BH businesses seek to change gig worker law

BY CAMERON KISZLA

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce is pushing for changes to Assembly Bill 5, the gig worker law that went into effect at the beginning of this year.

The law, which forces companies who categorized some workers as independent contractors to treat them as employees and thus subject to additional benefits, was decreed by technology companies like Uber and DoorDash, who rely on gig workers who can set their own schedules, instead of hiring full-time or part-time workers.

But beyond the gig economy, the law is affecting a wide variety of industries, from journalism to entertainment and more who use freelancers, contract workers, and some California residents are reportedly losing work because of the law’s regulations.

“I think a lot of the concern about independent contractors was in the context of these ride-hailing services, but the law that was enacted applies to almost everyone,” said Blair Schlechter, vice president of economic development and government affairs for the chamber. “It applies to all these industries where we weren’t hearing about any problems.”

For instance, Schlechter said, some jobs in the entertainment industry weren’t exempted. “Musicians and all these people who have a way of doing business they’ve done for many years, the structure has all changed. They’re not happy about it, and the people who employ them or contract them aren’t happy about it either,” Schlechter said.

To ensure they are in compliance with the law, businesses — even small businesses — might need to hire an attorney for help, and for smaller jobs, the attorney’s fees wouldn’t make economic sense, Schlechter said.

Feuer launches bid for L.A. mayor

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer on Monday became the first candidate to announce a bid to become the city’s next mayor during the 2022 election.

Feuer, a longtime Fairfax District resident who formerly represented the Los Angeles City Council’s 5th District from 1995-2001, and served in the state Assembly from 2006-12, has been city attorney since 2013. He vowed to address homelessness and affordable housing, two of the key issues currently affecting the city, Feuer said. He also plans to keep residents’ concerns at the center of his priorities and is embarking on a series of “listening” sessions throughout the city.

Feuer said his bid for mayor is based on a lifelong philosophy of helping others and improving society. Early in his career, he led Net-Trek, an organization that provides legal services for seniors, families, and people in need.

“I am on a mission to make the biggest impact on people’s lives for the better,” Feuer said. “I want to take on the city’s biggest challenges and I want to do it with accomplished and neighborhood-centered leadership. I want to fight for people who need us to stand up for them.”

Feuer said the importance of public service was instilled by his father at a young age.

“My dad barely survived a Nazi prisoner-of-war camp in World War II. He emerger determined to use his time on Earth to perform the most important work in the world. For him, that was educating kids,” Feuer said. “My dad’s example led me to public service.”

Feuer said he had early experience in governance by helping Mayor Tom Bradley when he ran for governor during the 1980s.

Changes for cannabis in West Hollywood?

BY CAMERON KISZLA

A pair of proposed ballot initiatives affect the city’s rules.

MedMen West Hollywood is one of the “WeHo Originals” who are seeking changes to the city’s cannabis rules.

Tom Bergin’s is back for St. Patrick’s Day

BY CAMERON KISZLA

When historic Irish pub Tom Bergin’s closed after St. Patrick’s Day 2018, there were worries it would be the last holiday celebrated in the venerable bar and restaurant, which first opened in 1936 and has been located at 840 S. Fairfax Ave. since 1949.

However, near the end of 2019, Tom Bergin’s reopened, and Francis Castagnetti, who operates the pub with his brother, David Castagnetti, said Bergin’s will host an all-day celebration on March 17.

“We couldn’t be more excited about it,” Castagnetti said.
Tatjana at Holywood Forever

The Masonic Lodge at Hollywood Forever is hosting a performance by Tatjana on Thursday, March 12, at 8 p.m. In addition to being a landmark historic cemetery, Hollywood Forever hosts outdoor classical music film screenings, concerts, 16 feature events, lectures and live pod-casts. Tatjana combines classical music with Egyptian and Lebanese influences. The performance also includes: Matt Hoholubowski. Tickets are $20. 5970 Egyptian and Santa Monica Blvd. (323)469-1181, hollywoodforever.org.

Author retreat

Join bestselling author, entrepreneur and expert Sydney O’Sullivan for a three-day retreat for authors and publishers from Friday, March 13, through Sunday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Beverly Hilton hotel. O’Sullivan will discuss her secrets for success during daily workshops. The discussions include “Planning and Preparing Your Signature Book” on March 13, “Creating the Author Platform” on March 14, and “Marketing and Promotion: Tools for Maximum Success” on March 15. 9876 Wilshire Blvd. (310)208-5454, geffenplayhouse.org.

WHAP! lecture series

West Hollywood and the California Institute of the Arts’ Master of Arts program in Aesthetics and Politics present an installment of the WHAP! lecture series on Friday, March 13, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room. The event features Michael Nylan, who began her teaching career at Bryn Mawr College, where she founded and led the major in East Asian Studies. While there, she also began to learn political philosophy from Steven Sakever, an expert on Aristotelian Nylan currently writes in three main academic disciplines: the history of early China, early Chinese philosophy and the art and archaeology of China. The event is open to the public and no RSVP is required. 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. whaph.org.

‘Worst-Case Scenario’

Actor C. Thomas Howell stars in “Worst-Case Scenario,” an apocalyptic romance running from Friday, March 13, through Saturday, April 11, at the Hudson Comedy Central Backstage Theatre. Worlds collide in a gripping tale of the edge of Kauai when an endless Silicon Valley dropout returns to his boyhood home, who has a plan for all worst-case scenarios except finding love. The production is inspired by the real-life event on the morning of Jan. 15, 2018, when an incoming missile alert was mistakenly issued for the island of Kauai. Previews will run from March 13-15; opening night is March 20. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are $42. 6539 Santa Monica Blvd. worstcasescenariodisplay.com.

Comedy play

Kentwood Players present “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike,” a new play running from Friday, March 13, through Saturday, April 18, at the Westchester Playhouse. Christopher Durang’s hilarious comedy is set in a Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where Vanya and her adopted sister Sonia live a quiet life in the farmhouse where they grew up. When their often-forgotten, fortune-telling maid warns of impending dangers, and their movie star sister Masha, arrives unexpectedly with her young boy, Spike, the family is launched into a rollicking weekend of one-upmanship and exposed nerves. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at $22. 8301 Hundy Ave. (310)645-5156, kentwoodplayers.org.

Women’s suffrage talk


‘Maslenitsa Cultural Festival’

Dance Studio Showtime-Katsina presents the “Maslenitsa Cultural Festival,” an Eastern Slavic cultural carnival on Saturday, March 14, at noon in Plummer Park’s Fiesta Hall. The festival focuses on folk traditions and celebrates the end of winter and the rebirth of the “new sun.” Admission is free. 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. weho.org.

Salastina Music Society

Classical music fans are invited to a Salastina Music Society performance of works by Shostakovich on Sunday, March 15, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Edge Second Space at the Broad Stage. Salastina will perform chamber works by the composer. Tickets are $32, $40 at the door. 1310 11th St., (310)644-3429, salastina.org.

Eugene Peak comedies


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‘Man of God’

Anna Moench’s production “Man of God” will run from Thursday, March 12, through Sunday, April 12, in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at Geffen Playhouse. During a mission trip to Bangkok, four members of a Korean Christian church group discover that their revered pastor has hidden a camera in their hotel bathroom. Their communal rage and disillusionment fuel increasingly violent fantasy nightmares. Previews run through Wednesday, March 11. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; 3 and 8 p.m., Saturday; and 2 and 7 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at $30. 10886 Le Conte Ave. (310)208-5454, geffenplayhouse.org.

Michael Van Duzer stars as Henry Kissinger and Steve Neil as President Richard Nixon in Theatre West’s production of “Our Man in Santiago” running from Friday, March 13, through Sunday, April 5. The comedic spy thriller was inspired by the true story of a botched U.S. attempt to overthrow Chile’s democratically elected leader. In the new political farce by two-time Emmy nominee and WGA award-winner Mark Wilding, the CIA enlists an inexperienced, unsuspecting agent to follow up with a last-ditch, poorly conceived and dangerous effort to hasten the 1973 Chilean coup d’état. A preview performance will be held on March 12, at 8 p.m. Regular showtimes are 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday. Advance tickets are $25; $30 at the door. 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West. (323)851-7977, theatrewest.org.

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New study estimates 9,000 cases of COVID-19

BY JOSE HERRERA

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency on March 4 as the number of positive cases of coronavirus or COVID-19 rose in the state, and Los Angeles County, the Department of Public Health announced one additional case of COVID-19, bringing the total number of cases up to 24 and one death as of March 11.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a total of 938 cases and a total of 29 deaths in the United States as a result of the virus, as of March 11. However, a new study conducted by Cedars-Sinai Medical Center estimates more than 9,000 people in the U.S. may have already been infected by the novel coronavirus.

“Everyone should be thinking about how we can reduce transmis-
sion of the infection with simple things such as staying at home if you feel unwell, regular and thorough hand washing and avoiding touching your face,” said Dermot McGovern, professor of medicine and biomedical sciences at Cedars Sinai and senior author of the study.

“Our study suggests even modest reductions in transmission rates may slow the peak of the epidemic, which is important for our ability to cope with the number of people likely to be sick.”

According to researchers, the Cedars-Sinai study suggests the window to contain the epidemic of COVID-19 in its early stage is closing. The study was posted online on a forum where physicians and researchers share information.

“Cedars-Sinai is committed to global efforts to combat COVID-19,” said Dr. Shlomo Melmed, executive vice president of academic affairs and dean of the medical faculty at Cedars-Sinai.

“We believe that early dissemination of this study and the free sharing of the code that underlies the model will help in those efforts.”

The study used conservative methods to estimate the number of COVID-19 cases such as limiting COVID-19 cases to only those that arrived directly to the U.S. from the Wuhan area. Wuhan, China, where the virus was first discovered, before Jan. 23, when the Chinese government locked down the city and assumed it had stopped the virus from spreading.

“It’s a question of when – not if – some California public schools will face closure because of COVID-19,” Newsom said in a statement. “School districts must prepare for these scenarios so that parents and children can plan for what would happen if their local school faced closure.”

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education took precautions and declared a state of emergency related to COVID-19 on March 10. This administrative action will allow the district to be more streamlined in its preparations against the virus.

Census 2020 kicks off in Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County Get Out the Count partners – the County of Los Angeles, city of Los Angeles, city of Long Beach and the California Community Foundation – present the 2020 Census Kick Off from 9 to 10 a.m. on March 12. The event, which will be held at Grand Park at the top of the stairs below Grand Avenue next to the foun-
tain, coincides with the first offi-
cial day to be counted in the 2020 Census.

Beginning March 12, house-
exams will begin receiving letters from the U.S. Census Bureau that explain how to respond online, by mail or over the phone.

Key information will be shared with the media and other atten-
tees regarding the importance of the 2020 Census in L.A. County, how people can participate and whom they should help in com-
pleting the survey.

Confirmed speakers include Los Angeles County Supervisors Kathryn Barger, Sheila Kuehl and Mark Ridley-Thomas; Los Angeles City Councilmembers Paul Krekorian and Monica Rodriguez; Long Beach City Councilman Rex Richardson; and President and CEO of California Community Foundation Antonia Hernandez. Also available for interview will be Debra Duarte, Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools.

The speaking program will be followed by the opportunity to get a first look at the L.A. County 2020 Census Experience. The interactive pop-up will be making stops across L.A. County. County 2020 Census Experience includes the branded van and photo-booth, an interactive sticker wall, art installations explaining the census, a bank of iPads to complete the census and merchandising.

An accurate 2020 Census is essential to ensure fair political representation and maintain an equitable distribution of formula-based federal funding for pro-
jects and social service pro-
grams.

Los Angeles County’s Census goal is that every resident is informed, has access to, and completes the 2020 Census survey.

Grand Park is located at 200 N. Grand Ave. For information, visit census.lacounty.gov.
Police are asking additional victims to come forward

BY EDWIN FOLEN

Police have arrested a 42-year-old woman who allegedly claimed to be a psychic and defrauded a victim out of tens of thousands of dollars. Authorities believe there may be other victims and are asking them to contact investigators.

The alleged scam occurred over eight years from 2008 through 2016. The victim, a woman who is now in her 60s, was targeted for emotional problems and sought the help of the suspect Leslie Lee, who operated a psychic business in Culver City, police said. The victim lived in Hollywood and was referred to Lee by someone who had previously sought help, said Det. Patrick Alsotto, with the Los Angeles Police Department's Hollywood Division.

Alsotto said Lee documented the victim provided approximately $50,000 to Lee over the course of eight years. But the victim alleges that the amount was much larger, up to $500,000. A grand theft occurred because Lee allegedly promised to return the money once the victim was "cured," but no money was ever returned, Alsotto said.

After coming to terms that it was like a scam in 2016, the victim cut ties with Lee. She later hired private investigator Bob Nygaard, who conducted an investigation and recently turned his findings over to Alsotto, who is filing a grand-theft charge. Lee was arrested on March 2 at a residence in the 4000 block of McLaughlin Avenue in West Los Angeles and was later released the same day on $45,000 bail. She is scheduled to appear in court on March 23.

Nygaard provided a synopsis of the findings in his investigation. The victim was not identified by name.

Although the victim realized she was the target of a scam, she was embarrassed and unsure whether to pursue criminal charges, he said. The statute of limitations is four years for grand theft. The case was brought to police recently, just under four years since the victim broke ties with the suspect, after the victim determined she wanted to report it to police.

Police seek help finding driver in Koreatown hit-and-run

BY EDWIN FOLEN

A driver who allegedly struck a pedestrian and fled on March 8 in Koreatown is being sought by investigators from the Los Angeles Police Department's West Traffic Division.

The hit-and-run collision occurred at approximately 3:30 a.m. on Ardmore Avenue, north of Sixth Street. The pedestrian, described as a man in his 30s, was walking north on Ardmore Avenue when a vehicle exiting a driveway struck him and drove away.

The victim was knocked to the ground and injured. Witnesses called authorities and paramedics took the injured man to the hospital. The victim is expected to survive, but the extent of his injuries was not available.

The vehicle was described as a white four-door sedan. The vehicle was last seen heading west on Sixth Street toward Western Avenue.

A $50,000 reward is available for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the case. Anyone with information is urged to contact West Traffic Division detectives at (213)477-0234. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD's 24-hour hotline at (877)LAPD247.
Facing development, apartment residents unite

BY CAMERON KISZLA

Louise Myers, 93, has lived in the Fairfax Gardens apartments for almost a half-century. She likes her unit – “I’m so at home in my apartment,” she said – as well as the stabilized rent and the location.

The complex’s two buildings are located at 800 and 830 S. Fairfax Ave., just north of the recently reopened Tom Bergin’s Irish pub, and her ability to travel in the area is extended by the DASH bus service. “On good days, I can walk to the Farmers Market and back, or ride (the bus) back,” she said.

In December, however, Myers’ future and that of the other residents of the 80 units at Fairfax Gardens became less clear. Chris Clifford, a Las Vegas-based vice president of the development company Colliers International, filed plans with the city of Los Angeles to build an eight-story, 209-unit complex on the site.

Fairfax Gardens resident Daniel Schoorl said the news wasn’t a complete shock, as residents had noticed empty units were not being filled, and the apartments – along with Bergin’s – had been sold after the Irish pub was declared a historic-cultural monument, but its parking lot was excluded from the landmark designation so housing might be built on it.

In response to the progress of the new development, Schoorl, Myers and other residents joined together and formed the Fairfax Gardens Tenants Association. “Once we learned of the development plans, that really kicked us into high gear as far as organizing,” Schoorl said.

Like Myers, Schoorl enjoys living on Fairfax Avenue and through the group, the residents have learned how much many of them depend on the complex’s stabilized rent to be able to afford to live in such a desirable neighborhood. “We want to stay as long as possible, but we’re kind of left in the dark. We haven’t received anything official,” Schoorl said.

Schoorl said the tenants are also working with neighborhood groups, including the Miracle Mile Residential Association and the Mid City West Community Council, to ensure the residents can get the best deal possible for themselves.

Jim O’Sullivan, president of the MMRA, said it is “very smart” for the residents to get organized and start working together this early in the process. He added that normally, the MMRA would work with the developer and neighbors to make the project as neighborhood-friendly as possible. In this case, however, Clifford plans to use the city’s Transit Oriented Communities Incentive Program, which rewards projects that build affordable housing near public transit.

In his letter, Clifford said the developer filed a “TOC Tier Verification” with the city as “a simple preliminary measure that solely provides us with information that may inform our future decisions.”

“We wanted to have as much information as possible before approaching tenants with suggestions about the property,” Clifford added.

O’Sullivan said the MMRA believes TOC is “illegal” and “an end-run around Measure JJJ,” which aimed to create affordable housing using well-paid, local labor. TOC projects aren’t subject to the labor rules put in place by Measure JJJ, and if a project is approved under TOC, it is allowed to build higher and denser than otherwise allowed in exchange for the affordable units.

“Sometimes we ask them to come back for this, come back for that, things that are neighborly, so we’ll get some concessions for the neighborhood, then we support it. But we’re categorically against TOC,” Mark Pampanin, spokesman for Los Angeles City Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, said in an email that Ryu and his staffs have met with the Fairfax Gardens tenants multiple times, and “this dialogue with the tenants is ongoing.”

Pampanin added that Ryu is “encouraged” that the tenants joined together, “which is the vital first step,” and while the developer has “verbally committed to keeping people in their units until at least

(Rendering © Reed Architectural Group, Inc./courtesy of Los Angeles City Planning

An eight-story building containing more than 200 apartments could soon be coming to Fairfax Avenue south of Wilshire Boulevard.)
Los Angeles extends dockless mobility program, push for geo-fencing continues

BY JOSE RERRERA

From the beginning, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation’s Dockless On-Demand Personal Mobility Pilot Program has been met with both support and disagreement.

The program was brought to Los Angeles City Council for review and an extension for another six months with recommendations to adjust how districts can better control dockless vehicles. City Council members voted 13-0 with two absent to adopt the extension on March 4.

These recommendations allow the LADOT to extend dockless operating permits for six months and instruct LADOT to report on implementing geo-fencing on sidewalks and update rules and guidelines prohibiting the termination of a ride unless the vehicle is parked in an upright position and in a physical parking or virtual zone. They also required the companies to periodically upload driver’s license and credit card information onto an application in order to prevent illegal use by minors and potentially create another geo-fence area from District 1.

City Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th District, is seeking to geo-fence these devices away from his whole district which would include the Fairfax District and Melrose Avenue, he said. City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, asked LADOT to geo-fence e-scooters away from the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Feb. 19.

“Ever since the program started, I’ve gotten constituent complaints about being knocked over, especially frail seniors,” Koretz said.

He added these dockless vehicles are thrown on the ground and pedestrians could potentially trip while walking on the sidewalk. Other issues include scooters being misused by underage riders and being used by more than one rider at once.

“By and large, it has been a negative experience and while people claim that it is replacing cars, I think they are replacing feet,” Koretz said.

As of now, his request to have e-scooters and bikes geo-fenced away from his entire district has not been approved. Koretz submitted a motion that still needs to go through the appropriate channels and process.

The extension of the dockless mobility program will allow the city to collect the same permit fees required in the earlier one-year period, prorated for the period of six months. Depending on the number of vehicles permitted, the fees collected per company range between $20,000 for minimum deployments in disadvantaged communities and up to $53,000 for the maximum deployment citywide, according to a report by the LADOT.

These funds will support the ongoing management of the Dockless OnDemand Personal Mobility Pilot Program.

Colin Sweeney, public information director for the LADOT communications office, said during the extension period, LADOT will develop final recommended permit requirements and program regulations based on an analysis of data gathered during the first-year trial period.

Sweeney added that geo-fencing is an important tool to ensure vehicles do not enter areas incompatible with this mode of transportation. “LADOT is studying these proposals and will work collaboratively with local councils to ensure the public right of way remains safe and accessible to all and that we preserve neighborhood quality of life,” Sweeney said.

However, Mark Pampanin, communications deputy and spokesman for Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, said geo-fencing can be an issue. Ryu has been a proponent of the dockless mobility program since he first called for it in City Council in October 2017.

Pampanin said that it can be a problem when City Council members say they don’t want e-scooters or other devices in their districts. He offered that companies involved with the program need to do a better job of decluttering and managing their devices. The purpose of the program is to offer a solution to transportation issues.

“The goal is to reduce transit, connect people to where they live and [bring them] closer to Metro stations,” Pampanin said.

Updated Super Tuesday election results released

As of March 11, incumbent Los Angeles City Councilman David Ryu had secured 46.16% of the votes cast in the Council District 4 race, with challenger Nithya Raman winning 39.44% of the votes. Challenger Sarah Kate Levy won 14.4% of the votes.

“Councilmember Ryu is proud of winning the most votes so far and of building a powerful coalition of community members, organized labor and Democratic Party activists. At the moment, it is still too early to call the final results of the election, with vote-by-mail ballots still arriving to the County Registrar’s office...We are optimistic that Councilmember Ryu will continue to serve the 4th Council District in his second term,” said Daniel Eyal, spokesman for the Ryu campaign, in an email.

If the results hold, Ryu and Raman will face off in a runoff election on Nov. 3.

In the Los Angeles County District Attorney race, incumbent Jackie Lacey has 49.34% of the vote, just short of the 50% needed to avoid a runoff against challenger George Gascon, who has 27.66% of the vote, or Rachel A. Rossi, who has 22.4%. If no one reaches 50%, the top two candidates advance to the Nov. 3 runoff.

In the Beverly Hills City Council race, incumbents Lili Bosse and Dr. Julian Gold continue to be the top two finishers with 4,243 and 3,332 votes, respectively. The closest challenger is Lori Greene Gordon with 2,537 votes.

Notable quotes

“You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, ‘I lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along ... you must do the thing you think you cannot do.’”

—Eleanor Roosevelt

“In these uncertain times, it is important to remember that facing enemies seen and unseen is always the best course of action.”

—Daniel Eyal

Group calls for vote-by-mail ballots for all L.A. voters

On March 3, Common Cause poll monitors observed Super Tuesday ending with long lines at Los Angeles County free and cost vote centers.

Based on Election Day observation, California Common Cause monitor leaders said significant delays were caused largely by ePollbooks not syncing to central voter databases.

Shortly after Super Tuesday, the state of California also declared a state of emergency after the first death from coronavirus.

Several major pro-voter reforms were implemented in 2020 to modernize elections and give voters more choice in when, where and how they can cast their ballot. The Voter’s Choice Act allows counties to opt into a new voting model: countywide vote centers replace traditional polling places, allowing voters to vote anywhere in their county over an extended 11-day voting period. Fifteen of 58 California counties, including Los Angeles, opted into the Voter’s Choice Act in California for this presidential primary election.

VCA also requires counties, with the exception of Los Angeles, to send all their registered voters a vote-by-mail ballot to expand voting opportunities.

“One can always drop off their ballot or vote in person at a vote center,” said Kyana Asenanjara, election protection manager for California Common Cause.

For information, visit commoncause.org.
Ten trailers arrive for homeless in South L.A.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has sent 10 more trailers to temporarily house homeless families in South Los Angeles, bringing the total to 20.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District; Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and City Councilman Herb Wesson, 10th District, were on hand when Caltrans delivered the trailers to Safe Landing for Families-Crenshaw/Expo. LA County Public Works Director Mark Pestrella, United Way of Greater Los Angeles President and CEO Elise Buik, and Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System Director Veronica Lewis also welcomed the trailers.

Ten families with children are expected to move into the trailers in early March. They currently live in cars and dilapidated RVs or rent motel rooms in the immediate vicinity.

Ridley-Thomas spearheaded the effort to transform the L.A. County-owned site – a former Probation Department parking lot – into a safe, secure and welcoming place where each family can stay in a trailer and receive supportive services from the nonprofit homeless services provider HOPICS, which will also work to transition them into affordable apartments.

“This site – created in just over a month – is an example of how we can address the moral and civic crisis of our time,” Ridley-Thomas said. “By thinking outside the box and collaborating with our philanthropic and business partners, we now have two Safe Landing sites in South L.A. so that 20 families no longer have to live on the streets. This is the kind of comprehensive crisis response we need to fight homelessness with the compassion and urgency that our communities deserve.”

“The city of Los Angeles is mobilizing every resource at our disposal to confront the homeless and housing crisis, and I am grateful to Gov. Newsom and the County Board of Supervisors for stepping up and delivering solutions,” Garcetti said. “The new temporary trailers will bring 10 homeless families off the streets – progress that reflects the strength of our local and statewide coalition determined to tackle this challenge head on.”

“For me, this is more than just policy; it’s personal,” Wesson said. “I’m proud to stand with my governor and supervisor to bring our brothers and sisters inside today. We must do more, and we will not waver until we’ve won this fight. These trailers are a physical representation of what we can do when we work together. HOPICS will provide supportive services at the site with funding from LA County’s Measure H and Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act.”

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CIRCULATE PETITION

Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate the petition within the City of West Hollywood for the purpose of amending the West Hollywood Municipal Code to preserve the City Council adopted process of selection of eight applicants in five categories of cannabis businesses, identify a fair method of selection of successive applicants, require a Labor Peace Agreement for employers with 20 or more employees, define what cannabis products can be removed from a licensed consumption lounge, and define the assignment limitations of licensed businesses. A statement of the reasons of the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:

THIS INITIATIVE AMENDS THE CURRENT CANNABIS LAW OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD TO PRESERVE THE CITY COUNCIL PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA BY:

1. ADOPTING THE CITY COUNCIL PROCESS AND PROCEEDURES OF IDENTIFYING FIVE CATEGORIES OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES.

2. IDENTIFYING A FAIR METHOD OF SELECTION OF SUCCESSIVE APPLICANTS CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IMPLEMENTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL.

3. DEFINING WHAT CANNABIS PRODUCTS CAN BE LAWFULLY REMOVED FROM A LICENSED CONSUMPTION LOUNGE.

4. DEFINING WHAT TRANSFERS OF OWNERSHIP ARE PERMISSIBLE TO SECURE BUSINESS VIABILITY, JOB CREATION AND TAX REVENUES IN LICENSED AND ESTABLISHED ESTABLISHMENTS.

By signing this petition, you will empower West Hollywood’s voters with the right to have the final say on the structure of the cannabis licensing process in the City.

Scott Olin Schmidt
Stephen Martin

The city attorney has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

AN ORDINANCE AFFIRMING IN PART AND MODIFYING IN PART THE WEST HOLLYWOOD CANNABIS ORDINANCE BY AFFIRMING THE CITY’S EXISTING FIVE CANNABIS LICENSE CATEGORIES AND AMENDING CERTAIN LICENSING AND OPERATING REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of this initiative is to place on the ballot a proposed ordinance that would affirm in part and modify in part provisions in the City’s cannabis business licensing ordinance.

The City’s cannabis ordinance authorized eight top scoring applicants in five license categories to obtain business licenses in each of the following categories: adult-use retail, medical-use dispensary, delivery, consumption area (edible ingestion only) and consumption area (smoking, vaping, ingestion). There is no limit on the number of licenses issued for cannabis delivery services located outside City limits delivering into the City. The proposed ordinance affirms those licensing categories established by the City Council and the number of available licenses in each category.

The City’s cannabis ordinance created an application scoring process which has already concluded. Eight top scoring applicants are authorized to obtain licenses in the adult-use retail, delivery, consumption area (edible only) and consumption area (smoking, vaping, ingestion) categories, and four top scoring applicants and four existing medical cannabis businesses are authorized to obtain licenses in the medical category. The City imposed a deadline for the top scoring applicants to obtain a license from the City by 2020 or 2021, depending on license type. Those applicants that did not score in the top eight are not eligible to obtain a license based on their rank order from the initial application if the top scoring applicants do not secure a license by the deadline and licenses remain available. The City would commence a new application process.

The proposed ordinance requires the City to leave those applicants who were not scored in the top eight on a waitlist until 2023, and make them eligible for a license in their rank order in the event that the top scoring applicants are not able to secure a license by the deadline.

The City’s ordinance limits consumption patrons to taking away three partially consumed products. The proposed ordinance limits the amount of partially consumed cannabis products that can be taken away from the consumption areas (with different limits for edible, smoking and vaping products). The City’s ordinance prohibits the assignment of a cannabis license. The proposed ordinance changes the assignment prohibition by defining a prohibited “assignment” as a transfer of more than 51% interest in the cannabis license, and prohibits those license assignments until 2023. This means that assignments of less than 51% interest in a license would be permitted. Beginning in 2023, City approval would not be required to assign or sell all or part of a licensed cannabis business. Any ownership changes would be reported to the state licensing authority.

The proposed ordinance would adopt the state law requirement of requiring labor peace agreements for cannabis businesses with twenty or more employees.

A full copy of the proposed ordinance is printed on this petition for review by any prospective signer.

Cárdenas, Schrier bill aims to prevent magnet injuries

On March 5, U.S. Reps. Tony Cárdenas (D-San Fernando Valley) and Dr. Kim Schrier (D-Washington) introduced the Magnet Injury Prevention Act to ban small, high-powered magnets following reports of severe intestinal trauma due to accidental ingestion in the United States.

These high-powered magnets pose life-threatening risks to adolescent children with one reported death. U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut) introduced a companion bill in the Senate last year.

Cárdenas is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee which is in the vice chair’s capacity on the subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

“One family’s loss is too many. There is no reason that these dangerous, small, high-powered magnets should be on the market or sold in toys. As a grandfather, this is personal for me,” Cárdenas said.

“We have an obligation to do all that we can to prevent life-threatening toys from reaching the hands of children in America,” he added.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CIRCULATE PETITION

By signing this petition, you will empower West Hollywood’s voters with the right to have the final say on the structure of the cannabis licensing process in the City.

Scott Olin Schmidt
Stephen Martin

The city attorney has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

AN ORDINANCE AFFIRMING IN PART AND MODIFYING IN PART THE WEST HOLLYWOOD CANNABIS ORDINANCE BY AFFIRMING THE CITY’S EXISTING FIVE CANNABIS LICENSE CATEGORIES AND AMENDING CERTAIN LICENSING AND OPERATING REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of this initiative is to place on the ballot a proposed ordinance that would affirm in part and modify in part provisions in the City’s cannabis business licensing ordinance.

The City’s cannabis ordinance authorized eight top scoring applicants in five license categories to obtain business licenses in each of the following categories: adult-use retail, medical-use dispensary, delivery, consumption area (edible ingestion only) and consumption area (smoking, vaping, ingestion). There is no limit on the number of licenses issued for cannabis delivery services located outside City limits delivering into the City. The proposed ordinance affirms those licensing categories established by the City Council and the number of available licenses in each category.

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A full copy of the proposed ordinance is printed on this petition for review by any prospective signer.
California gets nearly $38 million in CDC funding

On March 11, the Department of Health and Human Services announced up to $2.2 billion in funding from the Defense Department and the CDC to support the coronavirus response efforts. The Bipartisan effort to expedite coronavirus vaccine development, including $3.2 billion for states and tribes, and $1.3 billion for local governments, will be used to increase testing, contact tracing, and public health work.

Bipartisan effort to expedite coronavirus vaccine development

On February 28, U.S. Reps. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), Tony Cárdenas (D-San Fernando Valley), Peter King (R-N.Y.) and Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) introduced H.R. 6019, the bipartisan Cure the Coronavirus Act. The act aims to provide a global health emergency response fund of $8.3 billion to accelerate efforts to develop a vaccine for COVID-19.

On March 5, U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) praised the passage of a $3.8 billion supplemental funding bill to support the response to the coronavirus, expanding testing and accelerate efforts to develop a vaccine for COVID-19.

As we learn more about this virus – including that it can be transmitted weeks before symptoms become apparent – it’s imperative that we provide the federal government with all the resources it needs.

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.)

Beverly Hills to offer daily coronavirus updates

On March 5, the city of Beverly Hills launched its own COVID-19 site at beverlyhills.org/coronavirus. The site includes information on how to reduce the spread of the virus, how to protect yourself, and what to do if you have symptoms. The city is also working with local health departments to ensure that all health care workers have access to personal protective equipment, including N95 masks and other medical supplies.

We must also do what we can to remove unnecessary red tape and bureaucratic walls that will delay research into drugs that may save lives.

U.S. Rep. Tony Cárdenas (D-San Fernando Valley)
Commanding officer will focus on crime, community engagement

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Capt. Shannon K. Paulson became the first woman to lead the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division when she took over after serving as the LAPD’s Force Investigation Group after leading the Wilshire Division since last summer.

Paulson last served in the LAPD’s Security Services Division, which is responsible for security at city buildings, facilities and parks.

“I learned probably mid-December [about the new assignment]. I was thrilled,” Paulson said. “I was coming from a specialized division downtown, so I was very happy to be coming back to an operational area division with front-line patrol officers. Security Services Division is a very unique division in charge of the security and police services for all the critical infrastructure, our government buildings, our parks and our libraries and I am one of the few command officers at the LAPD who can claim to have been with the LA Zoo police, because the L.A. Zoo is under the jurisdiction of the Security Services Division.”

Paulson, 49, grew up in Orange County but said she always wanted to work for the LAPD, which she described as the greatest law enforcement agency in the country. She has worked in 19 different positions at numerous LAPD divisions throughout her law enforcement career and was previously assigned to the Wilshire Division. However, she said the Wilshire Division is where she had her first introduction to the LAPD, having taken the initial test to join the department in 1991.

“My heart and soul has always been with the cops in the black and white uniform. I feel that calls to every day, that direct line to the community, that basic police service that everybody thinks about as being police work. So, coming back to a patrol division and having been in the middle of the city, the heart of the city in a very interesting dynamic division, I was very happy to be coming back.”

Paulson said her priorities are keeping crime low and addressing perceptions about crime among people living, working and visiting the Wilshire area. The division roughly stretches from the Santa Monica (10) Freeway to the Melsrose area and from La Cienega Boulevard to Koreatown. It has one of the largest populations of all LAPD divisions and is a very diverse area, Paulson said.

“The area, the community, the officers here are outstanding. From the moment I was told I was coming here, I started putting out feelers. I consistently heard about the caliber of the officers, about the morale and the esprit de corps, and the work ethic of the officers, the teamwork that went on there. I think that all makes it very special here,” Paulson said. “There is also a very positive, high level of community engagement here. There is a lot of community interest, which is always nice. Having the feedback, that open line of communication with the community is something I feel is very important.”

Paulson also said she plans to continue meeting people at neighborhood events. She recently attended an event with the First-In Foundation on emergency preparedness and met local leaders. Paulson encouraged the public to voice complaints and concerns, which enables law enforcement to identify and address problems. She said people should reach out to senior leadership officers in the division and the community relations office, which can disseminate information to the appropriate personnel.

The most pressing crime in the Wilshire Division is property crime, she said, including auto burglaries and thefts. She warned people about leaving valuables in plain sight inside their vehicles and said resources have been devoted to areas like The Grove and the Melrose Avenue shopping district to address those crimes.

Paulson also stressed the importance of emergency preparedness and will focus on helping the community to be better prepared for natural disasters. She said the department has been monitoring the novel coronavirus outbreak in the United States on a daily basis and is “preparing for all possibilities.”

The new commanding officer said she often relies on her military training in her day-to-day administration and cited it as a valuable experience. She has prior active duty and reserve service with the U.S. Navy and was deployed to Iraq from late 2002 through 2003, serving in intelligence gathering. She continues her service currently by helping with training in the Department of Homeland Security.

Paulson also said she is proud to be a woman working within the command staff of the department. The Wilshire Division previously had female captains overseeing patrol operations, but Paulson is the first to serve as commanding officer. She encouraged young people, especially girls, to join the department’s cadet and junior cadet programs.

New captain takes helm at Wilshire Division

BHPD holds DUI checkpoint

The Beverly Hills Police Department conducted a DUI and driver’s license checkpoint on Feb. 28 to identify one person for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The checkpoint was held on Santa Monica Boulevard between Crescent and Canon drives from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Of the 1,172 cars that passed through the checkpoint, 266 vehicles were screened, two DUI investigations were conducted and one person was arrested. Two drivers were cited for failing to have a driver license.

“We are committed to traffic safety and working in partnership with the Office of Traffic Safety to bring traffic enforcement and education to Beverly Hills,” BHPD Chief Sandra Spagnoli said.

Capt. Shannon K. Paulson is a 29-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department and a veteran of the Iraq War.
Allen proposes changes to L.A. County’s voting system

Following complications with voting centers in Los Angeles County on Super Tuesday, state Sen. Ben Allen announced plans to require county elections officials to either increase the number of vote centers made available on Election Day or provide all voters with vote-by-mail ballots for the fall 2020 presidential election.

Some voters in Los Angeles experienced wait times of up to three hours on March 3, Allen said. By the time polls closed, many voters were left waiting in lines. Some reports suggest the delays came at least partly as a result of the county’s new electronic voting system. Residents asked for polling places to be moved to correct voting delays.

“We passed the Voters’ Choice Act to increase access and convenience,” Allen said. “While many had good experiences with the new system, many, particularly those who wanted to vote, did not, and I was dismayed to hear of the delays and lines that significantly impacted the voter experience for many Angelenos. For a variety of reasons, many people want to wait until Election Day to vote. We must do more to improve the Election Day voting experience.”

Current law allows counties to switch from traditional polling places to vote centers that open 10 days before the election, with the number of available centers increasing four days before the election. It also requires counties to provide all voters with a vote-by-mail ballot.

However, L.A. County is not currently required to send every voter a vote-by-mail ballot, but rather provides voters with more vote centers. The number of required vote centers, while adequate for the days before Election Day, may not be enough for the high turnout, Allen said.

The proposed legislation provides L.A. County with two options. The county can either add a third step to the roll-out process, increasing the number of vote centers that are made available to voters in neighborhoods on Election Day, or provide every registered voter in the county with a vote-by-mail ballot, as is done in most other California counties.

“Voters in many California counties took advantage of the fact that they had been sent ballots to fill out their ballots and turn them in at voting centers on Election Day, thus avoiding the long lines,” Allen said. “Providing additional vote centers will lessen the burden on any individual center, providing voters with more options to go somewhere else if one center is overcrowded or experiencing technical difficulties. Requiring the county to send voters ballots by mail and providing more vote centers on Election Day will make for a much better experience for voters and ensure that no one is discouraged from voting because of lines or delays.”

CITY COUNCIL HONORS

Beverly Press

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer recently announced the addition of five new prosecutors to the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, which addresses chronic problems throughout the city.

“Since I took office, we’ve taken our Neighborhood Prosecutor Program from eight to 28, more than tripling the number of problem-solving lawyers from my office working in L.A.’s neighborhoods,” Feuer said. “They’re embedded in our communities, listening and responding to residents, schools and business leaders, and making a real difference in neighborhood safety and quality of life. Our new neighborhood prosecutors will help even more as they focus on complex regional challenges our communities face.”

The new Neighborhood prosecutors will focus on key issues in different regions of the city. Each will be charged with implementing strategies, coordinating with different agencies and working with communities to solve chronic problems.

Feuer announced that Neighborhood Prosecutor Andrew Said will focus on homelessness at Union Station. Union Station is located at one end of the Red Line subway stop, and when trains stop running and Union Station closes from 2 to 4 a.m., there is an opportunity to interact and assist homeless people leaving Union Station, he added. Said will partner with Metro, the Los Angeles Police Department, members of the city’s LA DOOR program, and social service providers to establish outreach with the goal of connecting people with services and housing, while also decreasing crime.

Neighborhood Prosecutor Claudia Martin will focus on homelessness at LAX. Similar to Union Station, a significant number of people experiencing homelessness use terminals and other areas at LAX for shelter. This project will increase outreach and services at the airport.

Neighborhood Prosecutor Khalil Rashid will be assigned to address illegal dumping in South Los Angeles, where violations have occurred for decades. Khalil will first focus on the most notorious sites and work with other agencies and partners to reduce waste, prosecute criminal cases and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Prosecutor Todd Gilman will focus on library issues in the San Fernando Valley. This project aims to significantly improve library safety and plans call for it to eventually be replicated in all libraries.

Neighborhood Prosecutor Raffy Astvazarian will focus on package theft in the San Fernando Valley, where he will target areas known to have the largest numbers of people stealing packages from the front porches of homes.

The Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office also has neighborhood prosecutors assigned to each LAPD station, including the Wilshire and Hollywood divisions. For more information, visit lacityattorney.org.

Feuer introduces new neighborhood prosecutors

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer is expanding the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program to address problems including homelessness and package theft.
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Counties honor Horvath for contributions

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on March 10 to establish a new office to advance the county's call for a "care first, jails last" system that would provide care and treatment before sending people into jail whenever possible.

The vote was preceded by a report and recommendations presented by Robert Ross, president and CEO of the California Endowment. Ross served as chairman for the Alternatives to Incarceration Work Group, which developed the report.

"Care First, Jails Last" report is the result of an intensive, year-long process that involved an unprecedented collaboration among county officials, community leaders and system-impacted individuals including those who have been incarcerated. Its recommendations build on the success of a number of county public safety strategies that have already directed thousands of people into mental health and social services.

"After decades of a community safety strategy organized around police and punishment, we've reached a remarkable moment of consensus in Los Angeles County that a new approach is necessary," Ross said. "Roughly 17,000 men and women are housed in our county jails daily, struggling with homelessness, poverty, mental illness and addiction, and the justice system is not equipped to respond to their needs. By implementing the report's recommendations, L.A. County could reduce our reliance on incarceration and more effectively address the needs of people who too often end up in custody rather than receiving the services they need to live healthy, stable lives.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District, authored the motion that created the ATI Work Group.

"I am very grateful to all the county and community leaders who sat down together over many meetings to make this breakthrough report possible," Kuehl said. "The office that was established will take the report's recommendations, which are grounded in sound, research-based strategies, and move forward to improve community health and safety by minimizing contact with law enforcement and directing people to health services instead of jail."

The "Care First, Jails Last" report recommends that the county prioritize efforts to expand and scale community-based care, ensure that people experiencing mental health and substance use disorders are provided with appropriate mental health responses, and implement pre-trial release and diversion services. Currently, nearly half of all people in the county jail system are held pre-trial. The report also recommends that the county provide effective treatment services in non-custody settings, and continue to involve people with lived experience to reduce and ultimately eliminate racial disparities. Approximately two-thirds of the report's 114 recommendations call for improving, scaling or expanding existing County programs.

The office established by the board will lead the efforts. The modern also calls for a fiscal, legal and operational analysis of the report's 26 foundational recommendations. "Implementation of these recommendations will complement the county's focus on reducing homelessness and addressing racial inequities in our justice system," Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas said. "Thousands of individuals in our jails have untreated mental illness and substance use disorders, or both, and too often these men and women cycle between jail and homelessness and back again. While the county has taken steps to tackle this issue, the creation of the Office of Diversion and Reentry and the Sobering Center, for example – it's from the ATI report that we must build on these solutions and do much more. We can break this cycle, and this action represents a major step forward toward accomplishing that goal."

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Agencies to work more closely to expedite homeless housing

Members of Los Angeles County’s homeless crisis response system announced a new initiative to revamp how city, county and federal agencies work together to increase the speed and effectiveness of moving people experiencing homelessness into housing.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the Los Angeles County Housing Central Command, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and the Los Angeles Continuum of Care announced a new initiative called the Los Angeles Housing Central Command, or HCC, to advance the county’s call for a “care first, jails last” system that would provide care and treatment before sending people into jail whenever possible.

"In every city, county and region across the country, many homes are available; which people can examine each problem, address by a thousand cuts. Through it, we can break this cycle, and this action represents a major step forward toward accomplishing that goal."

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State and local leaders announced a plan on March 6 to provide a $2 billion in ongoing funding to address California’s homelessness crisis.

“Salas, acting executive director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, announced the availability of $207 million in Affordable Housing Trust Funds. Through Assembly Bill 3300, developers for 68 projects have been selected through the No Place to Go Place Home Program. For information, visit lacda.org.

Tunneling support is ongoing 24 hours a day at the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue. For questions and concerns, call the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6394, email the project team at purpelinest@net.metro, or visit metrotunnel.net.

In an AHCD, you designate or individual whom you direct to carry out your wishes regarding choice of hospital, you can designate a primary care provider, and end-of-life decisions if you become unable to speak for yourself. Healthcare providers must follow your Agent's instructions.

The significance of having an AHCD cannot be overstated. Privacy laws and liability issues have made it increasingly difficult for doctors and hospital administrators to discuss medical matters with family members even a spouse or parent. Consequently, if you are AHCD, it may be the courts or hospital administrators deciding your care.

Leaders support $2 billion state allocation for homeless crisis

County funds projects with 3.600 units of affordable housing

WeHo gateways should be focal points for visitors

New projects must include incentives for affordable housing

Letters to the Editor

Swabay work requires sidewalk and lane closures

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**St. Patrick’s Day Fun**

by Jill Weilnein

**St. Patrick’s Day fun at Wirtshaus**

From March 13-15, the Los Angeles German restaurant and bar is hosting a three-day St. Patrick’s Day pre-party with celebratory food and drink specials that include 20% off of a Warsteiner green beer party keg all weekend. The restaurant and bar will also offer other brewery promos. On Tuesday, March 17, same-day specials start at 5 p.m. 345 N. La Brea Ave., (323)931-9291.

**Pi Day at Paperboy**

On Saturday, March 14, order the Neapolitan 18-inch-diameter pie and receive a free order of fried pickles all day at Paperboy in Santa Monica. Paperboy is located at the Gallery Food Hall. 1315 Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica; (424)317-5429.

**Blaze Pizza Pi Day**

For the seventh year, Blaze invites pizza and math fans to celebrate Pi Day on March 14. After 3:14 p.m., diners can use the Blaze app to unlock a coupon and order a build-your-own 11-inch pizza for $3.14. The Pi Day reward is valid in-restaurant only and on any 11-inch pizza crafted with either the brand’s house-made original or gluten-free dough. Guests can still purchase the keto, cauliflower and high-rise crust options for an additional upcharge. Redemption is subject to availability and is limited to one $3.14 pizza per person present. To keep the party going, guests who redeem the Pi Day app reward will be treated to $3.14 off a new large shareable pizza available for redemption from March 15-31, available exclusively online. 6290 Sunset Blvd., (626)538-2235; 110 S. Fairfax Ave., (323)931-1197.

**Pi Day at Milk Bar**

Celebrate Pi Day on March 14 by ordering her iconic Milk Bar Pie in a mini size to serve 3.14 people. This special is available in stores only through March 24. 7150 Melrose Ave., (347)577-9504.

**Luck of the Irish at MiniBar in Hollywood**

In collaboration with Writers’ Tears Whiskey, Minibar Hollywood is hosting its annual “Hollywood Crawl of Fame” on March 14, starting at 3:30 p.m. Attendees will enjoy cocktail specials at five of Hollywood’s favorite bars. See Restaurant News page 15.
St. Patrick’s Day Fun
From page 14
finest bars with a live Irish band fol-
lowing the crawl and a complimenta-
ty first round at MiniBar. Attendees
will perform from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at
the Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax.
The family-friendly celebration includes Irish-themed classics like corned beef, cabbage and potatoes from Magee’s Kitchens, and green beer and Guinness served by EB’s Beer and Wine. Enjoy other Irish brews at Bar 326 including an Irish Stout among 24 tap beers. The Irish duo Celtic Camerata will perform from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the East Patio, and the Regulars will perform from 6 to 8 p.m. on the West Patio. From noon to 3 p.m., enjoy live bagpipe music with Glen the Bagpiper strolling throughout the market.

St. Patrick’s Day
specials at NORMS
All Southern California loca-
tions are offering a four-course cor-
med beef and cabbage meal with Irish-style potatoes, soup and salad, and mint chocolate chip ice cream. Green lemonade will be offered all day for an extra $2.99. 470 N. La Cienega Blvd., (310)657-8333.

Lady M celebrates St. Patrick’s Day
The luxury cake boutique is
bringing back pistachio mille
crepes in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. Available at all boutiques dur-
ing the month of March, it’s com-
posed of 20 handmade crepes lay-
ered with a smooth pastry cream, made with the finest pistachio paste and garnished with pastry cream and crushed pistachios. 8718 W. Third St., (323)825-8888.

Casey’s Pub
St. Patrick’s Day
Celebrate downtown at Union Bar
Station at Casey’s Irish Pub’s annual St. Patrick’s Day festival. Early admission to both Casey’s and Union Station’s beautiful Imperial Western Beer Co. begins at 6 a.m. for an Irish coffee. The festivities with kegs, cocktails, whiskey and DJs at Imperial Western begins at 11 a.m. The cover fee is $20 starting at 7 p.m. – show up early to save a couple of bucks. 800 N. Alameda St., (213)203-1454.

5 Line Tavern
St. Patrick’s Day
The Eagle Rock destination is
encouraging patrons to put on
their best clover-colored attire and
come enjoy food and drink specials from 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. There will be $5 Guinness Beer, Tallmire Dew and Irish coffee. Happy Hour specials will be available from 3 to 7 p.m. 2136 Colorado Blvd., (323)474-6218.

St. Patrick’s Day
specials at NORMS
All Southern California loca-
tions are offering a four-course cor-
med beef and cabbage meal with Irish-style potatoes, soup and salad, and mint chocolate chip ice cream. Green lemonade will be offered all day for an extra $2.99. 470 N. La Cienega Blvd., (310)657-8333.

Lady M celebrates St. Patrick’s Day
The luxury cake boutique is
bringing back pistachio mille
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My Beverly Hills at Guisados
The My Beverly Hills event for March is at Guisados from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24 where residents and members of the local community will gather and enjoy delicious tacos. Due to Guisados having a limited capacity, entry is not guaranteed based on a reservation, though it is highly encouraged.
Guisados is located at 1205 S. Linden Drive, in the back alley next to the parking lot south of Wilshire Boulevard and in between Linden and McCarthy drives.
For reservations, visit eventbrite.com/emy-beverly-hills-guisados-tickets-99045875881

Get lucky at Dog Haus
This St. Patrick’s Day, all Dog
Haus Burgeisen locations will serve up green beer. Plus, locations with a full bar are offering $6 Jameson shots and $7 pickle backs.
93 E. Green St., (626)683-0808; 3235 E. Figueroa St., (213)748-HAUS.

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Original Farmers Market goes green on St. Patrick’s Day
Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with food, music and green beer on Tuesday, March 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax.
The family-friendly celebration includes Irish-themed classics like corned beef, cabbage and potatoes from Magee’s Kitchens, and green beer and Guinness served by EB’s Beer and Wine. Enjoy other Irish brews at Bar 326 including an Irish Stout among 24 tap beers. The Irish duo Celtic Camerata will perform from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the East Patio, and the Regulars will perform from 6 to 8 p.m. on the West Patio. From noon to 3 p.m., enjoy live bagpipe music with Glen the Bagpiper strolling throughout the market.

Stop by for a pint - we’ve got 24 on tap!
Join us for St. Patty’s Day!
3RD & FAIRFAIR
FMBARS.COM

Everybody’s Irish on St. Patrick’s Day!
It’s Your LUCKY Day! We have all the supplies you need to make your St. Patrick’s Day Celebration a Pot of Gold!

party favors • paper goods balloons • banners • buttons good luck charms • shamrocks galore & more!

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

Erin Go Bragh!
Vine American Party Store
5969 Melrose Ave. (corner of Wilcox)
(323)467-7124

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(323)467-7124
**Park Labrea News/Beverly Press**

### Beverly Hills Police Department

#### March 1

At noon, an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Elim.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Oakhurst at noon.

At 5:05 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 490 block of N. Camden at 7:02 p.m.

#### March 2

At 7 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near the corner of Olympic and Spalding.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft near the corner of Wilshire and Robertson at 2:29 a.m.

At 3:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 400 block of S. Elm.

A vandalism incident was reported near the corner of Wilshire and Hamilton at 9:34 a.m.

At 11:34 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of Arden at 12:31 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of Westbourne.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft from a vehicle in the 150 block of N. Doheny.

#### March 3

At 5:43 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 250 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 900 block of Westbourne.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 900 block of N. Larrabee.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of Beverly.

#### March 4

At 8:50 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9800 block of La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9600 block of Santa Monica.

#### March 5

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 11000 block of Calle Vista at 8:30 a.m.

At 9:12 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 100 block of S. Beverly.

A robbery occurred in the 8500 block of Sunset at 11 a.m.

March 5

At 1:22 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 900 block of Fairfax.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Sunset at 8:30 a.m.

At 4:55 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9000 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 900 block of Sunset at 4:30 p.m.

At 3:09 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. Silver.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1400 block of N. Gardner at 4 a.m.

At 7:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 800 block of Genesee.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 6700 block of Hollywood at 1 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7600 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 800 block of N. Ivar at 4:30 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of N. Beachwood.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Fairfax and Waring at 7 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Stanley and Beverly.

#### March 5

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Wilcox and Willoughby at 3 a.m.

At 10:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7600 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7700 block of Waring at 2 p.m.

At 9:30 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Third and La Cienega.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Orange.

#### March 7

At 12:43 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6300 block of W. Third at 7:30 a.m.

At 2:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7000 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 800 block of N. Detroit at 11 p.m.

A suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Franklin and Wilcox at 3:20 a.m.

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6100 block of Foolwood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of W. Seward at 11:10 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 700 block of S. Burgrave.
Feel like royalty during high tea at Chado Tea Room

Celebrating 30 years in greater Los Angeles, Chado Tea Room has revolutionized how people drink and think about tea. Touted as a “tea lovers paradise” with hundreds of varieties, visitors are presented with a “Bible” filled with pages of caffeinated and decaffeinated teas from around the world.

Recently, my daughter and I had the opportunity to meet Reena Shah, president and a founder of Chado, along with the CEO of Chado, Reena’s daughter, Bianca. They sat down with us during a high tea service at the Pasadena Chado Tea Room.

Reena met her husband, Devan Shah, who grew up in the tea business. They began selling tea in Los Angeles.

In 1990, they opened their first Chado Tea Room on Third Street. The store has since closed, but the legacy lives on at four other locations providing a high tea service and full selection of premium teas.

Chado gets its name from the word “cha” meaning “tea” in Chinese and the word “do” which means “way” in Japanese. Each tea room has knowledgeable servers educating guests about the varieties of tea.

Bianca recommended we started with a pot of strawberry-, chocolate- and Champagne-flavored hot tea.

We ordered the celebration afternoon tea service, which begins with a choice of a salad or a light orange and creamy heirloom tomato soup enhanced with basil and cilantro. We selected the soup, which was pure comfort, especially when we dipped one of the toasted bread slices into the soup.

The tea service continues with a three-tiered stand filled with a variety of sandwiches on the top plate: smoked salmon with dill and lemon, egg salad made from hard-boiled eggs marinated in smoky black tea, chicken salad with cranberry, and cucumber.

Light jazz played in the background as we sat among walls lined with hundreds of tea pots and large glass jars displaying blended tea from around the world.

On the middle tier were two warm scones served with Chado’s homemade cream, fresh sliced strawberries and berry jam. Our server recommended that we eat these first, while they were still warm.

Desserts on the bottom include fresh strawberries, shortbread cookies and flavored macarons.

Tek Mehreteab, now a partner in the Chado Tea group, came to our table and offered a tea tasting of six different types, starting from light to dark, with yellow tea from China as the first one to taste.

“It’s rarer than white tea, and Reena’s husband imported yellow tea back in 2009,” Tek said. Once the tea leaves are picked, they turn yellow, are sun-dried and pan fried to achieve a clean flavor.

“Everything is from one single plant, just a different process is used to create white, oolong, black and green tea.”

Most green tea is grown in Japan.

“The leaves are picked in spring and covered in bamboo to promote more chlorophyll, giving the flavor a grassy essence,” Tek said.

Matcha is finely ground green tea that is turned into a powder, mixed with hot water and whisked.

“This tea is served in most Japanese tea ceremonies,” Tek said. He said Darjeeling tea is the Champagne of teas.

“You can’t replicate Darjeeling tea grown in the Darjeeling district in India,” Tek said. “When properly brewed, it offers a mousy spiciness with a floral aroma.”

He also informed us that “chai” means tea in India, yet in America it is known as a ‘spicy tea.’ At Chado, the Bianca chai with shredded coconut is delicious.

The L.A. Tea Festival in August is an annual two-day event that Devan Shah started in 2011.

“What started with 12 tea companies with 2,400 people sampling over 400 different teas,” said Bianca, who now runs the festival since her father passed away four years ago.

Tea lovers and inquisitive newcomers can sample unique tea pairings, craft tea-infused cocktails, boba tastings, and attend cheese and chocolate with tea classes at the Reef in downtown L.A. on August 22-23.

Visit one of the Chado Tea Rooms to enjoy afternoon high tea.

*(323) 933-8446  • (323) 933-8440  • frances@dupars-psr.com*

Lucky Charm Milkshakes & Old Fashioned Root Beer Floats! Treat yourself!
Center Theatre Group honors three teens in monologue competition

Center Theatre Group has named Kyle Branch, Tyla Uzo and Fletcher Jones as the top performers of the August Wilson Monologue Competition Regional Finals held at the Mark Taper Forum on Feb. 25. Branch and Uzo will go on to represent Los Angeles in the national finals on May 4.

Branch, of Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, placed first in the regional competition, earning a $500 scholarship; Uzo, of Ramon C. Cortines High School of Visual and Performing Arts, took second place with a $400 scholarship; and Jones, of Ramon C. Cortines High School of Visual and Performing Arts, took third place and a $300 scholarship.

Branch and Uzo will also receive a paid trip to New York City to perform on the stage of the August Wilson Theatre on Broadway. They will compete in a semi-final round with 28 other students from cities around the country. Fifteen of those students will be selected for the national finals, while the other 13 will be part of a performance montage. Jones will serve as the Los Angeles alternate.

This is the ninth consecutive year that Center Theatre Group hosted the Southern California component of the national monologue competition. The program is designed to inspire and educate Los Angeles youth using monologues from Wilson’s “American Century Cycle,” a 10-play cycle that details the complexity of the African American experience in the 20th century.

Branch, Uzo and Jones were selected from a pool of 12 regional finalists representing nine local high schools within Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties. As preparation for the national component of the competition, the three selected students will receive master classes to workshop their monologues.

The Mark Taper Forum is located at 135 N. Grand Ave. For information, visit centertheatregroup.org.

LAUSD Board proclaims March 21 as Down Syndrome Awareness Day

“The health of our students, including dental and vision needs, affects their ability to learn and reach their full potential,” Gonez added. “This doesn’t have to impact a student’s ability to learn,” Melvoin said.

Help ensure that an untreated toothache or inability to see the board in class often hinders the district in providing the free services to students.

Kelly Gonez, the resolution aims to reduce burdensome paperwork that and prescription glasses.

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education voted on March 10 to approve a resolution by Board Member Nick Melvoin to implement a program and strategy that would ensure the maximum number of students annually receive no-cost dental screenings, vision examinations and prescription glasses.

Co-sponsored by Board Members Monica Garcia, Jackie Goldberg and Kelly Gonen, the resolution aims to reduce burdensome paperwork that often hinders the district in providing the free services to students.

“Healthy kids do better in school, and I think we have an obligation to make those programs and services,” Schmerelson added. “They are part of the Los Angeles Unified family and will continue to play a vital role in our schools and communities. I am proud to say that our administrators and staff at the Division of Special Education work tirelessly each day to ensure students with disabilities receive the proper supports through our many programs and services.”

For information, visit lausd.net.

Acing the test


All students in 10th and 11th grades had the opportunity to sit for their PSAT and SAT exams paid for by BHUSD, giving every student the opportunity to take the full test. The BHHS Parent Teacher Student Association provides snacks, water and encouragement.

For information, visit bhhusd.org.

Board supports plan for free dental and optical care for students

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“Healthy kids do better in school, and I think we have an obligation to help ensure that an untreated toothache or inability to see the board in class doesn’t have to impact a student’s ability to learn,” Melvoin said.

“We must raise awareness and support those living with Down Syndrome,” Schmerelson added. “They are part of the Los Angeles Unified family and will continue to play a vital role in our schools and communities. I am proud to say that our administrators and staff at the Division of Special Education work tirelessly each day to ensure students with disabilities receive the proper supports through our many programs and services.”

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Hammer Museum Classroom In Residence program recognized

The Hammer Museum was recognized at the Best in Heritage international conference in Croatia for their Classroom-in-Residence program, or CRH.

The conference identifies the best museum, heritage and conservation projects in the world, yet the Classroom-in-Residence was one of the few programs featured in the event’s “core programme.”

CRH is a free program designed to strengthen student and teacher learning about art through a week-long and immersive experience.

Two teachers of fourth, fifth and sixth grade levels are given the opportunity to take their students from the traditional classroom setting and teach with original works of art. This creates a hands-on experience for students to reflect and make inferences about the art.

The Hammer Museum Classroom In Residence program recognizes that Center Theatre Group hosted the Southern California component of the national monologue competition. The program is designed to inspire and educate Los Angeles youth using monologues from Wilson’s “American Century Cycle,” a 10-play cycle that details the complexity of the African American experience in the 20th century.

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Twenty-nine fifth graders of Norwood Street Elementary will be participating in the program from March 9-13. Twenty-six fourth graders from West Athens Elementary will participate from March 16-20.

Over the course of five days at the museum on the UCLA campus, students build museum literacy—while supporting selected Common Core standards and developing their creativity, critical thinking and communication skills.

CRH is a collaboration between the Hammer Museum, the Visual and Performing Arts Education Program in the UCLA School of Arts and Architecture and selected Title I public school teachers.

The Hammer Museum is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit hammer.ucla.edu.

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Children's Hospital launches fifth annual ‘Make March Matter’

The Children's Hospital Los Angeles launched its fifth annual Make March Matter campaign on Monday, March 2. The month-long fundraising drive encourages local business to rally community participation to reach CHLA's goal of $2 million in support of children's health in L.A. and the Coachella Valley.

Natalie Portman, actress and CHLA supporter, and Danielle Fishel Karp, director and CHLA patient parent, joined the hospital to kick off the campaign.

“Five years ago, this fundraising campaign took its first steps and our community and local businesses enthusiastically joined us in our commitment to improve children’s health,” said Paul Viviano, CHLA president and CEO. “As we embark upon our fifth Make March Matter campaign today, I am thrilled to be here with seven former patients, all of whom have benefited from the world class care our hospital provides.”

Panda Restaurant Group, parent company of Panda Express, is one of the top funders for the Make March Matter campaign. The donations raised during the month will go towards CHLA’s Panda Cares Center of Hope and programming, designed to better children’s physical, emotional and mental well-being.

“Five years ago, this fundraising campaign took its first steps and our community and local businesses enthusiastically joined us in our commitment to improve children’s health,” said Paul Viviano, CHLA president and CEO. “As we embark upon our fifth Make March Matter campaign today, I am thrilled to be here with seven former patients, all of whom have benefited from the world class care our hospital provides.”

Since the campaign’s launch in 2016, Southern California business and corporate partners have helped raise a total of $7 million to aid in funding life-saving care for children in L.A. and surrounding communities. Individuals can participate in this year’s campaign in a variety of ways such as buying coffee at a local coffee shop, dining with family and friends at a local restaurant and shopping at a favorite store.

Each year, CHLA treats children who face a broad range of health issues from common illnesses to trauma and chronic diseases. The hospital is also dedicated to innovation, supporting advances in research designed to improve pediatric health outcomes and partnering with physicians across the nation to bring care here to children in L.A.

Corporations across the Southland have agreed to support community members in giving back. Businesses have selected a unique way to contribute to the campaign such as selling specific items with proceeds supporting CHLA patients, others devote a portion of overall sales for the entire month and others create their own fundraising campaigns.

Panda Restaurant Group, parent company of Panda Express, is one partner of CHLA Make March Matter campaign and has been a top fundraiser for the fifth consecutive year.

“March has become a special time of year for our Panda Team, working harder than ever to raise funds through out-in-store donation boxes and associate giving initiatives,” said Peggy Chering, co-founder and co-ceo of Panda Restaurant Group. “The donations will go towards CHLA’s Panda Cares Center of Hope and programming, designed to better children’s physical, emotional and mental well-being.”

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County will offer activities and discussions exploring the future, urban nature, community science and women in science and culture.

Visitors can learn about the science of scary in the exhibition “Natural History of Horror” and experience the popular Butterfly Pavilion and the new “Bugtopia” space at the Natural History Museum. They can also visit the mammoths and mastodons installation at the Museum at La Brea Tar Pits and learn more about silent film actor William Hart at the Hart Museum.

The “Natural History of Horror” is on display through April 19. The exhibition links science, history and the art of movie making by exploring scientific discoveries from early experiments in animal electricity to the excavation of King Tut’s tomb that inspired some of cinema’s most iconic monsters.

NHM’s collection features 17 objects and four early Universal monster movies – “Dracula,” “Frankenstein,” “The Mummy” and “Creature from the Black Lagoon.” Visitors will learn more about the scientific inspiration for each of these creatures through rare movie props, film footage, hands on interactive and specimens from the collection.

“Bugtopia” offers a chance to see bugs from around the world, including beetles, stick bugs, mantids and spiders. The exhibit is open to the public in the Ralph M. Parsons Discovery Center. “Godzilla: A Living Atomic Bomb” is on view through April 19.

The temporary installation in conjunction with “Natural History of Horror” focuses on the real-life nuclear tests carried out on Bikini Atoll that inspired the monster. In its final week, the NHM 3D Theater will be playing “Ocean 3D: Our Blue Planet” and “Titanosaur 3D” until March 13. “Dinosaurs of Antarctica 3D” and “Hidden Pacific 3D” until March 14.

On March 14-15, NHM will be hosting L.A. Nature Fest, a two-day festival celebrating L.A. nature where scientists will conduct research and educators will share their stories.

On March 14-15, L.A. Nature Fest, a two-day festival celebrating L.A. nature. The event is hosted in the museum’s Nature Gardens where scientists will conduct research and educators will share their stories.

The Butterfly Pavilion will open March 15 and visitors will be able to walk among butterflies in the seasonal event.

At the La Brea Tar Pits, “Mammoths and Mastodons” is on view now which provides life-sized models, hands-on interactives and the latest discoveries and research related to these Ice Age animals.

The museum will also be offering daily screenings of “Titans of the Ice Age 3D.” The 3D film offers an adventure to an icy world on the brink of extinction, where humans share the frozen tundra with beasts such as saber-toothed cats, dire wolves, giant sloths and mammoths.

The Hart Museum will celebrate Women’s History Month on March 21 with an open house from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. They will examine the 19th Amendment and women in early Hollywood history who played a role in the suffrage movement.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Blvd., La Brea Tar Pits & Museum is located at 5801 Wilshire Blvd. and the Hart Museum at 24151 Newhall Ave. For information, visit nhm.org.
**SAG-AFTRA celebrates the life of Joyce Gordon**

SAG-AFTRA is celebrating the life of Joyce Gordon, the first woman to serve as president of a branch of Screen Actors Guild and one of the most successful commercial and voiceover performers, who died Friday, Feb. 28 at 90 years old.

For nearly 40 years, Gordon’s image or voice were ubiquitous on television and radio. She was the on-camera spokeswoman for Cinco and Duncan Hines, did promos for news and sports programs and had the distinction of being chosen by the phone company to be the first that performed callers they dialed a wrong number.

Gabrielle Carteris, president of SAG-AFTRA, said that Joyce was everything they could want in a member and leader. She was intelligent, talented, unceasingly dedicated to her fellow performers and a warm and generous friend. “Her stature as a pitchwoman and voiceover talent was indispensable in convincing the advertising industry of the concerns of commercial performers in the early days of that contract,” Carteris said. “Her hearts go out to Joyce’s family.”

Gordon’s career began in the 1950s. In the first year to do network promos, the first woman announcer for a political convention on network television and reportedly the first woman appearing as herself on television to wear glasses. She also appeared in commercials on “The Jack Paar Show,” “Hugh Downs” and “The Price is Right.” Gordon eventually transitioned into recorded commercials and she became one of the most respected talents in the business.

For decades, Gordon was active on behalf of her fellow actors. In 1959, during Howard Keel’s Screen Actors Guild presidency, Gordon was part of the first dozen branch members to serve on the national board. In 1996, she was elected president of the New York branch of Screen Actors Guild. She served the union for more than four decades, a trustee of the SAG-AFTRA Motion Picture Players Welfare Fund and a long-time proponent of the merger between the guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

In addition, she served more than three decades as a trustee of the Screen Actors Guild-Producer Pension and Health Plans, most recently as trustee emeritus. Gordon also served as a trustee of The Actors Fund for 24 years, chairman, said that her understanding of entertainment professionals helped shape the fund’s programs in the most meaningful and compassionate way.

“It was great honor to work alongside Joyce,” Stokes said. “We are heartbroken at her passing and are proud of her legacy, which will live on in all the ways we help Gordon was married for more than 50 years to actor Bernard Grand, who passed away in 2004. She is survived by her son, Mark, daughter, Melissa Grant, granddaughter, Jason Vanderwan and sister, Jill Gordon.

### Allen to host benefit at ‘Hamilton’ performance

Debbie Allen, dancing legend, will host a reception and after-party in the presence of “Hamilton” at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre on Tuesday, March 31. The event will be a benefit for the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, which is building a new 24,000-square-foot facility in South Los Angeles.

The event will include special opportunities for donors and a reception prior to the show at the W Hollywood Hotel. All of net proceeds will benefit the academy; additionally, for each special ticket purchased, a dance academy student will receive a ticket to see the show.

The offer includes thousands of young people the opportunity to learn and improve their dancing skills through its intensive program.

Tickets to the event are $500 for orchestra seating. Additional tickets and contributions are available for $750, which includes a VIP reception with Allen and Norm Nixon at the W Hollywood Hotel. Sponsors will also receive a meet-and-greet with the “Hamilton” cast members.

For information, email rsvp@johngilenic.com.

### Children’s Bureau launches updated website with families and donors in mind

Children’s Bureau, a nonprofit leader in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect in Southern California, launched an updated website on Feb. 27. The new all4kids.org website features a responsive and user-friendly design, a program finder, English and Spanish translations and more.

Underwriting for the website was provided by insurance brokerage HUB International.

“As the largest insurance broker in the entertainment space, HUB International is thrilled to sponsor Children’s Bureau’s new website,” said Randy Rider, senior vice president of employee benefits at HUB. “The website is a great tool for parents to find resources and programs as well as donors and companies like HUB to learn about how to support the work Children’s Bureau is doing in communities across Los Angeles and Orange County.”

The site is designed with three audiences in mind based on organizational goals and analytics from the previous site: Children’s Bureau clients, resource parents and donors. Of the families Children’s Bureau serves, 76% are low-income, and considering that 21% of households earning less than $20,000 per year have a smartphone but no broadband at home, it is crucial that the agency have a responsive website to promote its programs and services, whether it be on a computer, tablet or mobile device. The Spanish translation capability is also vital. As of 2019, 71% of families served agency-wide identify as Latino, with some families speaking little or no English.

The website is also a key tool for the organization to recruit resource parents to foster or foster-adopt children. With more than 21,000 children in the Los Angeles County’s foster care system, it is imperative that Children’s Bureau reach families who can become resource parents to vulnerable children.

The new Foster Care and Adoption page hosts video testimonials from current resource parents, a section of frequently asked questions, and resources for adoptive families. The website is also a key tool for the organization to recruit resource parents to foster or foster-adopt children.

### Children’s Bureau launches updated website with families and donors in mind

*This is a key marketing tool for Children’s Bureau in connecting with parents, donors, volunteers and others focused on the well-being of children and families.*

Sarah Richardson
Children’s Bureau

For those who were unable to participate on Feb. 29 but want to support the organization’s work in Los Angeles County, donations are being accepted until April 6.

For information, visit komenlacounty.org.

### 6,000 supporters fight against cancer in Komen’s More Than Pink Walk

KCBS/KCAL reporter Joy Benedict, left, and KCAL reporter Megan Telles enjoyed speaking with many of the more than 6,000 attendees at Susan G. Komen’s More Than Pink Walk at Dodger Stadium on Feb. 29.

Susan G. Komen is the largest breast cancer organization, funding breast cancer research than any other nonprofit and providing real-time help to people facing the disease. Komen has set a goal to reduce the current number of breast cancer deaths by 50% in the U.S. by 2026.

Komen was founded in 1982 by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed her life. For those who were unable to participate on Feb. 29 but want to support the organization’s work in Los Angeles County, donations are being accepted until April 6.

For information, visit komenlacounty.org.
Beverly Hills Bar Association welcomes new executive director

On March 4, the Beverly Hills Bar Association and Bar Foundation announced that Belinda Macauley has joined the organization as its new executive director.

Macauley comes to BHBA after more than two decades practicing law and serving in the senior management of national nonprofit organizations.

“We are thrilled to welcome Belinda and are confident she will build on the Beverly Hills Bar Association’s long history of providing our members with networking, business development, education, advocacy and community service opportunities. We are especially excited to have her join us as we expand our services to meet the changing needs of the legal profession, including by providing technology and workspace solutions to our members,” BHBA President Michael R. Sohigian said.

“I am delighted to join an organization so rich in history and so much to its members and the greater Los Angeles region. I look forward to continuing BHBA’s legacy of offering its members opportunities to network, expand their expertise, grow their client base and serve those who can’t otherwise access justice,” Macauley said. “I am grateful for the chance to lead such a distinguished and enthusiastic association of lawyers who deeply value serving both our profession and our community.”

Macauley began her career as a deputy district attorney in northern California and continued practicing law in Washington, D.C., including as deputy legal director of a national advocacy organization. She later served as vice president of a litigation consulting firm and spent the last five years as vice president of development and senior counsel at a leading legal nonprofit, the American Constitution Society.

Macauley grew up in California and attended the George Washington University Law School.

The Beverly Hills Bar Association, California’s fifth largest, is entering the 10th decade serving more than 16,000 lawyers who live or work on the westside of Los Angeles, as well as throughout southern California and the world. BHBA serves its members, leads the profession and advocates for justice by offering continuing legal education, networking events, publications, a personnel referral service, leadership and professional growth opportunities, pro bono programs and legislative advocacy activities. BHBA also offers virtual office services, conference room rentals and day-use offices. For information, visit bhba.org.

The Beverly Hills Bar Foundation is the charitable affiliate of the Beverly Hills Bar Association. Its mission is to promote equal access to justice through support of law-related education and community service projects, designed to educate and assist youth, adults and seniors. For information, visit bhbf.org.

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Crossword Puzzle

‘How to Not Kill Yourself’ returns to the Groundlings Theatre

“How to Not Kill Yourself for 30 Days… and the Next 330” returns to the Groundlings Theatre at 8 p.m. on March 16.

Based on a true story, “How to Not Kill Yourself,” written by and starring the Groundlings’ Annie Sertich, puts a twist on the familiar one-woman show format.

“Annie’s show about love and loss is not what would typically be seen at the Groundlings Theatre, ‘How to Not Kill Yourself’ brings the same soul and heartfelt comedy that some of their very best work delivers. Sertich’s show has been seen by sold out audiences during previous runs in Los Angeles, New York and Edinburgh.

The show is directed by Michaela Watkins (“Casual,” “Brady Bunch Marathon,” “The Unicorn”).

Annie’s show not only was a brilliant piece of incredible entertainment, it changed me, and if it changed me, then it certainly will change others,” said actress Eliza Coupe.

Academy Award-winning writer and director Jim Rash called it “a hilarious and touching honest show. And well-crafted at that.”

“Annie is one of those performers not afraid to make herself vulnerable… to face painful truths and explore what it takes to survive them. An inspiring show to watch,” Rash said.

Sertich is a main company member of the Groundlings Theatre, where she writes, performs and directs regularly. Sertich’s film and television credits include “Good Girls,” “Silicon Valley,” “Grey’s Anatomy,” “Shameless,” “Curly Feather Enthusiast” and “The Office.”

Tickets are $12.

Feuer serving the neighborhood from 1995 to present

Then-Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Feuer was shown in this photograph from the Oct. 20, 1997, issue of the Park Labrea News/Beverly Press at a dedication ceremony for the new Rosewood Gardens pocket park at Rosewood and Fairfax avenues.

Feuer, a longtime Fairfax District resident, represented the 5th District on the Los Angeles City Council from 1995-2001, and later served in the state Assembly from 2006-12, representing the 42nd District. He was elected Los Angeles City Attorney in 2013 and announced a bid for mayor of Los Angeles in the 2022 election on Monday, March 9.
The Music Center named 113 of Southern California’s most talented high school students as semifinalists in the Music Center’s 32nd annual Spotlight program, a free nationally acclaimed scholarship and arts training program for students.

Since its launch in 1988, Spotlight has transformed the lives of 40,000 young people across Southern California by being more than just a competition. An important part of the Music Center’s fundamental support for arts education, the arts training program provides students the opportunity to develop their performance abilities, learn about college programs and management and governance, and receive valuable college preparation skills and workforce readiness skills to pursue their dreams in the performing arts. This year, nearly 1,400 teens representing more than 260 schools, 198 cities and eight counties auditioned for the program.

The Music Center named this year’s semifinalists in seven categories—acting, ballet, non-classical dance, classical voice, non-classical voice, classical instrumental and instrumental instrumental. “Spotlight is a prime example of the Music Center’s commitment to deepen the cultural lives of all, in this case empowering young, aspiring artists with the skills and tools to explore their potential,” said Rachel Moore, president and CEO of the Music Center. “This year-long journey has the added benefit of helping these students develop critical life skills that can set them on a path to success, whether or not they pursue a career in the arts.”

Semifinalists can attend a special master class in their genre with highly regarded artists, who share their expertise on performance technique, training and professional life. Experts provide students with highly valuable feedback on their performances, offering them a rich learning experience. Each semifinalist must perform an audition and a panel of judges, who will then select the top two finalists per category. “Spotlight is a prime example of the Music Center’s commitment to deepen the cultural lives of all, in this case empowering young, aspiring artists with the skills and tools to explore their potential.”

On the evening of the Jackie Robinson Foundation’s (“JRF”) Annual Scholarship and Leadership Conference for college students and annual Robie Awards gala on Monday in New York City, the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation will present an $800,000 grant to the Jackie Robinson Foundation. With this grant for the 2019-20 academic year, support from the Dodgers and LADF to JRF now totals more than $3.5 million since 1992.

The Music Center’s Spotlight program awards more than $100,000 in cash scholarships annually. Both grand prize finalists in each category receive $10,000. Judges will also name an honorable mention in each category. The grand prize finalists will perform at the Music Center’s Ahmanson Theatre and receive $10,000. The Music Center also celebrates five students in each category receiving $1,000. The Music Center also celebrates five students in each category receiving $1,000. Semifinalists each receive $300. The Music Center also celebrates five students in each category receiving $1,000. Judges will also name an honorable mention in each category. The grand prize finalists will perform at the Music Center’s Ahmanson Theatre and receive $10,000. The Music Center also celebrates five students in each category receiving $1,000.

The positions do not require state confirmation and there is no compensation.

LADF will also host JRF Scholars for a private luncheon in New York City, where they will network and learn from staff in a special career panel opportunity. For information, visit dodgers.com/ladf.

Korean American Artist Suzy Taeyking Kim was awarded $165,000 from the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture for a unique public art project that will welcome visitors to a new 21-story building coming to Koreatown.

This new building will serve as headquarters for the Los Angeles County Departments of Mental Health, Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services. The lobby where Kim’s artwork will be showcased will host a peer resource center and walk in mental health services, utilizing a ground-floor clinic and office space. With access to the Metro Vermont/Wilshire Red Line Station, Los Angeles County residents will be able to access an array of mental health services.

The civic art project, titled “Canopy of Blooms,” uses a base layer of old Korean script which will be sealed and covered by photos and flowers from Koreatown, embracing the freedom and strength of those who will pass through the future lobby. “This piece represents our commitment to supporting Korean American artists, as we work to build a world that is more inclusive of the communities that are home to the county’s facilities and services,” said County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.

The 2nd District, whose office was actively involved in the selection process, said unique works of art will be seen by thousands of local residents as county staff help deliver vital services — from prevention to recovery — and assist clients to take the first steps on a journey toward healing and self-sufficiency.”

“Canopy of Blooms” is a multi-layered painting that celebrates hope and healing. Situated in the grand lobby of the Vermont Corridor Building, located at 500 S. Vermont Ave, this 53 by 10-foot artwork is at the entry point of the Department of Mental Health and Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services and warmly welcomes all. The painting reflects the unique identity of Koreatown through the analogy of an infinity loop of blooming motifs

The Music Center spotlight program includes arts training.
‘Onward’ is fun but bypasses memorable

Nobody’s perfect. Pixar proved that some time ago by going all in with not one but three “Cars” films. That’s the studio’s low. As for “Onward,” a clever take on modern-day fantasy, the 22nd film from the Disney subsidiary falls directly in the middle of the lot, never cashing in its brilliance or going creatively bankrupt.

If you remember Netflix’s “Bright,” a cop drama with a fantasy twist, then a truly mediocre flick might not exactly give you that good grace that should belong to “Onward.” As an opening narrative by co-protagonist Ian Lightfoot (Tom Holland) says, magic once dripped from every corner of the world, but the allure of modern conveniences marked the end of the old ways. Centaurs prefer horse power from a car’s engine, not their own legs. Pixies wreak havoc as a motorcycle gang, forgetting they can fly. And elves are more likely to become accountants than magicians.

In the case of Ian and brother Barley (Chris Pratt), both are true. And on Ian’s 16th birthday, their mother, Laurel (Julia Louis-Dreyfus), presents an unexpected gift from their deceased father: a magic staff and a spell that can bring him back to life for one day. Barley has prepared his whole life for this moment. He protests the destruction of ancient ruins, plays board games rooted in real magic history and rocks a unicorn-themed van with the license place, “GONVIER.” One problem: he doesn’t have the magic. But instead, immature Ian does. Second problem: thanks to Ian’s uncertain magic, the spell only reanimates dad’s lower half.

But hope is not lost. Barley puts on a quest for a special stone needed to complete the spell. They only have 24 hours to overcome obstacles on their journey and growing familial tiffs. For anyone familiar with the writings of Joseph Campbell – the mythologist who inspired George Lucas’ historic foray into what’s best described as science-fiction fantasy – the heroic journey is a familiar convention. Heroes must take the path less traveled, overcoming impossible odds, avoiding pitfalls – and maybe fighting a dragon along the way. Theoretically, that’s all there is to it, but it is more complex.

For a story so interested in bringing magic to the modern age – which should be rather easy in a film straight out of a J.R.R. Tolkien dictionary – those contemporary surroundings dominate the film, leaving only the third act to fully embrace the film’s title’s promise. Sure, a pet dragon moving like a dog, wild unicorns eating out of the trash and an easily winked countenance make for a quick smirk, but Pixar is normally better than this. “Onward” should work better than it does. Instead, the jokes don’t entirely land, and the film replaces clever moments with action (a car chase here, a building on fire there). That’s standard operating procedure for a mid-level DreamWorks film (“How To Train Your Dragon” excluded, of course), but not the great and mighty House of Luxo Jr.

While “Onward” doesn’t compare to “Inside Out” (“Up” or “Ratatouille”), it still manages to tell a fun – though not amazing – story helped by relatable characters. Both Ian and Barley enjoy great chemistry, but Barley is the glue that keeps this whole show together. Ian parades as the lead, but he’s far less interesting. And the result will explore the Holocaust genre in its full creative glory. But what’s here is a heartfelt story about closure following the loss of a loved one and gratitude for those family and friends who helped you through such unbearable times. That’s a good win for any film, even if “Onward” doesn’t boldly journey to realms anew.

Violins from the Holocaust illustrate victims’ stories

The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust presents “Violins of Hope,” an exhibit featuring restored Holocaust-era violins running from Wednesday, March 18, through Sunday, April 19.

The musical instruments reflect the power and triumph of the human spirit. The exhibit is part of Violins of Hope Los Angeles County, which uses a special collection of violins, violas and cellos to educate about the Holocaust.

“Violins of Hope” displays instruments that survived the Holocaust, although many of their owners did not. Each instrument is accompanied by a unique story and was restored in Tel Aviv by violin-makers Amnon and Avshalom Weinstein.

The museum will exhibit 12 of the more than 60 instruments that have been restored since the end of World War II, including a violin that was buried in a backyard during the war, and others that were played by Jewish prisoners in concentration camps who were forced to entertain Nazi captors.

Additional instruments will be used during performances by the participating Violins of Hope partners, including the Yomdees and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts, the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony, New West Symphony, the Long Beach Symphony and the Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic and Legal Voices. The exhibit is supported by a grant from GROW @ Annenberg.

An opening reception will be held on March 18 at 7 p.m. at the museum. It will include remarks by Avshalom Weinstein and program chair Susanne Reyto, along with a special violin performance.

Admission to the opening event and the museum are free, but an RSVP to the reception is requested. The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust is located at 100 S. The Grove Drive. For information, visit lamoth.org.

Event explores archive documenting the Holocaust

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum presents “Who Will Write Our History?” a film screening and panel discussion on Wednesday, March 24, at 7 p.m., at American Jewish University.

The event will explore how a clandestine group in the Warsaw Ghetto, a film screening and panel discussion on Wednesday, March 24, at 7 p.m., at American Jewish University.

The event will explore how a clandestine group in the Warsaw Ghetto who vowed to defeat Nazi lies and expose the truth through their own archives, not with guns or fists but with pen and paper. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum presents “Who Will Write Our History?” by Roberta Grossman and Nancy Spielberg, the first documentary on the effort that had the code name Oneg Shabbat, which refers to a Jewish celebration of the sabbath. Led by historian Emanuel Ringelblum, a band of journalists, scholars and community leaders secretly documented Nazi atrocities. The clandestine team faced constant danger, including the ever-present threat of being discovered by Gestapo agents. One of Ringelblum’s greatest achievements was hiding the effort from the Germans, who never discovered the secret. The Oneg Shabbat resistance eventually buried 60,000 pages with hope that the archive would survive the war, even if they did not.

Guests will have an opportunity to view the film and participate in a panel discussion about the documentary and the museum’s collection and preservation of the Ringelblum Archives. Rabbi Joice Hudson, associate rabbi for Temple Israel of Hollywood, will moderate the panel with Grosman and Susey Snyder, curator of the National Institute for Holocaust Documentation at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

American Jewish University is located at 15000 Multihall Drive. The program is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. For information, visit ushmm.org/events/wwwoh-la.
Artists explore identity in new craft exhibit

The Craft In America Center in Los Angeles presents an exhibition by four artists who explore issues of gender, race, culture and place. Featured artists Cristina Córdova, Wendy Maruyama, Cara Romero and Diego Romero draw upon their heritages and identities to translate their experiences into fine art.

The exhibit, “Identity: 4 Voices,” is on display from Saturday, March 14, through Thursday, May 2. Originally from Puerto Rico, Córdova is a sculptor who now lives and works in Penland, North Carolina. Her figurative clay work is rooted in renaissance sculptural traditions and ceramic history. Each piece represents shared humanity while confronting contemporary issues of gender, race, beauty and power.

Maruyama is a furniture maker and educator with a studio in San Diego who delves into the subjects of ethnicity, gender and world issues. The Japanese-American artist creates furniture in a field dominated by men. As an individual with hearing impairment, she uses the process of furniture-making to overcome challenges related to her disability.

Cara Romero is a contemporary photographer and member of the Chemehuevi tribe, a branch of the southern Paiute who live on a reservation in the Mojave Desert. She is a passionate spokesperson for indigenous cultural and environmental issues. Romero’s complex and nuanced images combine traditional iconography with contemporary perspective. She orchestrates a balancing act in her photography by rewriting stories of indigenous identity, challenging cultural misappropriation and confronting stereotypes.

Diego Romero is a potter living and working in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A member of the Cochiti Pueblo tribe, he makes art that关乎 his indigenous heritage by combining traditional materials, techniques and forms of Mimbres, Anasazi and Greek pottery with comic book inspired imagery.

The Craft in America Gallery is located at 8415 W. Third St. For information, visit craftamerica.org.

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Big Sunday gala to recognize supporters is postponed

Big Sunday has announced that its fifth annual gala, which was to be held on March 12 at Candela La Brea, has been postponed out of an abundance of caution.

Big Sunday plans to honor leaders in entertainment, business, philanthropy, politics and the arts at a later date. The event will celebrate more than two decades of Big Sunday’s philanthropic work and will honor honorees Michael Skloff, Tiffany Smith-Anoa’i and Hulu. The event will also celebrate the premiere of Big Sunday’s new theme song, “All We Got,” which was arranged and produced by Skloff.

Big Sunday, which is headquartered at 6111 Melrose Ave., is dedicated to helping people in need through volunteer opportunities. The three honorees have volunteered with Big Sunday for many years.

Skloff has a long career as a composer, arranger, music producer, music director and performer. He has been an integral part of Big Sunday’s board member and benefactor since 1999.

“I support Big Sunday because they continue to show me that when we help each other we close the gaps between us, and that act has the power to heal the world.”

-Michael Skloff, composer and Big Sunday volunteer

Skloff became associated with the organization during its annual Thanksgiving volunteer event. “I have been working with Big Sunday for many years and every year we partner I am renewed by their commitment and passion to helping those in need,” Smith-Anoa’i said. “This is truly an organization that helps people help others.”

Hulu has supported Big Sunday with donations and volunteer work, and has partnered with the organization for the company’s annual day of service.

Founded 21 years ago by David Levinson with just 300 volunteers, Big Sunday has collected and distributed hundreds of thousands of items of clothing, food, toiletries and other essentials. Volunteers are always sought for Big Sunday projects. For information, visit bigsunday.org.

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Gay Men’s Chorus piece enjoys online popularity

The Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles released a new dance version of their recent performance on the Film Independent Spirit Awards of “Gay Spirit Song,” which was viewed over 7 million times online.

GMCLA’s new director and conductor Ernest Harrison and 30 GMCLA members went into the studio to work with Greg O’Connor, the song’s original composer, along with members Quinn Coleman and Perry Twins, to create this version as a fundraiser for the organization.

“Gay Spirit Song” was originally created by lyricist and producer Jordan Firstman as a special homage to Laura Dern. “At the heart of our success is always the members of the chorus, who donated their time to perform at the awards show and again on this track,” Spisto said. “We are grateful to all of the guys, and especially Dave Pannell, who brilliantly sang the part performed by the wonderful Alex Newell in the live show. Without the GMCLA members none of this is possible.”

For information, visit gmcla.org. To view the “Gay Spirit Song” performance, visit youtube.com/user/gmclavideo.

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Big Sunday gala to recognize supporters is postponed

Big Sunday has announced that its fifth annual gala, which was to be held on March 12 at Candela La Brea, has been postponed out of an abundance of caution.

Big Sunday plans to honor leaders in entertainment, business, philanthropy, politics and the arts at a later date. The event will celebrate more than two decades of Big Sunday’s philanthropic work and will honor honorees Michael Skloff, Tiffany Smith-Anoa’i and Hulu. The event will also celebrate the premiere of Big Sunday’s new theme song, “All We Got,” which was arranged and produced by Skloff.

Big Sunday, which is headquartered at 6111 Melrose Ave., is dedicated to helping people in need through volunteer opportunities. The three honorees have volunteered with Big Sunday for many years.

Skloff has a long career as a composer, arranger, music producer, music director and performer. He has been an integral part of Big Sunday’s board member and benefactor since 1999.

“I support Big Sunday because they continue to show me that when we help each other we close the gaps between us, and that act has the power to heal the world.”

-Michael Skloff, composer and Big Sunday volunteer

Skloff became associated with the organization during its annual Thanksgiving volunteer event. “I have been working with Big Sunday for many years and every year we partner I am renewed by their commitment and passion to helping those in need,” Smith-Anoa’i said. “This is truly an organization that helps people help others.”

Hulu has supported Big Sunday with donations and volunteer work, and has partnered with the organization for the company’s annual day of service.

Founded 21 years ago by David Levinson with just 300 volunteers, Big Sunday has collected and distributed hundreds of thousands of items of clothing, food, toiletries and other essentials. Volunteers are always sought for Big Sunday projects. For information, visit bigsunday.org.
Initiatives need signatures from WeHo voters

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should be able to sell both adult use and medical marijuana," said Morgan Sokol, executive vice president of regulatory affairs for MedMen, an e-mail. MedMen West Hollywood is one of the “West Hollywood Originals,” four dispen- sary owners who were street-vendor recreational cannabis licenses when the state began allowing the sale of recreational cannabis but did not earn permanent adult-use retail licenses in the city’s selection process. The initiative was supported by a committee of five people selected by City Manager Paul Arvelo.

The “city of West Hollywood’s process for procuring cannabis retailers and consumer lounges has led to delays and confusion for medical marijuana patients, cannabis consumers and local resi- dents,” added Jason Beck, founder, owner and president of “WeHo Original” Alternative Herbal Health Services and a supporter of the Close the Loophole ballot initiative, in an email.

The Close the Loophole initiative also would allow cannabis licenses to be earned with approval from the city manager.

“Business licenses are frequently transferred from business owner to business owner. Cannabis is no different. We should not proactively limit business owners, are already being addressed. The other initiative, which is sup- ported by the Adult Use Retailers Association of West Hollywood or AURA – a collection of the busi- ness owners, are already being addressed. The other initiative, which is sup- ported by the Adult Use Retailers Association of West Hollywood or AURA – a collection of the busi- ness owners, are already being addressed.

Additionally, the initiative would allow more time for permit owners to earn their business license, allow cannabis odor to be detected in “negligible” amounts outside of cannabis facilities – no odor is allowed to be detected now – and make it easier for cannabis workers to update their license.

According to the Close the Loophole initiative, its funding comes from West Hollywood Residents and Businesses for Fairness, which is a coalition of cannabis businesses, residents, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Local 770 and concerned residents. The website lists major funders as MedMen West Hollywood, Alex Kardos and UFCW Local 770.

Kardos is founder and partner of MedMen West Hollywood, Alex Kardos and UFCW Local 770.

In a city where cloud computing is a booming industry, an unqualified business. “What’s the point of having a license to be unqualified for all of the diverse local businesses here in Los Angeles,” Board of Public Works Commissioner Mike Davis said.

“Working with the Mayor’s Office of Economic Development, the Bureau of Contract Administration and all the other partners to host events like today’s successful BuildWith L.A. event is part of that commitment.”

Participants of this year’s event were presented a first look at the future of the procurement process including digitization efforts and electronic workflow development in the city of Los Angeles by Chief Procurement Officer Shannon Quarker. Attendees also took advantage of information and resources from more than 60 particip- ant exhibitors and were able to network and build meaningful rela- tionships with contracting partners, public agencies and other business owners.

Through our Accessing L.A. program and BuildWith event, we are empowering the entrepreneurs who represent the core of our local job market to forge their own path to success,” said John L. Reamer Jr., inspector of Public Works and director of the Bureau of Contract Administration. “We will continue to build and grow this program because the success and economic develop- ment of our local small businesses contribute so much to what makes Los Angeles thrive.”

BuildWith is the first of a series of events in 2020 as part of the success- ful and growing Accessing L.A. program designed to promote the city’s vision of fostering the inclusion and economic develop- ment of all Los Angeles residents and businesses.

On May 19, the Accessing L.A. program will honor Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with the “ piled on top of cultures has comparatively few places to celebrate the famed Irish holiday.

“In Los Angeles, you see a lot of people kind of drawn to that kind of music, which is one of my rea- sons Tom Bergin opened the place. He was trying to find a place that reminded him of the old places he had back in Boston," Castagnetti said.

Castagnetti hopes to continue that storied history this year, well more information can be found in the 71-year-old Irish pub.

“Any place can serve Guinness, but it’s rare to have this kind of history. We’re so excited and this is our first shot at it. We hope the people are as excited about this as we are,” he said.
Bloom said the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce is not the only right to raise concerns about AB 5, and his office is working as "a sort of clearinghouse" on such issues. There are a lot of folks out there who are sitting on pins and needles because it's their livelihood being affected, or potentially affected, by AB 5: Bloom said.

Bloom added that he's "particularly concerned" about writers and other freelancers whose work could easily be given to someone who doesn't live in California — they wouldn't be subject to AB 5 — but when the Assembly goes to make changes, it's important to be careful.

"We want to preserve the original intent of AB 5 but ensure [help for] those categories of workers who were caught up unexpectedly in this bill who are coming from — for instance — certain categories of writers and musicians, and there are more; I don't want to be exclusive in that — but these are very real issues of livelihood," he said.

As the process moves forward, Scott said it's important to note that the law is not going away, and fixes will help, but they likely won't be a panacea, as the issue has become "politicized." Republicans are attacking the legislation, which "polonizes the Democrats and forces them to defend the law while they seek to clarify it," he said.

"There should be some changes made to the law. If those changes were made, yes, the law would be more manageable, but it will still be a confusing and difficult law, it will just be less," Scott said.

There are many bills that seek to change AB 5's provisions and provide relief to certain industries or jobs. By Scott's count, there are at least 30 such bills, including Senate Bill 1039, which would allow people to voluntarily exempt themselves from AB 5's provisions by declaring that they would like to work as an independent contractor.

"If you think about it, that could solve a lot of these issues. I think we need to think a little more creatively and not try to bang a square peg into a round hole," he said.
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