected to take two years.

In addition, Goldstein said, working later into the day comes with problems of its own.

“If you delay it, you’re going to delay it right into rush hour. You’re going to make it worse for everybody,” Goldstein said.

Eventually, during a break in the meeting, the two sides seemed to come to an agreement that would have the construction crews do as much as they could to limit noisy construction before 9 a.m.—including the use of sound barriers and blankets, and performing early-morning noisy activities on the west side of the property, farthest from the Peninsula—and any exceptions will have to be approved by the city. Hotel management would be advised in writing of any approved exceptions at least 24 hours in advance of the early-morning work beginning.

In exchange, the hotel would work its right to sue to try to slow down or stop the project under the California Environmental Quality Act. If a CEQA lawsuit is filed, the project will only be subject to the city’s time limits on noisy construction work, which can begin as early as 8 a.m.

Though the concessions from GPI seemed to potentially be satisfactory to the hotel, Tenner said he needed to let the Peninsula’s owners and partners see the proposed stipulations before agreeing to anything binding.

“…”

“We’re not asking for an extension of time to review this, but we do think it’s equitable to let the folks that own the hotel weigh in on the language that we crafted on the fly this evening,” Tenner said.

Tenner advised that the hotel will come to a decision on the proposal before the Feb. 18 meeting.

Additionally, as a result of the city’s December urgency ordinance that reduced the amount of spaces required of restaurants, the project will have 54 parking spaces available to the public at the city facility rate, instead of the 41 that were previously set aside for public use.

WeHo opens nominations for 2020 Rainbow Key Awards

The city of West Hollywood is gathering nominations for its 2020 Rainbow Key Awards, which recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer community.

Nominations may be submitted electronically at weho.org/rainbowkey. Nominations forms are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27. The awards presentation is scheduled to take place in March.

Since 1993, the city of West Hollywood has presented Rainbow Key Awards to individuals and groups that have gone above and beyond in their service to the LGBT community. Contributions have come in many forms, including the arts, community service, human rights, education, sports, medicine, armed services, leadership potential and benefit to the global gay and lesbian community. Past honorees have included activists, artists, civic leaders, educators and community organizations.

Nominations will be reviewed by the city’s Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, and recommendations for honorees will be referred to the West Hollywood City Council for final approval.

For a nomination form, contact Jeff Book, staff liaison to the city’s Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, at (323)448-6471 or by email jbook@weho.org. Forms should be returned to Jeff Book, staff liaison, Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board, West Hollywood City Hall, 8800 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.
The Los Angeles City Council unanimously adopted a motion at its Feb. 6 meeting instructing the Los Angeles Police Department to update its website and resources that address hate crimes.

As part of a multi-pronged approach to combating hate crimes, the motion instructs the LAPD to compile a comprehensive list of organizations for its hate crimes victim’s assistance website and include appropriate contact information for LAPD security assessments. The department will report back to the council on the feasibility of developing a citywide hate crimes communications tool that would coordinate incident data and information.

“I heard of reports of increased threats made against synagogue, reports of rising hate incidents against minority communities in my district,” said Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, who co-authored the bill. “In talking to folks, you could feel it – a sense of unease and a feeling that a tide of hate was rising in Los Angeles.”

The rise of anti-Semitism and hate throughout the country has reached epic and catastrophic proportions … We cannot and will not stay silent as bad actors try to instill fear in our community.

-Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th District

In 2019, LAPD recorded 322 hate crimes. There has been a 40.65% increase in hate crimes since 2016, a year in which the city’s hate crime stats peaked after years of steadily falling. In 2019, there were 69 anti-Semitic, 68 anti-black, 42 anti-Hispanic and 21 anti-transgender hate crimes in Los Angeles.

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The Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, with support from the California Arts Council, announced the Hollywood House Digital Archive, which is free and open to the public, encouraging over 500 works that include origi nal drawings, blueprints and ephemera that date from 1918 through the early 21st century. Developed by the City and pre served historical documents associ ated with the property, the collection complements the properties UNESCO World Heritage site designation. Visitors can utilize the online site to explore the history related to the building, renovations, restorations and additions to the Hollywood House.

“We are creating a unique, userfriendly, world-class experience at Hollywood House. Some of these images have never been seen virtually,” said Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District. “Since the facility was selected as part of a UNESCO World Heritage designation, we are furthering our work to create an architectural centerpiece for the city of Los Angeles. This digital content will only deepen visitor engagement, and I applaud our steward in the Department of Cultural Affairs for making this happen.”

Completed in 1921 as the home of noted philanthropist and art collector Barnsdall, the UNESCO-designated Hollywood House is noted as the first Los Angeles building designed by the famed architect Wright. Reopened in February 2015 after an extensive four-year, $4.4 million renovation, it now stands as the centerpiece of Barnsdall Park, a vibrant 12-acre cultural campus explore the history and contributions of the Department of Cultural Affairs in the heart of Hollywood.

With the inauguration of the online Hollywood House Archive, we are able to make rare drawings and construction blueprints universally accessible,” said Jeffrey Herr, DCA’s Hollywood House curator.

The Hollywood House is located at 4800 Hollywood Blvd. For information, visit hollywoodhousearchive.org.

The Los Angeles Jewish community faces the worst of these recent incidents because of these recent incidents is extremely important.”

Cooper said, adding that Orthodox Jews do not use days of worship, which are often when hate crimes occur. “There are a lot of issues with whether you should have armed guards inside a house of worship or not, so that kind of dialogue with the police is extremely important.”

While Cooper believes the motion is a step forward locally, the source of hatred isn’t always local. A federal task force is needed to stop individuals who travel to carry out attacks, Cooper added.

As an immediate result of the motion, LAPD will begin releasing annual reports on hate crime data. Requests for comment from LAPD spokespersons were not returned.

The City Council is expecting a report on the city’s communications tool and how it might work later this year, according to Ryu. Other initiatives will take effect sooner, including updates to the LAPD website.

“With this, I think it will stop hate crimes before they begin,” Ryu said. “We can’t legislate away hate out that doesn’t mean there’s nothing we can do.”

LAPD will make updates to combat rising hate crimes

BY MORGAN KEITH

American Jewish University unveils Maas Center

On Jan. 30, American Jewish University announced a $25 million gift from Virginia and Frank Maas to support the creation of the Maas Center for Jewish Journeys. A vital component of AJU’s mission of fostering inclusive Jewish communities, the Maas Center will champion those too often relegated to the periphery of Jewish life, guiding them through interconnected programs that enrich their Jewish journeys.

“American Jewish University serves a critical role in our community and our city,” said Virginia and Frank Maas. “We are proud to further enhance our long-time commitment to the Maas Center for Jewish Journeys. Our hope is that as we look to the future, the Maas Center will guide, encourage and support the lives of thousands of people through the programs that currently exist and new programs that will be developed with our gift.”

Virginia and Frank Maas have been leaders in the Los Angeles Jewish community for over 45 years. Their recent accomplishments include leadership at American Jewish University, the Jewish Federation, Hilcrest Country Club, the L.A. Jewish Community Centers, Beit T’Shuvah and Temple Beth Am, as well as other Jewish and secular service organizations.

“We are deeply grateful to visionary leaders Virginia and Frank Maas for their generous gift, which will be a far-reaching investment in the Jewish future,” AJU President Jeffrey Herbst said. “The Maas Center will create a cohesive experience that supports people in their quest for spirituality and meaning. It will champion a range of ideas and innovative solutions to address some of the most complex issues facing the Jewish community in the modern world.”

Programs of the Maas Center will address the rapidly changing Jewish community through in-person courses, conferences, events and digital resources. The center will provide thought leadership on issues of Jewish engagement and inclusion, particularly those affecting the next generation.

For information, visit aju.edu/maascenter.

In Beverly Hills for a house party, Ryu said before the committee meeting. “This is beyond unacceptable, and we must act. It is time that the city of Los Angeles takes action to make clear that treating animals this way is not in line with our city’s values.”

The rise of wild animals, including elephants, griffes and lions being brought to lavish house parties in the Hollywood Hills has become a national issue. The draft ordinance would prohibit the use of wild or exotic animals at house parties, venues and other live entertainment.

On Feb. 5, the Los Angeles City Council Committee on Personnel and Animal Welfare approved a motion led by City Councilwoman David Ryu, 4th District, to ban the exhibition of wild and exotic entertainment purposes. The proposed ordinance, which began as a motion in 2016, needs approval from the full council and mayor before becoming law.

“Hollywood is a home for exotic animals being abused came to my doorstep four years ago, when a baby giraffe and elephant were being marched up the Hollywood Hills for a house party,” Ryu said before the committee meeting. “This is beyond unacceptable, and we must act. It is time that the city of Los Angeles takes action to make clear that treating animals this way is not in line with our city’s values.”

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West Hollywood to train public on how to respond to active shooter situation

■ Class is tonight at West Hollywood Library Community Room

BY MORGAN KEITH

Tonight, Feb. 13, the city of West Hollywood will hold a first-of-its-kind class to teach members of the public how to respond in active shooter situations. The course will be led by Eric Franko from High Speed Tac Med, a company that develops emergency response programs and can cover how to treat injured individuals, increasing situational awareness and what to expect when law enforcement arrives. HSTM has previously trained city staff how to respond to active shooter situations.

“We are painfully aware that gun violence is a threat in every community across the nation. Shootings can happen at any time, in any place,” said Kristina Cook, director of the city’s Public Safety Department. “If the unthinkable were to happen in West Hollywood, our first responders are prepared. With active shooter trainings, we’re working to make sure there are resources for the community to be prepared as well.”

In September, the council unanimously approved a motion introduced by Councilwoman Lauren Meister that directed the Public Safety Department to organize the training and gear it toward nighttime entertainment establishments. The motion also directed the

City Controller releases annual financial report

On Jan. 31, Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin released the city’s Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2019, which details L.A.’s budget and financial activities. The report is a number of issues to watch. The 400-plus page report is also available in a briefer version, a comment that contains a data story, graphs and charts—all of which illustrate how taxpayer dollars are spent by the city.

Los Angeles experienced revenue growth last fiscal year, but spending jumped significantly as well,” Galperin said. “We know the cost of providing neighborhood services will continue to rise, and the potential for a slowing economy should never be far from our minds. The city must be disciplined in its budgeting, grow its reserves and manage its special funds more transparently.”

In FY19, total city revenues increased 13.7% to $18.2 billion, due to money coming in from the city’s airports, harbor, and water and power utility, along with strong growth in property tax, sales tax and accrued grant revenues. Overall expenses went up by 7.5% to $15.1 billion, mainly from higher salaries and benefits.

In his report, Galperin noted several issues to watch.

Galperin noted that while it is unclear whether city revenues will keep climbing, it is undeniable that expenses will go up as recently adopted city employee pay and benefits increases kick in. Pension costs will also increase in the coming years. Due to recent investment returns have dropped from 9% to 6%, a number lower than the city’s investment target.

In addition, the city’s retiree health benefits are a net liability of $10.1 billion and are currently 68% funded. This will remain a cost to the city going forward, but Los Angeles is doing far better than other large cities. New York’s current unfunded liability is $50 billion and Chicago and Houston are 0% funded.

For information, visit lacontroller.org/call/2019.

WeHo awards to recognize sustainability

The city of West Hollywood has opened the nomination period for its inaugural Green City Awards, a new environmental sustainability annual awards program. Nominations are due by Friday, March 31, at 11:59 p.m.

In the spirit of “think globally, act locally,” the city of West Hollywood hopes to inspire more green leaders and community members. Local green actions are one way the city builds sustainability and collective contributions to combating climate change.

“There’s so much we can do at the local level to reduce adverse impacts on the climate,” Mayor John D’Amico said. “In 2007, the city of West Hollywood adopted one of the nation’s first mandatory green building ordinances to ensure buildings in our community are built to be healthier for residents and use less energy. In 2019, we approved an update to our Green Building Program that’s impactful, achievable and responsive to current climate action priorities. Our Green City Awards are an exciting extension of this work. These awards will give our city new opportunities to recognize people and organizations in our community to work with us in our mission to protect our environment.”

City Councilman John Duran said “West Hollywood is a trailblazer.”

“While people may think of L.G.B.T.Q. issues when they think of West Hollywood, we’re just as progressive when it comes to sustainability.”

Duran said. “Environmentalism is not just a goal in West Hollywood, it’s a reality that’s grounded in our core values and in the policies we develop and implement. The Green City Awards will highlight those in our city who are leading the way on sustainability in areas such as conserving energy and reducing waste. Every action matters in helping our community decrease its carbon footprint.”

A total of three awards will be bestowed, recognizing one individual, one business and one organization or school. Recipients will receive a formal award and be highlighted by the city at the inaugural Green City Awards of people, Wednesday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the city of West Hollywood’s Community Meeting Room, located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.

The awards program will be administered by the city of West Hollywood and its Public Facilities Commission. Nominations are open to all; anyone interested is encouraged to apply. Applicants can self-nominate or elect to nominate their favorite or particular’s local business. Considerations for the award are broad and may include groups and organizations from the arts, trees and plants, and more.

For information, contact Erin Hamant, a senior administrative analyst for the city, at (323)848-6859 or emhamant@weho.org, or visit weho.org/gca.

Cedars-Sinai study shows open-heart surgery alternative

A new study from the Smidt Heart Institute at Cedars-Sinai and other centers nationwide shows that patients who underwent a minimally invasive transcatheter aortic-valve replacement had similar key five-year clinical outcomes of death and stroke as patients who had traditional open-heart surgery to replace the valve.

The study, “PARTNER 2A,” compares long-term outcomes of the two different approaches to treating aortic stenosis, a common heart problem affecting approximately 12% of people over the age of 65. The research, involving more than 2,000 patients, was published by The New England Journal of Medicine and will appear in the Feb. 27 print edition.

“The results of this study are encouraging because TAVR was comparable in terms of outcomes,” said Dr. Raj Makkar, the study’s lead author and vice president of cardiovascular innovation and intervention at Cedars-Sinai. These findings allow patients to have more peace of mind and undergo a less invasive procedure. Unlike traditional surgery, TAVR is now often done without or with minimal anesthetic, with patients able to leave the hospital the same day.

During the TAVR procedure, an interventional cardiologist inserts a replacement valve into a catheter and guides it through an artery to the patient’s heart, where a balloon is expanded to press the valve into place.

According to the American Heart Association, nearly 1.5 million people in the U.S. have aortic valve stenosis, a narrowing or hardening of the aortic valve caused by calcium buildup on the heart valve flaps. Patients with a severe form of the disease experience symptoms including shortness of breath, chest pain, fatigue and fainting. Many cannot even walk enough to perform basic daily activities.

Aortic stenosis often results in death within three years of diagnosis. Replacing the aortic valve—either through the TAVR procedure or surgery—restores patients’ life expectancy to normal. During 2019, more than 100,000 patients underwent TAVR procedures in the U.S., compared to about 50,000 patients who had aortic valve replacement with open-heart surgery.

“This landmark study clarifies the long-term pros and cons of surgical versus percutaneous interventions for the aortic valve,” said Dr. Eduardo Marfisi, executive director of the Smidt Heart Institute. “As one of the top enrolling sites, the Smidt Heart Institute is proud of Dr. Makkar’s leadership of this exceptionally talented team of clinical investigators.”

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

Notable quotes

“Love conquers all things; let us too surrender to love.”
—Virgil (Publius Vergilius Maro) 70-19 BC

Enjoy Valentine’s Day!”

(source: “Barthol’s Familiar Quotations”)
Clinic offers care for people living on the streets

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Representatives of the Saban Community Clinic and The Center at Blessed Sacrament came together on Feb. 12 to launch a new satellite clinic at 6636 Selma Ave.

The nonprofit center offers programs to improve the well-being of homeless individuals and helps link them with housing and services offered by Los Angeles County and other providers. The goal is to provide basic health care for people experiencing homelessness and to get them insurance that will help meet their long-term needs.

“It’s an environment where people can get started,” said Alex Sato, director of operations for The Center. “It’s a lot of people who are chronically homeless. There are a disproportionate number of people who have been misdiagnosed with mental health conditions and also a lot of members of the transgender community. It’s a lot of people who have been struggling and are reluctant to walk into a clinic.”

For the Saban Community Clinic, which currently operates facilities on Beverly and Hollywood Boulevards and Melrose Avenue and plans to soon open a new facility on Virgil Avenue focusing on families, partnering with The Center was a natural fit.

“It’s a very special project,” said Arnali Ray, chief of strategy and programs officer for the Saban Community Clinic. “The idea is for somebody living on the streets to come in and take advantage of the services. It’s a great opportunity. With homelessness going the way it is, we felt that we had to do something more.”

The satellite clinic operates from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. The clinic includes a nurse practitioner and medical assistant who help with routine medical issues and can link patients with further medical services at a clinic or hospital if their conditions require more serious medical attention. The staff also includes a patient wellness specialist who can help patients obtain health insurance and care at other clinics and facilities.

The new clinic serves approximately seven patients a day. People are welcome to drop in for an assessment that will determine what services are needed and how to move forward. Some patients will be brought into the system of care provided at other Saban Community Clinics in the area.

“We’ve found a lot of the folks haven’t been in care for six or eight months, and [for] one person, a decade,” Sato said. “It’s people who may be reluctant to seek help. We are getting a lot of foot traffic.”

People can also benefit from other services provided by The Center, whose mission is to end isolation and homelessness in Hollywood. The Center offers programs like coffee hours and reading and music listening sessions that bring people together and provide a feeling of connectivity and belonging. It is also part of the county’s Coordinated Entry System, connecting individuals experiencing homelessness to housing opportunities.

The Saban Community Clinic, which was founded in 1967 as the Los Angeles Free Clinic, has grown to serve more than 21,000 patients annually. The clinic’s views health care as a right, not a privilege, and offers a holistic approach to treatment. People can receive health, dental and vision care, OB/GYN services and screenings for HIV, cancer and other diseases. The clinic also offers showers. An emphasis is placed on preventative care and people can make appointments for regular check-ups.

“We do end up subsidizing services provided at other Saban Community Clinics. ‘We have in-house, free enrollment services that help determine what plans, if any, patients are eligible for before they receive services. Insurance greatly benefits the patients and provides a network of care for services they may need outside of the clinic.”

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, supports the Saban Community Clinic and the help it provides. He added that the new satellite clinic at The Center has the potential to make a significant impact in the lives of homeless individuals.

“I am thrilled to see this new partnership in Hollywood,” O’Farrell said. “For years, The Center has worked to better connect those experiencing homelessness with critical resources. The addition of Saban’s Community Clinic is a much needed service in the neighborhood and will go a long way toward addressing the physical and mental health needs of our homeless residents.”

Candidates to speak at forum in 4th District council race

A coalition of neighborhood councils will present a candidate forum for candidates in the race for City Councilmember in the 4th District on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 4 p.m. at John Marshall High School, 3939 Tracy St.

The forum will be hosted by the Los Angeles Free Clinic and the Saban Community Clinic.

The forum will feature four candidates: Sarah Kate Levy, Nithya Ramen and David Ryu have agreed to participate.

The forum will be open to the public. For information, visit facebook.com/A63.

Candidates to speak at forum in 4th District council race
Metro offers updates on subway construction

Metro is holding a quarterly meeting with community updates on the future Wilshire/Rodeo and Century City/Constellation subway stations on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the Century Plaza Towers, Concourse Level D, Room A, 2029-2049 Century Park East.

The meeting will include an overview of phase 2 of the Purple Line Extension project, which will run between the Wilshire/La Cienega and Century City/Constellation stations and includes Beverly Hills.

Subway work in the Century City area is currently occurring in construction staging areas at 1940, 1950, and 3040 Century Park East. The work includes the construction of the tunnel shaft and utility installation. Work hours are 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Crews are also installing a new traffic signal on Century Park East to help facilitate vehicle access to and from Watt Plaza during street closures and future construction. Work hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Near Wilshire/Fairfax, station construction is ongoing. The project’s proximity to transit means it will continue intermittently through Friday, May 26. Crews will be using the installation of subsurface gas monitoring wells for Wilshire Boulevard and McCarthy Vista/Crescent Heights. Work hours are 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., weekends and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., weekdays.

Near Wilshire/Fairfax station construction, hauling and concrete pouring are ongoing. Ogden Drive will be intermittently closed at Wilshire Boulevard to support construction in the staging yard. Concrete and material deliveries to the La Cienega station box are anticipated to continue through April and the frequency of lane reductions in the area has increased to two or three times per week.

Through Friday, Feb. 21, traffic controls will be in place to support the installation of subsurface gas monitoring wells for Wilshire Boulevard and McCarthy Vista/Crescent Heights. Work hours are 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., weekends and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., weekdays.

Additional information and questions can be directed to the Purple Line Extension project team at purplelineext@metro.net, or call the 24-hour project hotline at (213) 922-6934, email the project team at purplelineext@metro.net, or visit metro.net.

Funds secured for phase 3 of Purple Line Extension project

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) has announced more than $1.3 billion in federal grant funding for transportation projects, including phase 3 of the Purple Line Extension subway project and improvements at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

“Tunneling support and street maintenance is ongoing 24-hours-a-day at a staging yard just west of the intersection of Wilshire/Western Northbound Tunneling support and street maintenance is ongoing 24-hours-a-day at a staging yard just west of the intersection of Wilshire/Western Northbound. Wilshire Boulevard has been reduced to two lanes in each direction between June Street and Murfard Road.

Tunnel boring machines are being assembled in the Century City construction staging areas in anticipation of subway tunneling for phase 2 of the project.

The Purple Line Extension is being built in three phases. Phase 1, from Wilshire/Western to Wilshire/La Cienega, is under construction and scheduled for completion in 2023.

Phase 2, from Wilshire/La Cienega to Century City, is also currently under construction and scheduled for completion in 2025. Phase 3, from Century City to Westwood, is in pre-construction and is expected to be open by 2026.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Sen. Feinstein for her strong, sure, and steady support for this $1.3 billion federal funding agreement to construct the last segment of the Westside Purple Line Extension from Century City to the future VA/Westwood station.”

Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington said, “This new transit line, when fully constructed, will revolutionize the ability to connect the Westside with the rest of Los Angeles County’s growing rail and bus networks.”

Additionally, the Port of Los Angeles was awarded $18.2 million to add 11,500 feet of track and increase the capacity of an existing rail yard. The Port of Long Beach was awarded $14.5 million to improve capacity at the Terminal Island Wye rail junction by adding and replacing rails.

Ryu authors motion to create more affordable housing around transit

Los Angeles City Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, introduced a motion on Feb. 11 instructing the city’s Planning Department to revise the guidelines for transit-oriented community development.

The TOC program, created in 2017 after the passage of Measure JJJ, allows developers to build denser, taller housing near transit if a portion of the new units are made affordable. Ryu’s TOC reform seeks a higher requirement for affordable housing in high- and mid-market areas.

“The TOC program has been successful in bringing more density near transit and addressing an immediate need for more housing, but there are areas where it has failed,” Ryu said. “When 28 units of rent-stabilized housing are destroyed to make way for a project, that’s displacement. High-market areas like Greater Wilshire and Hollywood have been a boon for TOC developers, but not enough of that wealth is shared with the community in the form of rents we can afford and housing we need. The TOC program must create more units for working Angelenos, not fewer.”

Current TOC guidelines require 8% to 25% of units set aside for affordable housing, depending on how affordable the units are and the project’s proximity to transit. Ryu’s motion seeks to raise that requirement in high-market areas, where real estate is more lucrative for developers and market-rate rent is out of reach for working Angelenos. The tiered system would be similar to the one Ryu fought for in the affordable housing linkage fee ordinance, approved in 2017.

The motion was seconded by City Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson, 8th District. It has been referred to the council’s Planning and Land Use Management Committee and has not yet been scheduled for a hearing.

ON EXHIBIT
JANUARY 26–APRIL 10
OBJECTS FROM THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Photographs by Richard Wiesel

LOS ANGELES MUSEUM OF THE HOLOCAUST
100 The Grove Drive, Los Angeles • 323.651.3704 • www.lamoth.org
Admission always free
Staff at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center’s Smidt Heart Institute observed the 15th annual Linda Joy Pollin Women’s Heart Health Day on Feb. 7 by wearing red and raising awareness about heart disease.

The event was part of National Wear Red Day, an initiative promoted by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Additional activities at Cedars-Sinai included blood pressure screenings and cardiac risk assessments, as well as presentations by five experts on new heart-related medical research and guidelines. Topics included scientific progress on a twice-a-year injectable that might reduce the health risks from dangerously high levels of cholesterol, diet and alcohol issues, intermittent fasting, the use of low-dose aspirin and controlling hypertension.

Heart disease is the top cause of death in the United States. For decades, researchers regularly ignored cardiovascular ailments in women.

“We, as a medical community, want our employees to understand the issues so that they can provide better care for our female patients,” 52% of the population we serve,” said Dr. Noel Bairey Merz, director of the Barbra Streisand Women’s Heart Center in the Smidt Heart Institute. “In addition, they can be aware of their own health and that of their families, and therefore be good ambassadors for our community as well as the excellent care providers that they are.”

Margo B. Minissian, a faculty research scientist in the hospital’s Barbra Streisand Women’s Heart Center and director of the Linda Joy Pollin Women’s Heart Health Day event at Cedars-Sinai since it was launched in 2006, emphasized the need for women to be proactive in combating cardiovascular disease. She added that women also need to seek help if they experience symptoms.

“And if something doesn’t seem right, and they’re having any kind of symptom that’s happening above their waist, they should go see their doctor for an evaluation,” Minissian added, noting that symptoms often are different for women than for men. For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

Mid City West members help beautify Wilshire Boulevard

The Mid City West Community Council’s new Streetscape and Commercial Subcommittee organized a neighborhood cleanup on Feb. 9 along Wilshire Boulevard between Curson and La Brea avenues.

“We were thrilled to see so many enthusiastic nearby residents come out and risk the rain in order to give back, all while socializing with other community members and exchanging ideas,” Mid City West member Thao Tran said. “We were extremely lucky the rain waited until we completed by noon.”

Volunteers gathered at Wilshire Green Park and were provided with a reusable shopping bag courtesy of the Original Farmers Market and Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce. Each bag contained a map, compostable trash bags and gloves provided by MCWCC, as well as hats and refillable water bottles provided by the Academy Museum and hand sanitizer provided by Carson and The Grove. Many merchants hosted “Appreciation Stations” where volunteers could use restrooms and fill water bottles during the event.

Staff from Eleven City Diner and Milk Jar Cookies offered care packages with sweet treats.

Approximately 25 volunteers participated and were joined by Senior Lead Officer Perry Jones and Sgt. Kenneth Price, of the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division. Advocates from Saban Community Clinic distributed hygiene care packages to homeless individuals, and former City Councilman Tom LaBonge acknowledged the group when he saw them on his way to lunch. For information, visit midcitywest.org.
Flowers and candles were placed at the Hollywood Walk of Fame star of actor and producer Kirk Douglas after he died on Feb. 5 at the age of 103. Douglas was a silver screen icon whose career spanned decades. He was perhaps best known for his role as the title character in “Spartacus” (1960), but his credits included dozens of films from the mid-1940s through the early 2000s. He was nominated for Academy Awards for Best Actor for roles in “Champion” (1949), “The Bad and the Beautiful” (1952) and “Lust For Life” (1956). Douglas also produced many films in the early 1970s and appeared in television roles as recent as 2008. He received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1960 at 6263 Hollywood Blvd., near the corner of Vine Street.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has nominated attorney Capri Maddox to be the first executive director of the newly-established Los Angeles Department of Civil and Human Rights. The department will be tasked with protecting residents, visitors and stakeholders from discrimination that denies equal treatment in private employment, housing, education and commerce by initiating and investigating complaints of discrimination as well as enforcing the L.A. Civil and Human Rights Ordinance.

“Capri’s intellect and powerful sense of justice and equality will make her an outstanding leader of the Department of Civil and Human Rights,” Garcetti said. “Everyone in L.A. should live free of discrimination that denies basic human dignity and violates our rights as Americans. We will stand up for each other, and put our values at the center of all the work that the department will do.”

In addition to leading the CHRD, Maddox will support and advise the Human Rights Commission, and work closely with government leaders, community members, complainants, creditors, landlords, creditors and labor organizations. The appointment is subject to City Council confirmation.

“Capri not only has the leadership experience necessary to excel in this role, but also the temperament and the unyielding desire for justice that the leader of our Department of Civil and Human Rights should have,” said Councilmember Herb Wesson, 10th District. “With Capri at the helm of this new department, I know we will hit the ground running from day one. She does not know how to fail.”

Maddox, a former president of the Los Angeles Board of Public Works, currently serves as a senior advisor to City Attorney Mike Feuer overseeing initiatives that include the City Attorney Business Support program and attorney recruitment and outreach efforts. She also created the Foster Care Diversion Program, organized the City Attorney Faith Based Council, addressed key neighborhood councils and City Council requests, participated in criminal and civil cases and coordinated school safety efforts with the Los Angeles Unified School District. Maddox also formerly served as a neighborhood prosecutor from 2005-10 in the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wadsworth Division. “We can never turn away from the fight to end discrimination wherever it lives, and I’m grateful to Mayor Garcetti for this opportunity to put my professional experience, my relationships and my heart to work for the people of our city,” Maddox said. “We’ll put everything we’ve got into strengthening our response to inequality and building new partnerships to protect Angelinos from injustice.”

The city of West Hollywood is beginning Black History Month with multiple events throughout February. On Saturday, Feb. 22, at 3:30 p.m., enjoy an afternoon performance of “Dorothy and Otto: The Dorothy Dandridge Affair,” an original play written and directed by Sharon L. Graine. Nominated for five awards by the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP Theatre Awards Committee, the play tells the story of the 1950s love affair between the most powerful director of his time, Otto Preminger, and up-and-coming African American actress, Dorothy Dandridge. The performance will take place at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. RSVP requested by visiting tiny.cc/dorothyandotto.

On Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m., celebrate the new work “At the Wake of the Drag Queen.” Terri Guest’s one-act play is about “Blackness, queerness and the fine art of drag.” From African goddesses to Tita, the play uses storytelling, drama and drag to explore identity, illness and the narratives people construct of themselves. Admission is free; donations are accepted. The show will be held in the West Hollywood City Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 2 to 4 p.m., enjoy “Strong Women: A Wake of the Drag Queen.” Terry Guest’s one-act play is about “Blackness, queerness and the fine art of drag.” From African goddesses to Tita, the play uses storytelling, drama and drag to explore identity, illness and the narratives people construct of themselves. Admission is free; donations are accepted. The show will be held in the West Hollywood City Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. The ongoing film series features stories about women in a variety of challenges and predicaments. This month’s feature focuses on Pam Grier as her groundbreaking role as Foxy Brown, a woman whose undercover agent boyfriend is murdered by the mafia, prompting her to pose as a prostitute and reclaim power to exact revenge and make the streets safer. Attendance is free and open to the public. The event is sponsored by the Friends of West Hollywood Library. For information, call (310)652-5340 or visit lacountylibrary.org/west-hollywood-library.

State Sen. Alex Padilla said, “More vote-by-mail ballots will be sent out in California than the populations of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada combined.”

For the past eight statewide elections in California, a majority of the votes cast were through vote-by-mail ballots, Padilla said. “There are no shortage of options for returning your vote-by-mail ballot. Every vote-by-mail ballot now comes with a prepaid postage return envelope, so it’s no stamp, no problem,” Padilla added. “Californians can also return their vote-by-mail ballots at any polling place or vote center. I expect record turnout this year, so I encourage Californians to consider voting early and returning their vote-by-mail ballots ahead of Election Day. For information, visit lavote.net.
Resolution aims to further protect mountain lions

In response to news on Feb. 10 about the killing of mountain lion P-56 under a depredation permit issued after the death of privately-owned livestock, Los Angeles City Councilmembers Paul Koretz and 5th District, and David Ryu, 4th District, introduced a resolution to nullify such depredation permits.

The resolution also seeks to establish an indemnity fund to reimburse affected individuals who lose livestock to animals and asks that any future legislation support the listing of the Southern California/Central Coast mountain lions as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act. mountain lion P-56 was the first to be killed in the Santa Monica Mountains under a California law that allows landowners to take lethal action against the animals if they have killed or injured livestock or pets, and if other remedies have failed. The Southern California mountain lion face an increasingly difficult and uncertain future due to a wide variety of lethal threats to the species, Koretz said.

"There continues to be an issue disconnect between the important conservation work we are doing in a time when we are racing the clock to protect our species from habitat in face of the sixth global mass extinction, overbuilding, corporate poaching practices like rodenticides and a rapidly changing climate," the Koretz added.

"The Department of Fish and Wildlife is undermining our work by handing out depredation permits on its own authority just trying to come up with a way to survive in their natural habitat. We cannot let that happen," he said.

"The Southern California mountain lion is the symbol of L.A.’s wilderness. It is one of the top of a diverse ecosystem you can’t find anywhere else on earth. But, our iconic mountain lions face the possibility of extinction," Ryu said.

"Depredation, rodenticide and the destruction of wildlife corridors have threatened Southern California mountain lions like never before, and now we have one-in-four chance they will go extinct in the Santa Monica and Santa Ana mountains 50 years from now. It’s time for end depredation and to protect this iconic species today, not just for Southern California mountain lions, but for the Los Angeles wild we know and love," said Ramirez, who was killed in January near Camarillo by a property owner after the mountain lion allegedly killed 12 livestock animals. The state issues depredation permits under a 2014 law that allows for mountain lions after they have killed livestock or pets, and measures to prevent the death were nullified.

"With so much energy spent by concerned citizens to save the small handful of mountain lions left within their area, it is frightening to think that over the past five years, an average of over 100 big cats a year have been killed legally under California’s flawed depredation law," said Tony Tucci, co-founder and co-director of Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife.

"In the face of persistent threats to its long-term survival, it becomes imperative that we put in place regulations to protect these endangered species. Through the new agreement, we can work to protect the Southern California mountain lion from the threat of extinction," Ramirez said. "Our failure to do so threatens the delicate balance of our fragile ecosystems to the detriment of all."

L.A. and London partner on transportation solutions

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and London Mayor Sadiq Khan have announced a historic agreement to create Los Angeles and London “Innovator Cities,” enabling greater collaboration on critical transport projects confronting cities around the world.

"Los Angeles is ready to test drive the latest and greatest innovations on our streets right now," Garcetti said. "Our partnership with London is about putting the best concepts in the world onto our local roads and railways, taking steps together to reduce traffic, cut carbon emissions and build resilient cities for the future.

"This collaboration will enable the cities to work together to identify where we’re lagging behind and ensure that solutions developed can work elsewhere in the world. "Innovator Cities" are two of the world’s boldest and most innovative cities, so it makes perfect sense for us to join forces with the aim of addressing some of the biggest transport challenges facing us today," Khan said. "Working together enables us to share best practices, promote new ideas and find pioneering solutions that could be replicated in other cities around the globe."

The partnership will also give companies an opportunity to take part in “start-up exchanges,” in which start-ups can pitch their ideas in London and L.A., and enable both cities to tap into the best possible concepts.

The collaboration harnesses the growing transportation innovation ecosystems in Los Angeles, where the recent launch of Urban Movement Labs is providing private and public sector innovators with opportunities to test solutions in real urban conditions. Los Angeles and London hope to expand the “Innovator Cities” network in coming years, allowing more communities around the world to benefit from the best ideas.

The approach will be piloted through the London FreightLab and Los Angeles’ Urban Movement Lab, FreightLab is seeking the best innovators in the United Kingdom to replicate freight transportation in London safer, cleaner and more efficient. Through the new agreement, the winning innovators could be given the opportunity to pitch their solutions to the city of Los Angeles and test their proposals in a new market.

“We are pleased to exchange strategies with the great city of London to support innovative solutions to our shared challenges,” said Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka. “We look forward to testing more than a dozen and zero or near-zero emissions projects to further reduce emissions. We look forward to sharing best practices and await the results of the London FreightLab Innovation Challenge.”

Letters to the Editor

Center, 471 S. Roxbury Drive. Commissioners will visit Beverly Hills preschools and read books about kindness on Friday, Feb. 21. For information, call (310) 205-1006, or email humanervices@beverlyhills.org.

George Epstein
Detroit Street

Beverly Hills celebrates Kindness Week with activities

The city of Beverly Hills Human Relations Commission will recognize National Kindness Week with inspirational acts of kindness activities.

Kickoff activities begin on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market with a booth sponsored by the Human Relations Commission. Visitors can pledge their commitment to kindness, and children can participate in a make-and-take project. The Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market is held on the 9300 block of Civic Center Drive.

Additional activities for Kindness Week will be held on Presidents Day, Feb. 17. The Human Relations Commission asks the public to participate in acts of kindness with family and friends. On Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 10 a.m and 11 a.m., a special baby story time will be held at the Beverly Hills Public Library, 444 N. Redondo Drive, featuring a story about kindness that includes creative free play. On Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 9 a.m.

the Human Relations Commission will hold a special meeting to reflect on what kindness means. It can be can be viewed live on HVTY10. The commission will host a screening of the “Blind Side” on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m. at Rosbury Community Center.

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Congratulations on 30th anniversary issue

Re “Celebrating Beverly Press’ 30th Anniversary,” Feb. 6 issue

I am so impressed with your reporting on the occasion of the newspaper’s 30th anniversary. It helped me recall so many important historical events, many of which I had long forgotten. Fond memories:

Our remarkable and fascinating history, of which the Beverly Press is a key part. Well done!"
Café Gratitude Human Connection

T	oday, Feb. 13, at all Café Gratitude locations, couples can enjoy an interactive Cuisine + Connection evening with Jessica Encell Coleman, founder of the Magic of Human Connection, from 4 to 10 p.m. Diners have the opportunity to amplify their love with each food course. Dishes will be paired with a Connection Course, a heart-centered activity that you and your partner can chose to incorporate into your dinner to amplify your connection together throughout the evening. The dinner and connection activity is $45 per person and continues through Feb. 16. 639 N. Larchmont Blvd., (323)580-6383; 300 S. Santa Fe Ave., (213)929-5580; 512 Rose Ave., (424)231-8000.

Valentine’s dessert at the Dolly Llama

The waffle and ice cream shop is creating a Valentine’s Day-themed sundae made just for the romantic holiday to share with a loved one. The chef-curated waffle and ice cream dessert starts with a choice of a light and crispy bubble waffle or OG Liege waffle. It’s loaded with a large scoop of ice cream and topped with heart candies and a generous drizzle of chocolate sauce for $11. 611 S. Spring St., (213)283-8615; 273 S. Western Ave., (213)908-5353.

Beverly Grove Valentine’s at Angler

Chef Joshua Skenes offers a family-style, five-course menu of Angler's most beloved dishes on Valentine’s Day. An optional progression of wines will be offered for $75 per person. Angler provides complimentary valet parking for restaurant guests, up to four hours. 8500 Beverly Blvd., (424)332-4082.

Maggiano’s Little Italy ‘That’s Amore!’

Celebrate a romantic and delicious Valentine’s Day with Maggiano’s dinner-for-two menu. Available through Feb. 16, the special three-course prix fixe menu offers a choice of any starter or two side salads, two entrees and dessert. The Valentine’s Day menu is available for take-out. 189 The Grove Drive, (323)965-9665.

Comfort food at Yardbird

Start off with a specialty cocktail named Tangled Up in You before enjoying a special Valentine’s Day menu. Begin the evening with a Charleston crab bisque, mac and cheese made with a whole lobster and five artisanal cheeses, and a trio of petite filet mignon topped with bourbon bacon au poivre, butternut blue cheese, 12-year balsamic and chimichurri. Allow 45 minutes for the Tomahawk for Two, a cored-spiced ribeye with truffle bacon parmesan frites and roasted garlic butter. Finish with a red velvet coconut cake topped with blackberry coulis. 8500 Beverly Blvd., (323)250-8034.
Mexican Valentine’s Day dinner at Toca Madera

Enjoy upscale shared plates, a collection of steaks and elevated Mexican classics for couples to enjoy on Friday, Feb. 14 and Saturday, Feb. 15. Limited craft cocktails from beverage director Charley Johnston will be available to help you cozy up to your loved one. Additional chef specials and live entertainment set the mood. 8450 W. Third St., (323)852-9400.

Crossroads Kitchen Valentine’s Day

Crossroads Kitchen is offering a $75, five-course prix fixe vegan Valentine’s menu. Chefs Tal Ronnen and Scott Jones offer a complimentary glass of Crémant rosé and a half dozen oysters on the half shell with accompaniments including black risotto with braised parsnip soup with pickled vegetables. The romantic meal is complete with a choice of raspberry creme brûlée or chocolate soufflé warming wrap, and relax with a scalp or foot massage. The 90-minute treatment is priced at $325 and concludes with an application of a rich, firming body oil, leaving the skin soft and silky to the touch. 9500 Wilshire Blvd., (310)385-3901.

Beverly Hills

The Blvd at Beverly Wilshire Valentine’s Day

Head to The Blvd for chef de cuisine Corey Burgan’s seven-course dinner menu for $135 per person on Feb. 14 and 15. Menu highlights include oyster and leche de tigre, toro tartare, beet risotto and the restaurant’s signature Chocolate Love dessert. Pamper a loved one with beauty treatments from the spa like a special Sealed with a Kiss Scrub and Wrap. Start with whipped sugar scrub, followed by a hydrating soufflé warming wrap, and relax with a scalp or foot massage. 5:30 to 10 p.m. Guests will receive a fresh red rose and an optional wine pairings from the famed restaurant’s reserve wine cellar. Live entertainment will be providing during this special evening, priced at $226 per person, with an additional $110 per person for premium wine pairing. 9850 Wilshire Blvd., (310)860-6700.

Join Lawry’s this Valentine’s Day

Couples can splurge on the traditional prime rib dinner for two. The four-course feast includes a crab and avocado amuse bouche to share before the spinning salad bowl arrives at the table. Lawry’s signature roasted prime rib is carved tableside and accompaniments including mashed potatoes and a choice of creamed corn or creamed spinach. Additional entree options include Skuna Bay salmon with lobster mash, beef Wellington and a marinated portobello steak. Finish with a C.C. Brown’s hot fudge sundae for the table. This special menu is $129 for two and is offered Feb. 13, through Sunday, Feb. 16. 8555 Beverly Blvd., (310)652-2827.

Cattle and Claw at the Sofitel

Enjoy a romantic al fresco dinner on Friday, Feb. 14 from 5 to 10 p.m., inspired by the “Friends” episode in which Ross declares Rachel his lobster. Couples can enjoy a burger and lobster roll or five-course, prix fixe menu with filet mignon. Creamy lobster risotto is served with baby spinach and lobster velouté. The dinner is priced at $69 per person. 8555 Beverly Blvd., (310)770-1654.

Century City Valentine’s Day at Mari Los Angeles

The Intercontinental Los Angeles Century City is preparing a prix fixe romantic dinner with wine pairings at Mari. The dinner includes a shared appetizer. See Valentine’s Dining page 17.
Beverly Hills Police

Feb. 4
At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9500 block of Westshire.

Feb. 7
At 7 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of Cove Way.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9500 block of Wishire at noon.

At 1:39 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of Tower.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 200 block of Loma Vista at 1:49 p.m.

At 9:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8600 block of Sunset at 8:10 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8600 block of Sunset at 8 a.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9600 block of Sunset at 2:22 p.m.

At 4:15 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of Foothill.

Feb. 5
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of Girnina at night.

At 10:40 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of Crescent.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Olympic and Palm at 1:49 p.m.

At 1:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 1900 block of Olympic.

At 4:54 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 9100 block of Olympic.

At 4 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 100 block of S. Linder.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

Jan. 27
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8700 block of Metrose at 11:30 p.m.

Feb. 9
An unknown suspect stol a bicycle in the 1400 block of Fairfax at 5 p.m.

Jan. 29
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of Robertson at 1 p.m.

Jan. 31
At 6:06 a.m., an unknown suspect cut open a package and stole mail from the front porch of a residence at the 900 block of La Brea.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Olive at 7:30 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. La Brea at 9:50 p.m.

Feb. 1
At 7:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft near Larrabee and Santa Monica at 8 p.m.

Los Angeles Police Department

Feb. 2
At 10:10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo at 3:12 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Maple.

An assault was reported in the 300 block of S. Beverly at 5:23 p.m.

Woman charged for allegedly causing friend to be run over

A woman from Florida has been charged with running over her friend and then fleeing the scene during an incident last month in Hollywood, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced.

Samantha Cunha, 27, of Pearl Beach, Florida, faces a felony count of hit-and-run driving resulting in death. On Jan. 20, Cunha was a passenger in a veh-

icle driven by her friend, Sofia Ardalian, 27, when the vehi- cile allegedly struck the rear tire of a motorcycle in a minor traffic collision, police said. The motorcycle then drove away and the motorcyclist followed. Ardalian allegedly

stopped suddenly in the 1300 block of North Martel Avenue and the two women in the vehicle exited and allegedly argued with the motorcyclist.

When Cunha allegedly returned to the passenger side of the car, the vehicle began rolling, knocking Ardalian down. The defendant then allegedly moved the gear shift lever, causing the car to go into reverse and run over Ardalian, killing her. Cunha is charged with running away from the scene, prosecutors said.

Defendants in the case, People v. Domingue, 22, a commonly known phar- maceuticals, which are not licensed.

Dominguez family are prohibited from operating or accept- ing employment in any business in California related to the manufac- turers, taking advantage of families

Clinics closed for illegal pharmaceutical sales

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer has announced that his office has secured the closure of four stores and a residential burglary in the 2000 block of Loma

and their agents sold thousands of counterfeited and misbranded phar- maceuticals, including anti-seizure and blood pressure medications, injectable birth control and steroids. They were also found to have stored thousands of illegal pharmaceuticals in the family home in Montebello, which is owned by a trust supported by the illegal pro- ceeds of the pharmaceutical ring.

You are hereby notified, pursuant to section laws, that the conviction, the store continued

Continuing its crackdown on illegal pharmacies, three in Los Angeles and one in Hollywood, the Los Angeles Police Department’s West Traffic Division.

Feb. 8
At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 3000 block of Crescent Heights.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6600 block of Sunset at 8 a.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6600 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect stol a bicyc- lein the 1400 block of Fairfax at 5 p.m.

Jan. 29
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of Robertson at 1 p.m.

Jan. 31
At 6:06 a.m., an unknown suspect cut open a package and stole mail from the front porch of a residence at the 900 block of La Brea.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Olive at 7:30 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. La Brea at 9:50 p.m.

Feb. 1
At 7:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft near Larrabee and Santa Monica at 8 p.m.

Los Angeles Police Department

Feb. 2
On Jan. 1, he allegedly assaulted a man in West Los Angeles with a knife. A day later the defendant was accused of stabbing another victim at a store in Culver City. Culver City was at 708 Hartford Ave., and Better Clinics closed for illegal pharmaceutical sales

in Montebello, which is owned by a

trust supported by the illegal pro-

ceeds of the pharmaceutical ring.

Three of the businesses, located in the Boyle Heights area of Los Angeles have been closed including A&L (also known as MacPharm), Excellent Nutrition) at 1826 James M. Wood Blvd., New Life Naturals and Better Naturals in Montebello, which is owned by a trust supported by the illegal proceeds of the pharmaceutical ring.

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To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Kings.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 9600 block of Sunset at 2:22 p.m.

An unknown suspect stol a bicycle in the 8700 block of Metrose at 11:30 p.m.

Feb. 9
An unknown suspect stol a bicycle in the 1400 block of Fairfax at 5 p.m.

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At 10:30 p.m., an unknown sus-
From page 15

Terra on the rooftop at Eataly L.A.

With plenty of twinkling lights, enjoy La Festa di San Valentino with shared specialty dishes including poached lobster baccalà with roasted tomato, and a dry-aged Waygu tomahawk steak. Choose from a wide selection of regional wines from Tuscany to Sicily. To finish, order from the roaming gelato cart offering a selection of sweet & savory toppings to complete your romantic evening. 10250 Santa Monica Blvd., (323)310-8008.

Downtown LA

WP 24 by Wolfgang Puck view dining

Enjoy a three-course menu with optional wine pairing on Friday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 9 p.m. with live music and a complimentary rose. The specialty menu, served Feb. 13-16, is $99 per person and an additional $35 for wine pairing. For guests looking to extend their experience, the Ritz-Carlton Spa, Los Angeles, is offering Chocolate and Sugar Therapy throughout the month of February. The experience begins with a welcome glass of bubbly and a selection of house-made confections and sweets. Enjoy a 50-minute chocolate aromatherapy massage with hot stone enhancement, followed by a brown sugar pedicure for $30 per person. Order Kusshi oysters, uni and caviar toast before a 36-ounce côte de boeuf or branzino a la plancha. Conservatory is offering a creative cocktail and mocktail menu in the main bar, fire pit and society room. 8249 Santa Monica Blvd., (323)634-0020.

Valentine’s Day at Jane Q

On Friday, Feb. 14, enjoy a special prix fixe menu for $45 per person. Spend your Valentine’s evening enjoying festive cocktails, a multi-course dinner and choice of decadent desserts. 1800 Argyle Ave., (323)279-3534.

West Hollywood

Peruvian Valentine’s Day dinner at Rosalindé

On Feb. 14, chef Ricardo Zarate is offering a four-course tasting experience to celebrate love. Following a welcome amuse bouche, guests have a choice between two ceviches – kampachi tiradito or vegan ceviche de hongos. Main course options include a sun-dried potato stew with braised Cape Grim beef short ribs and mint chimichurri, wood grilled loup de mer filet or Zarate’s famous Chaufa paella to share. This prix fixe menu is $85 per person. 8479 Melrose Ave., (323)297-9507.

Romance at Conservatory

Conservatory is offering a three-course prix fixe menu for $100 per person. Order Kusshi oysters, uni and caviar toast before a 36-ounce côte de boeuf or branzino a la plancha. Conservatory is offering a creative cocktail and mocktail menu in the main bar, fire pit and society room. 8249 Santa Monica Blvd., (323)634-0020.

Valentine’s Day at Gracias Madre

Now through Sunday, Feb. 16, start off Valentine’s weekend with drink specials that include Gracias Madre’s signature So Fresa, So Clean for two, as well as the Elegance cocktail by Vincent Couche. Food specials include a smoked bok choy salad, Taquerro Mucho tacos and a delicious chocolate pound cake to end the night on a sweet note with your sweetheart. 8905 Melrose Ave., (323)978-2170.

Santa Monica

Sunset views at The Lobster

Celebrity chef Govind Armstrong is offering elevated dishes to enjoy while overlooking panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean. The Lobster is celebrating love all week long, offering Dungeness crab bisque, sautéed John Dory and a slow-roasted tomahawk steak for two with crisp onion rings. Finish with a butter milk panna cotta enhanced with local citrus and wild huckleberry. Now through Sunday, Feb. 16, purchase two glasses of J Brut rose during happy hour and receive a complimentary appetizer. 1602 Ocean Ave., (310) 458-9294.

Michelin-starred Valentine’s dinner at Rustic Canyon

Enjoy a family-style, four-course dinner for $85 per person. They will present curated wine pairings and specialty cocktails. Reservations are available at resy.com. 1119 Wilshire Blvd., (310)933-7050.

Valentine’s Day at Jane Q

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Santa Monica

Sunset views at The Lobster

Celebrity chef Govind Armstrong is offering elevated dishes to enjoy while overlooking
The Los Angeles Zoo has announced that the first western lowland gorilla born at the zoo in more than a decade has arrived.

After three weeks of bonding and clinging tightly to her mother, N’djia (en-JEE-uh), animal care staff were able to confirm the baby’s sex. The gorilla was born on Jan. 29 to mom Kelly, 31.

“The last few weeks have been so exciting watching first-time mom Kelly while she nurtured her new baby,” said Beth Schafer, director of animal programs at the L.A. Zoo. “Having two gorillas at the L.A. Zoo is important so we can connect Angelenos to the amazing biodiversity that exists on this planet and help ensure that these beings will never go extinct. Like with humans, each mom and baby are different, so some are adventurous and test boundaries earlier, while others stay close for a longer amount of time. We hope guests are enjoying this journey as much as we are.”

For the next four to six months, guests can expect to see the baby clinging to N’djia while nursing and observing her surroundings. The father, Kelly, will watch over N’djia and their baby girl while the rest of the troop observes and remains at a respectful distance, according to zoo staff.

N’djia came to the L.A. Zoo in 2018 from the San Diego Zoo as part of a breeding recommendation through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ Species Survival Plan program. After L.A. Zoo’s animal care staff observed N’djia bonding with Kelly, they confirmed her pregnancy through a series of at-home pregnancy tests.

“Every birth is a celebration, both in zoos and in the wild,” said Candace Scelimenti, curator of mammals at the L.A. Zoo. “We are thrilled about this baby because she will provide additional attention to this critically endangered species. The L.A. Zoo has the unique opportunity to teach the public about conservation and what they can do to save animals from the threats they are facing in the wild.”

Western lowland gorillas are considered critically endangered in the wild due to illegal hunting, susceptibility to diseases and habitat degradation and destruction. Despite the fact that both viable males and females are illegal, hunting for bush meat is the primary reason for the western lowland gorilla’s decline.

This species of gorilla is native to the lowlands and swamp forests of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Angola.

The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive. For information, call (323)644-4200, or visit the lazoo.org.

Learn about summer camps at Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market

The public is invited to the city of Beverly Hills Community Services Summer Camp Showcase on Sunday, Feb. 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market, held on the 9300 block of Civic Center Drive.

Community Services will release its list of 2020 summer camps, as well as upcoming spring classes. A special discount will be offered on Feb. 23 only to anyone who enrolls in a summer camp or spring class, either in person at the Farmers’ Market or online by visiting beverlyhills.org/bhrs. Enrollment after Feb. 23 can be completed on or after March 5 for residents, and March 9 for non-residents.

The Summer Camp Showcase is a free, family-oriented event with camp demonstrations and performances. The showcase provides an opportunity to register on-site or online for classes and camps. A petting zoo and pony rides will be available for a fee and Farmers’ Market vendors will sell fresh produce, artisan goods and prepared foods. A catalog of summer camps and spring classes will also be available.

For information, call (310)285-6810.

Annual summit highlights restoration of classic films

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association and American Cinematheque will host the “HFPA Restoration Summit 2020,” two days of film rediscovers, on Feb. 15 and 16, at the Egyptian Theatre. The summit celebrates the art and science of film preservation and restoration. Demonstrating its passion commitment to saving and reviving films from around the world, the HFPA is becoming one of the leading institutions in the field of film restoration. Its recent contributions include sponsoring the restoration of “The Black Pirate” (1926), spearheaded by director Alexander Payne and currently in progress, and Fellini’s “Roma” (1972), from the Cineteca di Bologna in Italy.

Through its support of IndieCollect, the HFPA has focused its efforts on restoration pertaining to significant American independent films and will unveil the world premiere of “ET-A” (1972) on Feb. 15. Producer and star Jane Fonda will present the film, which chronicles the “Free the Army” satirical theatrical protests that outraged military bases around the Pacific Ocean at the height of the Vietnam War.

On Feb. 16, the HFPA will present IndieCollect’s new 4K restorations of two “Talesires of African American Cinema,” including “The Story of a Three-Day Pass” (1968), Melvin Van Peebles’ directorial debut about racial injustice in 1960s France, and “Naitonisme-Gary” (1972), director William Greaves’ documentary about the 1972 National Black Political Convention. Fonda contributed funds to support the restoration of “The Story of a Three-Day Pass” and her work in restoration includes the IndieCollect’s Jane Fonda Fund for Women Directors, supporting the restoration of films by women directors.

Closing the showcase, Eddie Muller will present the film Noir Foundation’s restoration of “The Black Vampire,” an Argentine film noir that reimagines Fritz Lang’s classic “M” (1931). Closing the summit, Gianluca Farinelli, director of the Cineteca di Bologna, pays tribute to Italian maestro Federico Fellini, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Farinelli’s presentation will be followed by a screening of Cineteca di Bologna’s restoration of “Rom.”

Tickets are available by visiting tntango.com and at the Egyptian Theatre box office, 6712 Hollywood Blvd. Free screenings require reservations by visiting eventbrite.com. For information and schedule, visit americancinematempehacalendarr.com.

Dershowitz to speak at Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts

Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts is holding a discussion with Alan Dershowitz and other legal experts on Monday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Saban Theatre.

Audiences can expect an evening of lively provocative discussion of current events and politics. Dershowitz, a Brooklyn native, is an expert on constitutional and criminal law who is a frequent lecturer, prolific author and commentator. He is the Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law Emeritus at Harvard Law School.

Dershowitz will discuss the politics of impeachment with M. Shrum, director of the USC Dornsife Center for the Political Future and a former Democratic political strategist and consultant. Former Ninth Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski will moderate that discussion, while Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts Rabbi David Baron will moderate two other discussions on the topics, “Why Can’t Americans of Different Political Views Talk Anymore” and “Rising Anti-Semitism and the BDS Assault.”

Tickets are $25; free for high school and college students with valid ID. The Saban Theatre is located at 8440 Wilshire Blvd., in Beverly Hills.

For information and tickets, visit dershowitzthebeverlyhills.com and bitbta.org.
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On Feb. 4, the Los Angeles Unified Board of Education endorsed the first week of February as “Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action,” a growing national movement where teachers, administrators, students and parents participate in a week of lessons and discussions about racial bias, social justice, black identity as well as related artwork and student performances.

“We hope this effort helps to encourage courageous conversations in our schools regarding systemic racism, social injustice, racial and ethnic bias in our society,” said Board Vice President Jackie Goldberg, 5th District, who co-sponsored the resolution.

Intended to affirm the right of black students to be treated equally at school, the initiative started with conversations and trainings about equity and race at a Seattle elementary school in Seattle in 2016. The Los Angeles resolution calls for schools to be “places for encouraging equity, fostering understanding and creating pathways to freedom and justice for all people,” while also intending the week of action to “highlight, uplift and affirm the rich history and contributions of the black community and to cultivate in black students a sense of pride, self-worth and self-love.”

The resolution also invites educators across grade levels and content areas to use resources inclusive of all learners to enrich instruction throughout the school year.

“We are constantly reminded that our black students are still seen as less than,” said Board Member George McKenna III, 1st District. “I hope that teachers, parents and communities will engage in deep conversations about the rich diversity of the black experience for national Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action and continue the conversations forever.”

L.A. Unified recently launched a research-based equity-focused plan to achieve parity for low-performing schools in Local District West. The new initiative, the Humanizing Education for Equitable Transformation Community Schools Plan, sets goals and timelines for increases in proficiency as measured on standardized tests.

“We can only overcome this country’s history of racism by calling it out and making the necessary changes to provide justice for our black students,” said Board Member Nick Melvoin, 4th District. “That’s why we voted last year to end random wanding in our schools, and that’s why we support the Black Lives Matter student groups advocating for progress in our schools.”

For information, visit boe.lausd.net.

The Board of Education voted unanimously on Feb. 4 to endorse the California Schools and Local Community Funding Act, a November ballot measure that would generate an estimated $12 billion in revenue annually for schools and local governments.

“California’s public schools remain woefully underfunded, especially when compared with the rest of the nation,” Superintendent Austin Beutner said. “Los Angeles Unified receives about $17,000 a year to educate each student, while New York provides about $30,000. More funding is needed to provide all students with the great education they deserve.”

The resolution was sponsored by Board Vice President Jackie Goldberg, along with Board Members George McKenna III, Scott Schmerelson, Nick Melvoin, Kelly Gonez and Mónica García. “California has been systematically disinvesting from our children’s educations for decades, and it’s time we turned that trend around,” Goldberg said.

“Additional revenue for our schools will help reduce class size and expand resources to enrich the experiences of our students.”

“There has been a severe strain on students, families and teachers of our K-12 and community colleges,” García said. “This initiative will help to boost funding, especially in the poorest and most needy school districts. It will allow us to have smaller class sizes and restore funding for programs that have been cut in the sciences, arts and music. We are grateful to the alliance of over 200 labor and community organizations fighting to increase resources toward more adequacy and equity in California.”

“After many decades of underinvestment, it is time to start finding ways to bring vital resources and ser-

L.A.C.C.’s Food for Thought Program shows student success

To help students in need, Los Angeles City College and the Los Angeles City College Foundation launched the Food for Thought Program during the fall semester in 2018.

The Food for Thought Pop-Up Food Pantry, designed like an outdoor farmer’s market, is open to all students twice per week and offers free fresh produce, fruits, oils and meats, packed cereals and snacks and dairy products. The Food for Thought Program also provides meal support for students during midterm and final exam weeks with prepared meals or food vouchers at the LACC bookstore.

With support from the Angell Foundation, the LACC Foundation began collecting data to determine whether a positive correlation exists between use of Food for Thought program services and student success. The initial data shows a significant increase in semester-to-semester gains for students who use Food for Thought Program as compared to the college-wide average.

“Our Food for Thought Program is an example of how we address a growing student need by leveraging resources and partnerships,” said Dr. Mary Gallagher, president of LACC. “This is a model that can be replicated all over or in part by an institution who feels the same urgency I do. After the first year of implementation, we have confirmed what we intuitively knew … by feeding our students, we are helping them achieve academic success.”

Gallagher presented information about the program’s success at the California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance 2020 Summit on Feb. 7 in Orange County. From spring 2018 to fall 2019, students who used the program persisted at a rate of 79%, compared to the college-wide persistence rate of 55% for the same semesters. Persistence rates are based on students with graded credit enrollments in both semesters. In regard to units taken per semester, 62% of students using the Food for Thought Program completed 12 or more units during fall 2019, as compared to only 20% in the control group.

Survey data collected by Los Angeles Community College District indicates that nearly 65% of LACC students cannot consistently afford food, and as many as 20% experience homelessness.

“Far too often our students worry about where their next meal is coming from, and that’s a big problem. When their basic needs are met, they perform better. It should come as no surprise that they can concentrate on their studies,” LACC Board President Andrea Hoffman said. “I am very grateful that Los Angeles City College and its Foundation are collaborating with other organizations to help meet their students’ food needs so they can achieve their higher education goals.”

For information, visit laccd.edu.
Choreography duo perform at MOCA

The Geffen Contemporary at the Museum of Contemporary Art presents the U.S. premiere of "State of (Art)" (2019) at 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15. Previously performed in Portugal and France, this site-specific, immersed dance- theater choreography duo known as Gerard & Kelly will use the MOCA's warehouse space to open up questions around national symbols and entangled identities throughout its performance.

The work is a collaboration with Forty Smooth, an innovator of pole dancing in the New York City subways, and dancer and vocalist Quenton Stuckey.

Costume design for the performance is created by Rio Urite of Gypsy Sport, the non-binary clothing brand noted by its deconstructed designs made locally from sustainable materials.

Working together since 2003, Gerard & Kelly create installations and performances encouraging us to engage with questions about art and politics, and for information, call (213)625-4390, or visit moca.org.

Fountain Theatre presents new season

Entering its 30th year, the Fountain Theatre is announcing a celebratory 2020 season of dynamic premieres and events. "Thirty years ago, when we first entered this theater and stepped onto its stage, we knew we had found it. A place to call home," said Deborah Culver and Stephen Sachs, founders of the theater. "Since that April three decades ago, our charming haven on Fountain Avenue has been home to thousands of artists and millions of patrons."

Season opener "Human Interest Story," written and directed by Sachs, will open on Saturday, Feb. 15. In this timely drama about homelessness, celebrity worship and truth in American journalism, newspaper columnist Andy Kramer (Rob Nagle) is laid off when a corporate takeover downsizes his newspaper column. Andy fabricates a letter to his column from an imaginary homeless woman named "Jane Doe" who announces she will move to Los Angeles to become a celebrity. In retaliation, Andy fabricates a corporate takeover downsizes his newspaper, and for information, call (323)663-1525, or visit thefountain.org.

On Saturday, Feb. 15, the Wallis presents "India & The West: Compositions & Conversations," an evening of chamber music and cross-cultural dialogue centered on the great musical traditions of India and the West. "Vijay Gupta and Reena Esmail are two LA-based, but internationally acclaimed, who have collaborated to create a unique evening of works for the Wallis that beautifully connects two cross-cultural musical languages," said Paul Crewe, artistic director for The Wallis. "I am very excited to be working alongside these two wonderful, game-changing artists."

The concert features original works by Indian-American composer Reena Esmail performed by violinist Gupta, cellist Peter Myers and pianist Esmail, including "Dhursan" for solo vio-

On Feb. 5, the Los Angeles Philharmonic announced its 2020-21 Walt Disney Concert Hall season, premiering new projects: the Pan-American Music Initiative and "America: The Stories We Tell," the premieres of 27 LA Phil commissions and performances by world-renowned guest artists.

The focus ends with a performance of Julius Bullock’s “Ourish’s Persistent Voice,” which highlights the words, work and experiences of Black American artists. This mixed-media concert features all-new commissioned music by an esteemed roster of American women of color including Rhahnnun Guliene, Allison Loggins-Hull, Tania Leon, Jesse Montgomery, Camille Norment, Cécile McLorin Salvant and Pamela Z.

Seoul Festival, curated by acclaimed composer Umuk Chin, is an in-depth look at the South Korean capital’s contemporary scene. "The program will include works by several leading Korean composers and conductors to Los Angeles, which has the largest Korean population in the United States. This week-long festival features multiple world and U.S. premieres, showcases leading Korean performers, and includes lectures and artist talks throughout the season," said Doudamel.

On Feb. 15, the LA Phil will tour the new Pan-American Cultural Initiatives in the city’s LA neighborhood. The concert features original works by Indian-American composer Reena Esmail performed by violinist Gupta, cellist Peter Myers and pianist Esmail, including "Dhursan" for solo viol-

Nonaka-Hill displays Japanese floral arrangements

International contemporary art gallery Nonaka-Hill displays Japanese floral arrangements by Teshigahara and work composed by Teshigahara’s student, Ken Domon, at the Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology in Lisbon featuring vocalist Quenton Stuckey. "Since that April three decades ago, our charming haven on Fountain Avenue has been home to thou-

"America: The Stories We Tell" is a year-long exploration of the ways in which narrative shapes our nation. Doudamel opens the focus with a world premiere from Puerto Rican multi-instrumentalist and composer Angelica Negrón.

The gallery is open to the public and regular hours are noon to 5 p.m. on Monday through Saturday. Nonaka-Hill is located at 720 N. Highland Ave. For information, call (323)459-9409, or visit nonaka-hill.com.

Performance blends Indian, Western music at The Wallis

On February 15, the Wallis presents "India & The West: Compositions & Conversations," an evening of chamber music and cross-cultural dialogue centered on the great musical traditions of India and the West. "Vijay Gupta and Reena Esmail are two LA-based, but internationally acclaimed, who have collaborated to create a unique evening of works for the Wallis that beautifully connects two cross-cultural musical languages," said Paul Crewe, artistic director for The Wallis. "I am very excited to be working alongside these two wonderful, game-changing artists."

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Los Angeles Philharmonic gears up for 2020-2021 season

The complete score of Ginastera’s "Estarina," accompanying a new full-length ballet by Brazil’s Grupo Corpo.

"Gustavo has been with us for more than a decade now, and in that time, he has widened our embrace of our Los Angeles community and of the world," LA Phil CEO Chad Smith said. "In the 2020-21 season, we welcome new voices and new perspectives from Latin America, East Asia, and our own backyard, while inviting new audiences to experience the wonder of Mahler, Beethoven, and Rakhmaninoff all at once." During the 2020-21 season, the LA Phil will tour the new Pan-American Cultural Initiatives in the city’s LA neighborhood. The concert features original works by Indian-American composer Reena Esmail performed by violinist Gupta, cellist Peter Myers and pianist Esmail, including "Dhursan" for solo viol-

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Couples share their love on Valentine’s Day

The cover of the Feb. 4, 1954, issue of the Park Labrea News fea-
tured Joanna Burkett, top, and Norma Meyer, who were engaged to be
married that year and were highlighted in a column about Valentine’s
Day. Burkett was engaged to her fiance, William Kalm, and the couple
planned to marry on May 1. Meyer, was engaged to Burkett’s brother,
Brice, and they planned to marry in August. This year, couples
will celebrate their love on Valentine’s Day, Friday, Feb. 14. For informa-
tion on dining and ways to celebrate, see Jill Weinlein’s Valentine’s
Day. For information, visit frieze.com.

The Music Center receives grants for plaza renovation

The Music Center has recently received $2.7 million in donations from
private foundations and individual donors that will be earmarked for capital costs of the
newly renovated Music Center Plaza, along with free and low-cost programs covered by the organiza-
tion’s TMC Arts Fund.

The new funds from the W.M. Keck Foundation and the S. Mark Taper Foundation will support the plaza renovation, and a gift from philanthropist Dr. Susan E. Kendall will benefit TMC Arts programs.

“The comprehensive makeover of The Music Center Plaza and throughout its campus
will provide endless possibilities for program that reflects and responds to the diversity of Los Angeles County, Angelenos now have a true town square where people can dine and connect with friends and colleagues. The redesign doubled the occupancy of the space while creating a fifth, outdoor venue for The Music Center campus. The Very Special Arts Festival, Blue Ribbon Children’s Festival, Grand Avenue Arts All-Access, Grand Park + The Music Center’s N.Y.E.L.A. and The Music Center’s Dance DTLA events are held on the plaza. For more information, visit TMCarts.org.

Annual musical theatre workshop seeking submissions

The 2020 ASCAP Foundation Musical Theatre Workshop is now accepting applications through Monday, March 2, for its Los Angeles and New York programs.

The workshops give participating composers and lyricists the chance to present selections from original, musical works-in-progress for professional critique. On April 6-7, the Los Angeles workshop, presented in partnership with the Universal Theatrical Group and the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, will return to The Wallis Beverly Hills campus.

The two-day Los Angeles pro-
gram is composed of various ses-
sions featuring guests from all aspects of musical theatre, including producers, directors, critics, performers and composers.

Applications will be considered for both workshops. Dates for the New York workshop, slated for Fall 2020, will be announced in August.

Applicants may send completion submission packages to Michael A. Kerker at 7920 Sunset Blvd., Suite 300, Los Angeles, California 90046. Submissions must be received in the ASCAP office by March 2. Submissions will not be returned.

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills. For information on how to apply, call (323)883-1000, or visit wallis.org.

Contemporary art fair returns to Paramount backlot

From Friday, Feb. 14, through Sunday, Feb. 16, Frieze Projects will return to Paramount Pictures Studios’ lot set with a series of immersive art installations, site-spe-
cific works, performances and videos.

Launched in 2019, Frieze Projects, which brings together more than 70 galleries from around the world, is an anchor program of Frieze Los Angeles.

Frieze Projects takes place across Frieze art fairs globally, offering a curated program of ambitious and experimental artwork beyond the gallery booths. This year’s program was co-curated by Rita Gonzalez, head of contemporary art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Flar Tompkins Rivas, director of the Vincent Price Art Museum.

The Los Angeles edition of the program features new commissions and landmark works exploring themes of representation, identity and myth. Artists presenting new works include Will Boose, Tamia Candian, Sayre Gomez, Channing Hansen, Vincent Ramos, Gabriella Sanchez, Gary Simmons, Lorona Simpson, Tavares Strachan, Munger Thompson and Maris Garcia Torres. Other featured artists include Patrisse Cullors, Jonathas De Andrade, Jibade-Khalil Huffman, Barbara Kasten and Naama Tsabar.

“For the second edition of Frieze Projects we wanted to globalize the selection of artists, while thinking in particular about Los Angeles’ relation-
ship to the Americas,” Gonzalez and Tompkins said in a joint state-
mement.

Tickets vary in price and are available frenze.ticketalters.com/content/ticket-opoptions.

Frieze Los Angeles will explore themes of representation, identity and myth in its 2020 edition.

Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

Down
What’s in a name? Everything for antiheroine ‘Harley Quinn’ and her gang of misfits

In the growing superhero film canon (including all the supervillian and antihero fare popping up), “Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)” – now called “Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey” at some theaters as of this week – falls somewhere in the middle, never dull, boring or bland, but too messy to reach greater heights.

I don’t wish to dump on anyone who found joy in this film. It checks a lot of boxes: great cast, unique costumes, quirky locales, a hyena named Bruce, bookers shenanigans and a diverse director and writer, which should always matter in an industry that often feels immune to equality even as it champions such causes on screen.

With so many notable appeals, “Harley” draws in minor details. Lots of character origins coupled with narrative shortcuts thanks to one Harley Quinn’s voiceover that outsources exposition rather than relates points on performance or incarnation of the comics antihero appear pre- mature. That leads us to a central problem with “Harley”: It spends so little time on the Birds of Prey, the villains, and even Bruce the hyena. That might not be a major problem, especially in a film dead set on spinning off multiple others in years to come, but this story’s clunky design undermines the long game.

Editing and structure are the central problems. Action sequences replace the usual film score with updated remixes to iconic songs. Again, this isn’t necessarily a bad thing, but those songs’ presence and those songs’ presence and those songs’ presence and... a greasy breakfast sandwich. Another high: Black Canary. The DC Extended Universe is, itself, a hot mess, but casting has always leaned to reimagining various characters, from Jason Momoa as Aquaman to Jurnee Smollett-Bell as Black Canary. Many a naysayers will, of course, complain about casting a non-white actor as a character created in 1947. If only The CW and other animated series provided alternatives. So yes, complaints on this alone fall very flat.

Robbie mostly owns the role, but the flapper-girl accent slips in and out. The high points occur during various fight sequences: a police station raid with a very intense confl- ette gun, her inaugural use of a baseball bat and roller skates during the final showdown. And who can’t relate to love (not like, but love) of a greasy breakfast sandwich. Rosie Perez is a surprise, especially in a film dead set on spinning off multiple others in years to come, but this story’s clunky design undermines the long game.

That decision to subvert chronology, jump around, softens the film’s pulse, delaying the inevitable team up. Various stand- out moments do right by the charac- ters, but getting to them takes too long in between.

Unexpectedly, Rosie Perez is a weak link, with a cliché perfor- mance. Sorry, Harley’s voiceover naming her cop one-liners cliché doesn’t make her dialogue or depic- tion any better. But Perez is nowhere near as tedious as the vil- lains, both Chris Messina’s Victor Zsasz and Ewan McGregor’s Black Mask, the crime boss who owns the town. Copying most DC Films, and almost every Marvel one, he’s more one dimensional than minimalist art. Bad family life, paranoid, germaphobic, sexist. That’s it. “Harley’s” favor, things never come close to the lows of other DCEU films (“Justice League,” “Batman v Superman,” “Suicide”), but it doesn’t breach the top either (“Wonder Woman,” “Shazam,” “Aquaman”). Instead, it shares the middle with “Man of Steel,” as both entertaining and a little disappointing, never quite taking flight.

I can agree “Harley” is entertain- ing, but it mostly serves as a filler, overwrought with obligatory on- gins and various introductions in service of the future. At least it’s not cliché and mediocre like “Joker,” so perhaps it has a chance at some acclaim come next awards season. (Fine, that’ll be my last dig at that film, promise.)

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Park Labrea News/Beverly Press 23 February 2020
**Film highlights black astronauts**

On Monday, Feb. 24, the California African American Museum, Spectrum and the Smithsonian Channel will host a screening of “Black in Space: Breaking the Color Barrier.”

The film tells the story of the world’s first black astronauts and examines the crucial moment when America’s history of racial prejudice became a critical vulnerability in the effort to win a space race and minds around the globe.

Panelists include Laurens Grant, the film’s director and producer; Edward Right, a U.S. Air Force Pilot and NASA astronaut candidate; and Kenneth Phillips, a curator for Aerospace Science at the California African American Museum. The discussion will be moderated by Entertainment Tonight co-host Kevin Frazier.

The event is open to the public and will be held at the California African American Museum in Exposition Park. A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m., followed by the screening and panel discussion at 7:15 p.m.

**Broadway musicals come to Dolby, Pantages theatres**

Broadway in Hollywood announced the Spectacular Spectaculars 2020-21 season, consisting of seven Broadway national tour productions which will play at both the Dolby Theatre and Pantages Theatre in Hollywood.

“Last year we were blown away by the positive response to our season announcement with shows at both the Hollywood Pantages and Dolby Theatres. This season is truly the perfect marriage of Broadway and Hollywood, as many of our blockbuster shows draw their inspiration from Hollywood itself,” said Jeff Leob, general manager of Broadway in Hollywood.

Running from Nov. 3-22, 2020, at the Dolby Theatre, Daniel Fish’s production of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Oklahoma!” allows the classic musical to be seen in a new light.

Following its close, “The Cher Show” will play at the Dolby Theatre from March 23-April 11, 2021. The show tells the story of singer and actress Cher, featuring direction by Tony Award nominee Jason Moore and choreography by Tony Award winner Chet Walker and Gail Geltti.

“Footloose” will run from April 13-May 2, 2021, at the Dolby Theatre. Based on the 1982 film of the same name, the musical features a Tony-winning book by Robert Horn and score by Tony winner David Yazbek.

“Aida,” which tells the story of star-crossed lovers from feuding nations, will also debut at the Dolby Theatre. Running from May 13-June 5, 2021, the show features scenery, costumes and lighting from the producers of “The Lion King” and “Frozen.”

Finishing off the 2020-21 season’s shows at the Dolby Theatre, “Pretty Woman,” which is based on the 1990 film of the same name, runs from June 8-27, 2021.

“The Lion King” will kick off at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre and runs from June 25-Sept. 5, 2021. Tony Award-winners Julie Taymor joins Garth Fagan in bringing to life some of Broadway’s most recognizable music written by Elton John and Tim Rice.


For information, call (866)753-2929, or visit broadwayhollywood.com.

**El Capitan offers Miceli’s dinner with ‘Lady and the Tramp’**


To add to the romantic fun, guests entering the theater prior to the start of the 4 and 7 p.m. screenings will be entertained by vocalist Josephine Heavers and the 19-piece Ed Vodick Orches, who will perform jazz renditions of classic love songs.

Guests will also have the opportunity to attend a sweetheart dinner at Miceli’s restaurant in Hollywood prior to evening screenings by purchasing a Sweetheart Dinner Package.

Seating is limited for the sweetheart dinner screenings at 5 p.m. on Feb. 14-16. Tickers are $50 per person and reservations are required. Packages include a movie ticket, reserved seating, popcorn and a 20 oz. bottle of drink.

Sweetheart dinner guests can park at the El Capitan Theatre prior to dinner and will be shuttled to and from The El Capitan Theatre. Dinner choices are spaghetti with meatballs and marinara sauce or spaghetti with marinara sauce.

Dinners will also include a garden salad, Miceli’s famous dinner rolls and two mini cannoli.

All guests need to check in for dinner between 4:45-5 p.m. Daily showtimes for “Lady and the Tramp” are at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, through Sunday, Feb. 16.

For information or to purchase tickets, call (818)845-3110, or visit elcapitantickets.com.

**Buyi Zama stars as Rafiki in “The Lion King.”**

Buyi Zama stars as Rafiki in “The Lion King.”

**L.A. gallery participates in art fair**

On Feb. 8, Luis De Jesus Los Angeles announced its participation in the 11th edition of Art Los Angeles Contemporary in its new location at The Hollywood Athletic Club with a presentation of new paintings by Erik Olson and John Reamus.

Olson renders friends, acquaintances and experiences through paint. The figures that populate his canvases are likened to characters in the same way, the musical features a Tony-winning book by Robert Horn and score by Tony winner David Yazbek.

Reamus’ new “bumber sticker” paintings are characterized by spontaneous mark-making and abstract gestures plastered over with images of satirical bumper stickers, other transient symbols and textual puns. By combining these elements, Reamus expands on the virtual digital screen content that is unrelated, often indexical, shifting, disappearing and non-hierarchical.

A collectors brunch will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the gallery on Wednesday, Feb. 12.

At the Hollywood Athletic Club, an opening night reception will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13.

The Hollywood Athletic Club is located at 6525 Sunset Blvd. Hours for ALAC are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Feb. 14-15, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Feb. 16.

Luis De Jesus Los Angeles is located at 2685 S. La Cienega Blvd. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For information, call (310)838-6600, visit artofanglesalefair.com, or email gallery@ludjesdejesus.com.

**Institute of Contemporary Art opens dual exhibitions**

On Sunday, Feb. 16, the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles will open two new exhibitions, which are both on view through June 14.

The Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles will open two new exhibitions on Sunday, Feb. 16.

“Footloose” will run from April 13-May 2, 2021, at the Dolby Theatre. Based on the 1982 film of the same name, the musical features a Tony-winning book by Robert Horn and score by Tony winner David Yazbek.

“Aida,” which tells the story of star-crossed lovers from feuding nations, will also debut at the Dolby Theatre. Running from May 13-June 5, 2021, the show features scenery, costumes and lighting from the producers of “The Lion King” and “Frozen.”

Finishing off the 2020-21 season’s shows at the Dolby Theatre, “Pretty Woman,” which is based on the 1990 film of the same name, runs from June 8-27, 2021.

“The Lion King” will kick off at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre and runs from June 25-Sept. 5, 2021. Tony Award-winners Julie Taymor joins Garth Fagan in bringing to life some of Broadway’s most recognizable music written by Elton John and Tim Rice.


For information, call (866)753-2929, or visit broadwayhollywood.com.

**Breaking the Color Barrier.**

Ronald McNair, left, Guion Bluford and Frederick Gregory were the first African American Museum in its new location at The Hollywood Athletic Club.
Deal puts focus on L.A.'s future in sustainability

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From page 1

The city of West Hollywood and Hollywood NOW will present a two-day production of “The Vagina Monologues” in commemoration of the 22nd anniversary of V-Day, the global activist movement to end violence against women and girls.

The performances will take place on Saturday, Feb. 15, and Sunday, Feb. 16, at 2 p.m. at the city of West Hollywood’s Council Chambers/Public Meeting Room at the West Hollywood Library, located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.

The Geffen Theater will play against women by including the hashtag #dayin social media ports. Violence prevention and awareness information will also be available at the event including the city of West Hollywood’s Only Yes Means Yes public awareness campaign materials about sexual assault, which promotes the important message of consent.

Additionally, in support of voter education, the event will host the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder’s Office, which will conduct demonstrations of new voting machines.

This event is co-sponsored by the city of West Hollywood and its Transgender Advisory Board and Women’s Advisory Board. One Billion Rising - Los Angeles, Pacific Shore NOW and V-Day.

Tickets are $15 and proceeds benefit Hollywood NOW and Planned Parenthood Los Angeles. For information or to purchase tickets, visit vagonaMonologuesWestHollywood.eventbrite.com. For questions, call (323)596-7389 or email hollywoodnow@yahoo.com, or contact Larissa Fooks at (323)848-6413 or fooks@weho.org.

Museum includes two movie theaters, event and education space, view of hills

The 1,000-seat David Geffen Theater can show many types of films, including those on nitrates.

On Feb. 4, CHA Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center held a topping off ceremony to celebrate a significant milestone, the structural completion of their new inpatient tower.

The hospital’s first broke ground on the new five-story patient tower – part of a three-phase, $480 million upgrade – in May 2018. Equipped with the latest technology, the new patient tower will house an expanded emergency department, NICU with specialized care for Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, state-of-the-art labor and delivery rooms, and more private patient rooms. It is slated for completion in 2021.

CHA Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center is located at 1300 N. Vermont Ave. For information, visit hollywoodpresbyterian.com.

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traffic near the Wilshire/Rodeo subway station, the city’s unfunded pension liability and ways Beverly Hills can make it easier for young people and the elderly to afford to live in the city.

When Goldman asked the candidates about the subway station and its potential to draw traffic into the Golden Triangle -- the business district bound by Rodeo Drive, Santa Monica Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard -- and onto residential streets, Planning Commissioner Lori Greene Gordon said the subway opening will not remove as many cars from the road as some people hope. Instead, the city should up drop-off and pick-up points for related services to encourage people to walk or ride a bicycle.

“I think we have to be very, very serious about multimodal transportation around the subway stops,” Gordon said.

Incumbent Councilman Julian Gold proposed that technology, such as the use of autonomous vehicles, might help alleviate some traffic concerns, which Gold added that since the city owns the land, there might be room for multiple parking spaces, as well as the gold brick parking and other amenities some would like to see at the station.

“There is a problem of ‘how does it all fit?’” Gold said.

Write-in candidate and attorney Anna Rabkin Gordon said Beverly Hills doesn’t “have to reinvent the wheel,” but can instead look at what other cities are doing, such as Lord Beach’s electric bus that helps people traverse the city. A network of bicycling services would be added.

“I don’t think the solution is more parking, that’s going to create more congestion,” Zeltzer said.

Robin Rowe, who serves on the city’s Technology Committee, advocated for an outdoor area, citing cable-car gondolas -- which he said would provide a long-term fix. Rowe said autonomous vehicles, rail and other forms of ground transportation won’t be permanent solutions for the city.

“Our traffic congestion is going to increase, and in five years we will feel exactly the same as before we did all that,” Rowe said.

Incumbent Councilwoman Lili Bosse, whose answer was interrupted by a protester who was eventually removed from the chamber, said the City Council was aware that the lack of parking was a flaw with the subway plan, so the city purchased a lot to be used for drop-offs, pick-ups and, potentially, policing. She added that more properties might be necessary to accommodate parking.

“I think we will have to be creative in other modes of transportation, whether it’s autonomous vehicles or otherwise,” said Bosse.

Rabbi Sidney “Simcha” Green, who has repeatedly stated that his number one issue is interfaith relations and medical cannabis -- jokingly suggested that subway riders could use cannabis to help them relax.

“I am confident that our police department will be able to make sure that the city is not used for anything,” one of several of his responses that drew laughs from the audience.

“I’m very confident that our police department will be able to do what we always wanted to do and encourage people to walk or ride a bicycle.

“I think we have to be very, very serious about multimodal transportation around the subway stops,” said Green.

Rowe countered that cannabis is already overtaxed and has created a black market in the state, though he urged the candidates to make more accessible to cannabis businesses.

“The services for cannabis here actually come from some where else, and we’re forgoing the tax revenues from that,” Rowe said.

A member of the audience suggested that cannabis would produce the more than 5,000 housing units the state would like to see built in Beverly Hills and what the city could do to make it easier for young people and the elderly to afford to live in Beverly Hills.

Bosse said changing the city’s Comprehensive General Plan and mixed-use projects, as well as smaller parking requirements, might build near the future subway stations or city parks for younger people and those who wish to downsize from single-family homes.

“I think it’s critically important for us in the next little bit to really begin to effectuate this. It’s not enough to talk about it. We have to get this done,” he said.

Green added that while she’s confident in the city’s unfunded pension liability. Instead, he gave advice to the voters.

“Get some of your friends and talk about this,” Green said.

When Goldman asked the candidates if they felt exactly the same as before we did all that,” Rowe said.

Bosse added.

Green did not offer his own ideas on the unfunded pension liability. Instead, he gave advice to the voters.

“If you feel that the number is too high, then you have to vote for the candidates who are not incumbents now,” Green said.

Gordon said last year, the city had a budget surplus of approximately $24.5 million, of which went to the unfunded pension liability.

Green added that while budget deficits and pensions may not be “do or die,” they are important.

“The city council currently is not getting serious about unfunded liabilities … This is something that I think is a priority to address,” Gordon said.

Gold cited limitations placed on Beverly Hills and other cities by the California Public Employees’ Retirement System, or CalPERS, which he said won’t let the city set up a plan like CalPERS. He has a trust to help pay off the unfunded liability at a quicker pace.

“I think that all things considered, we’re heading in the right direction,” Green said.

Zeltzer suggested taxing cannabis to raise money to put toward the unfunded liability. The city does not allow cannabis businesses to operate in the city except for medical cannabis for medical residents.

Zeltzer added that she would look into the issue in more detail, though financial planners could help “get the city back on course.”

“If it’s a problem, then I would talk to new people on the council,” she said.

Rowe countered that cannabis is already overtaxed and has created a black market in the state, though he urged the candidates to make more accessible to cannabis businesses.

“Many of us have grown up with the popular shows of Sid and Marty Krofft. The brothers have made memories for many kids of all ages and will continue to do so for years to come. We are proud to add these memory-makers to our Walk of Fame series,” said Ana Martinez, producer of the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, in coordination with the Los Angeles Police Department, has named the outdoor venue of the year.

The Hollywood Bowl, one of the leading outdoor music venues in the world and the summer home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, was honored as the winner of the Outdoor Concert Venue of the Year at the 31st Annual Pollstar Awards at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills. Previously, the Hollywood Bowl was awarded Best Major Outdoor Concert Venue by Pollstar 14 consecutive times. The Pollstar Awards honor the best of the worldwide concert industry. The awards are peer-voted.

The Hollywood Bowl is located at 2301 N. Highland Ave. For information, visit hollywoodbowl.com.
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