BH pushes back on Gascón

BY CAMERON KISZLA

The Beverly Hills City Council took a stand against Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón with a vote of no confidence on March 16.

Council members criticized several of Gascón’s special directives, such as those that eliminated cash bail, listed multiple misdemeanors that his office will no longer pursue and refused to file sentence enhancements, such as those for gang affiliations or for the “three strikes” sentencing law.

Council members said Gascón’s directives have made Beverly Hills and other parts of the county less safe.

“If it is our No. 1 priority in our city … unfortunately, under Gascón, we’ve had more crime, and unfortunately, there are no consequences,” Councilwoman Lili I. Mehta said.

“To have no responsibility if you are a trespasser, are disturbing the peace, are a trespasser, are disturbing the community on March 16, he said the deal provides for a hybrid model at all grade levels, combining in-person and online instruction with students remaining in small, stable cohorts while at school to help prevent the spread of the virus.”

With positive momentum, some parents of LAUSD students are pushing for the district to go farther. At a pair of rallies held in Pan Pacific Park and in Ted Watkins Memorial Park in Watts on March 13, parents and students let school district and union officials know that while they appreciate a return to campus, the proposed system which has high school students, who are physically at school, taking online classes with their teachers in separate classrooms – is not enough.

LAUSD parents want more progress

BY CAMERON KISZLA

With vaccinations increasing and coronavirus cases trending downward, the Los Angeles Unified School District is moving toward a return to school.

“It’s been more than a year of virtual learning, but earlier this month, the LAUSD and United Teachers Los Angeles reached an agreement to resume in-person classes in April. The exact timeline depends on COVID-19 infection numbers and the amount of vaccination doses that have been administered. UTLA did not return interview requests, and LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner was not available for an interview, but in remarks to the LAUSD community on March 15, he said the deal provides “for a hybrid model at all grade levels, combining in-person and online instruction with students remaining in small, stable cohorts while at school to help prevent the spread of the virus.”

WeHo’s city attorney retires after ‘generation’ at helm

BY JUSTIN SAYERS

Michael Jenkins, who has served as city attorney for West Hollywood since its incorporation in 1984, playing a role in the city’s foundational legislation, as well as defending some of its most-progressive policies, is retiring.

Jenkins was honored during the council meeting on Monday, March 15, where he was recognized by Mayor Lindsey Horvath with a proclamation honoring his years of service and a key to the city.

“Mike’s legacy in West Hollywood includes 3 1/2 decades of service to the city and, along with his dry sense of humor and long-winded legal explanations, we will miss his dedication and love for the city of West Hollywood,” she said.

“Thank you for many years of service. All of the things we are proud of in our city have happened on your watch. While we have challenged you at times with our very progressive ideas and things that we would like to do, you have helped steer us to get to this point and all of the successes we have seen in our city. We thank you for your contributions not only to our city but to the entire craft.”

WeHo updates social media policy pg. 5

Teen in fatal collision pg. 4

Alleged Rolex robbery suspects arrested in L.A.

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division recently arrested two suspects believed to be involved with a series of street robberies in which Rolex watches and expensive jewelry were stolen from victims.

At least seven robberies involving expensive watches and jewelry have occurred since the beginning of the year in the Melrose and Beverly Grove neighborhoods. Similar robberies have also occurred in Beverly Hills and West Hollywood, as well as other parts of Los Angeles, authorities said.

Police believe the crimes are being committed by a crew of suspects, and the two men in custody were allegedly involved in three of the hold-ups in the Wilshire area. Jewelry allegedly stolen during the robberies was recovered. Authorities did not release any further information, stating it could jeopardize their ongoing investigation.

On March 11, the Wilshire Division announced the arrests and released a photograph on Twitter of jewelry being returned to one of the robbery victims.

Authorities in Beverly Hills said the two men in custody are not suspects in a high-profile robbery on March 4 at the Il Pastaio restaurant at 400 N. Canon Drive. During that hold-up, three suspects stole a watch valued at $500,000 from a patron dining on the restaurant’s patio, police said. A female victim was shot and is recovering, and another victim was injured when she was knocked down by people fleeing the scene. Police are still searching for three Black male suspects in that robbery.

“The suspects arrested have no connection to the Beverly Hills robbery at this point,” Beverly Hills Police Department Capt. Max

Watch page 22
Angeles.”

defeating COVID-19 in Los

week, we move even closer to

more doses into people’s arms this

pitalization and death, and as we get

offered is safe, effective and proven

Garcetti said. “Every vaccine being

can only end this pandemic if

Hopes are on the horizon, but we

visit coronavirus.lacity.org/vaxap-

permanent sites will be open from 8

operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Other

vaccine throughout California

number of people able to receive the

the one-shot Johnson & Johnson

in the state. Beyond those with cer-

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respond in person to emergency

while the current supply remains

Los Angeles expects to receive

55,000 first dose appointments this

announced that city-run vaccination

55,000 doses of the Moderna vac-

37, from 5 to 6 p.m. The dis-

City vaccination program expands as supply permits

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced that city-run vaccination sites would offer approximately 55,000 first dose appointments this week, while eligibility expands across L.A. County to include resi-

vaccine cation with those certain underlying health conditions or disabilities. Vaccines will continue to be administered across the city’s seven permanent and eight mobile vaccination sites.

“Hope is on the horizon, but we can only end this pandemic if Angelinos are vigilant, keep following public health guidelines and get vaccinated when it’s their turn,” Garcetti said. “Every vaccine being offered is safe, effective and proven to protect us from severe illness, hos-

pitalization and death, and as we get more doses into people’s arms this week, we move even closer to defeating COVID-19 in Los Angeles.”

The city was expected to receive 55,000 doses of the Moderna vac-
cination this week and continued to dis-

tribute Johnson & Johnson doses received last week. More doses of the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine are expected in April.

With eligibility expanding, the number of people able to receive the vaccine throughout California exceeds the current doses allocated in the state. Beyond those with cer-

taining underlying conditions and dis-

abilities, the county late last week opened access to janitors and custo-
dians, public transit workers, emer-

gency service personnel and public

work employees required to respond in person to emergency

current supply remains

low, Los Angeles expects to receive a larger influx of doses in April, as

Garcetti said.

The Dodger Stadium site will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Other permanent sites will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For appointments, visit coronavirus.lacity.org/vaxap-

pointment.

Contemporary Black art

The California African American Museum is holding “I Am Woman: Prominent Black Women in Contemporary Black Art,” a virtual program on Thursday, March 18, from 5 to 6 p.m. Though standards of what constitutes “beauty” have

broadened, Black women remain underrepresented in mass media depictions of ideal beauty. In a Women’s History Month conversa-
mored by CAAM Assistant Curator Taylor Bythewood-Porter, artist Céline Cooper, Deborah Roberts and Grace Lynn Huyse will dis-

cuss how their work explores imag-

of Black women and the shifting

of racial and personal identity. Admission is free. caamuseum.org.

Theatre 40

Theatre 40 will present a reading of the play “Vaccination” by Leda Siskind on Thursday, March 18, at 7 p.m., via Zoom. Siskind describes her play as a modern re-telling of “Oedipus the King.” The cast includes Targett-Stanford, Landon Beatty, Eric Keitel and Rebecca Driscoll. Admission is free. theatre40.org.

The Red Shoes

Center Theatre Group’s production of Matthew Bourne’s “The Red Shoes” will be shown online on Friday, March 19, at 4 p.m.; Saturday, March 20, at 5 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, March 21, at 1 and 4 p.m. Based on

film by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger and the classic Hans Christian Andersen fairytale, “The Red Shoes” is a tale of obsession, possession and a girl’s dream to be the greatest dancer in the world. The cost is $10. centertheatregroup.org.

Irish dance class

Keep the St. Patrick’s Day fun going

with a virtual Irish dance class for beginners on Saturday, March 20, from 9 to 10 a.m. The program is being held in partner-

ship with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles and will be led by Courtney Jay, who studied Irish music and dance at the University of Limerick. Suggested donation is $6 and benefits spcaLA.com.

Beverly Hills independent auditor steps down

Beverly Hills Independent City Auditor Eduardo Luna announced on March 16 that he has decided to leave his position later this week.

“I’d like to thank Eduardo for his service to the Beverly Hills com-
munity,” Beverly Hills Mayor Loretta Friedman said. “During his

tenure, the city has improved both transparency and efficiencies

large part to processes Eduardo and his team implemented.”

Created in 2018, the Office of the Independent City Auditor has con-

ducted financial and performance audits and developed the Trust &

Innovation Portal, an online tool for sharing ideas about improving
city services, and to report improper

activity.

“After 31 years of auditing, the timing was right for me personally to step down,” Luna said. “I would like to thank the mayor, vice mayor and City Council for the opportuni-

the city’s first

establish -

City “Office of the City Auditor.”

Miracle Babies benefit

Miracle Babies, a nonprofit that pro-

vides transportation and supportive services to families with critically ill newborns, will host a virtual dis-

cussion with author and Holocaust sur-

vivor Dr. Edith Eva Eger on Sunday, March 21, from 5 to 6 p.m. The dis-

cussion will be focused on “Managing Stress Through Difficult Times.” Tickets are $40. miracleba-

IAMA Theatre Company’s

Enjoy IAMA Theatre Company’s vir-

tual productions of “Anyone But Me” and “The Dybbuk” running from Sunday, March 21, through Sunday, April 18. The plays were filmed at the Pico Playhouse. Tickets are $15 per household for a single performance. $20 for both shows.

Ebell author talk

The Ebell welcomes Ann Stanley, author of “A Japanese Woman and Her World: Stanger in the Shogun’s City,” for a discussion on Monday, March 22, at noon, via Zoom. Stanley will pre-

sent a program on her life and career.

ers she discov-

ered about the

life of a young

woman in early 19th century Japan. Providing insight into life at the time, Stanley will introduce the audience to the irrepressible Tsuneno and the

vibrant social and cultural life in the “big city” of Edo, now Tokyo. Admission is free but donation accepted. ebellofla.com.

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Beverly Hills council optimistic about budget

BY CAMERON KISZLA

Beverly Hills continues to adjust for the ongoing impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

On March 16, the City Council and staff discussed the city’s finances, including the budget deficit. Jeff Muir, the city’s director of finance, had good news, as the city is in a “better-than-anticipated position.”

“Staff is projecting the actual deficit for this year will be $7 million, an improvement of about $4 million from the last time we were before [the council] in January,” Muir said.

The city’s progress has been bolstered by some of the city’s cost-cutting measures, including offering retirement incentives and holding positions vacant.

Given the reduced number of city staffers, City Manager George Chavez is reorganizing city departments. For instance, the deputy director of transportation position is being eliminated, and the assistant director/city planner position is being retitled as simply city planner.

“One of the goals is to realize greater efficiencies,” Muir said.

To further aid the goal of efficiency, the city is working to implement something similar to the 311 program found in other cities, such as Los Angeles, that typically offer “one-stop service” for a variety of city services, instead of residents having to navigate a bureaucracy to find the department they need, Muir said.

“This new program will also serve to improve internal efficiencies and enact citywide customer service standards,” Muir said.

Public Works Manager Michael Hensley said currently, Beverly Hills has “at least 14 public-facing phone numbers that people call to get assistance with the city,” and city employees sometimes have to transfer callers to the correct department to handle their requests.

“We still anticipate challenges in the way things are currently proceeding, there’s reason for cautious optimism for the city’s future.”

-Jeff Muir, director of finance

To replace this system, the city is working to create a “concierge-style access to information and non-emergency assistance” that will operate from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, and once the program has been implemented, service will expand to Saturdays as well.

“This really will free up staff to work on other tasks,” Hensley said.

A soft launch is anticipated this summer, with Community Development coming online in June, the Finance Department joining in September, Community Services coming online in December and the City Clerk and non-emergency calls to the fire and police departments joining in March 2022. A hard launch – including a new main city line and webpage – is expected in April 2022.

“We’re proposing to on-board other departments on a quarterly basis,” Hensley said.

In addition to reorganizing staff, the city is receiving some outside help, including up to $6.3 million from the latest round of federal assistance related to the ongoing pandemic. City staff members are also seeking more federal help for specific projects and plans. Muir said.

“Staff is actively pursuing grant funds, where possible,” Muir said.

Despite the progress, some of the previous cost-cutting measures will have to continue or be expanded, Muir said, such as cuts to the capital improvement budget. Those cuts will likely be considered in April, before the general budget is discussed in May.

“We still anticipate challenges in the next two years, which will require continued financial vigilance on our part,” Muir said.

Overall, while the city continues to suffer from reduced tax revenue due to tourism, hotel stays and retail sales, the impending economic recovery as the pandemic is curbed by vaccinations has the city “well-positioned” for recovery, Muir said.

“While challenges do remain, it does seem with the way things are currently proceeding, there’s reason for cautious optimism for the city’s future,” Muir added.

Discussion was brief, with the council members agreeing to hold future discussions about the budget and staff, and hold off on any major decisions until they can meet in person.

“While I’d love to have more detail … we’ve reached the point of emerging from [the pandemic], and we can be thankful we had prudent management in the past,” Vice Mayor Robert Wunderschloss said.

“We do see some light at the end of the tunnel,” Mayor Lester Friedman added.
### WeHo sexual assault suspect identified, faces charges

**BY EDWIN FOLVEN**

Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department investigators announced on March 16 that a suspect is in custody and has been charged for a sexual assault that occurred in West Hollywood in January. Detectives from the special victims unit’s Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s Special Victims Bureau are continuing the investigation and asking any additional victims to come forward.

The alleged assault occurred on Jan. 21 in the 600 block of Fountain Avenue. A 28-year-old female victim was sexually assaulted by a man she met on social media, police said. The male suspect forced his way inside, authorities said. The victim was able to fight off the suspect and he fled on a bicycle.

Detectives determined a man who had been arrested for a separate assault in Hollywood on Jan. 23 was the same man who allegedly committed the sexual assault in West Hollywood. He was identified as Bryant Guerrero, 24. Authorities did not release any further information about either of the two crimes.

Guerrero remains in custody on $2.2 million bail and is next expected to appear in court on April 13.

Any person with information or who may have been a victim is urged to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s Special Victims Bureau at (310)374-8650 or email specialvictimsbureau@lasd.org.

### Fete of teen accused in fatal crash remains unclear

**Charges still pending in crash involving driver from Beverly Hills**

**BY EDWIN FOLVEN**

Charges are still pending in a fatal crash involving a 17-year-old female driver during a collision on Feb. 17 in West Los Angeles.

The teen driver, who has been identified in media reports as 17-year-old Brenda Khuri, is still recovering from injuries sustained during the accident at Olympic Boulevard near Overland Avenue. The black Lamborghini SUV he was allegedly driving hit a high-rate of speed collided with a Lexus sedan driven by Monique Munoz, 32, who died at the scene, police said. Initial reports indicated the Lamborghini driver was racing another vehicle but that has not been corroborated by police. The teen driver was hospitalized on the night of the collision.

Detective James Dickson, with the Los Angeles Police Department’s West Traffic Division, said the suspect was booked for vehicular manslaughter on Feb. 23 in absentia due to being hospitalized, and the case was presented to the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office.

“Susan’s death is a giant loss for her family, our community and for all of us as Angelenos,” Santiago said in a statement. This case was recently presented to our office and is under review. Juvenile court proceedings, records and case files are confidential. As such, we are unable to provide further information at this time.

Khuri has been identified in media reports as the son of James Khuri, a Beverly Hills businessman who developed and distributed Pokemon, Yu-Gi-Oh! and Magic the Gathering trading cards. The elder Khuri allegedly gave his son the SUV for his birthday, media reports have stated. Photographs on social media showing James and Brenda Khuri posing with different LamboRinhians, including the SUV allegedly involved in the collision, have been removed from social media.

Authorities declined to release any further information because of the pending charges. Anyone with information is urged to contact LAPD West Traffic Division investigators at (213)473-0234.

### Police seek drivers in three hit-and-run collisions

**BY EDWIN FOLVEN**

Los Angeles Police Department traffic investigators are asking for the public’s help in solving three hit-and-run collisions occurring since early February that claimed one life and severely injured two others.

The most recent collision occurred at approximately 6:25 a.m. on March 11. A white pickup truck, police added. The suspect was traveling eastbound on Venice Boulevard when it struck a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Wilton Place, police said.

In the most recent collision on March 13 on the one-year anniversary of the death of Breonna Taylor at the hands of police in Kentucky, three officers and one protester were injured.

The demonstration began around 8 p.m. and started peacefully. Demonstrators marched on Santa Monica and Sunset Boulevards, as well as Vine Street. Police said a group dressed in all black clothing began spray painting graffiti, breaking windows and lighting trash cans on fire. Social media posts show a tense standoff between police and demonstrators near Lexington and Vine Street. Many of the demonstrators wore helmets, tactical vests and gas masks, and carried sticks, batons and shields.

Authorities said members of the group were also armed with pepper spray and smoke grenades. A post on social media shows a man jumping on the hood of an LAPD patrol car as the officer attempts to drive away.

During the stand-off, one officer was struck by a comput-

er allegedly thrown by a demonstrator and suffered a hand laceration. Another officer sustained damage when a smoke grenade detonated and another suffered a knee injury in a fall during a foot pursuit, police said.

The protester who was injured was treated at the scene and taken into custody for assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer.

The suspect was arrested and transported to a jail facility and is released for medical treatment. Charges have been presented for filing in this case and are being reviewed by the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Juvenile Section. Whether these charges are filed and precisely what charges are filed are the sole purview of that office.

### Protest in Hollywood ends with violence and arrests

**Ten people were arrested after a clash between dozens of protesters and Los Angeles Police Department officers in Hollywood on March 13, the one-year anniversary of the death of Breonna Taylor at the hands of police in Kentucky. Three officers and one protester were injured.**

The demonstration began around 8 p.m. and started peacefully. Demonstrators marched on Santa Monica and Sunset Boulevards, as well as Vine Street. Police said a group dressed in all black clothing began spray painting graffiti, breaking windows and lighting trash cans on fire. Social media posts show a tense standoff between police and demonstrators near Lexington and Vine Street. Many of the demonstrators wore helmets, tactical vests and gas masks, and carried sticks, batons and shields.

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### A memorial was placed near Olympic Boulevard and Overland Avenue for Monique Munoz, who was killed in a collision on Feb. 17.
Changes to code of conduct limit social media interactions

BY JUSTIN SAYERS

Members of the West Hollywood City Council will have to make changes to how they interact with each other on social media after approving an update to the city’s code of conduct that adheres to new state law about what elected officials can discuss online.

The council passed two separate motions at a meeting on Monday, March 15, to make four total changes to the code of conduct, which was last updated in 2016.

The council unanimously approved the first three suggestions—from city staff regarding the code of conduct: the addition of gender-neutral pronouns to the code, adding recommendations from the city’s ethics task force that were approved last year that call for officials to recuse themselves from voting on city-funded grants to nonprofits if they serve on the board of the nonprofit, and the changes to the social media policy.

The social media was included to adhere to changes to the Brown Act, a statewide law that generally requires any legislative body to keep meetings and discussion open to the public, which went into effect this year.

West Hollywood City Attorney Lauren Langer said during the meeting the changes ultimately limit how members of the council can interact with each other online, similar to limitations to how they interact offline.

She said that they will no longer be able to respond to another council member’s communication, comment or post if the topic concerns city business. They only can answer questions from the public, provide information to the public, solicit information about city business, repost city business or discuss private business among themselves.

She suggested avoiding tagging one another in posts, responding to posts that multiple council members are tagged in, or starting a new thread if they are all tagged in something together.

“Social media is a big part of everybody’s lives. This new Brown Act rule was significant enough that it should go into the code of conduct,” she said.

Councilman John D’Amico asked if the policy only applies to unfinished and new business only—although Langer said that it is a gray area because completed business might come back later.

“I would err on the side of caution,” she said.

Multiple council members agreed with training with specific examples of what may or may not be acceptable to avoid any violations.

“There are so many nuances when it comes to social media. Really having all different types of specific examples and having training for everyone would be really helpful,” Councilwoman Sepi Shyne said.

Councilwoman Lauren Meister joked that there should be “no more hearts on Twitter, anymore.”

The council passed a fourth change to the code of conduct regarding conflicts of interest, with a 3-2 vote, that updated the city’s policy on accepting business in one’s personal or professional capacity that will come before the body of an elected or appointed official for a decision.

Examples provided by staff included a city commissioner who is also a lawyer representing clients in obtaining regulatory business licenses or development entitlements, a landlord or tenant lawyer serving on the rent stabilization commission, or an art consultant serving on the arts commission.

Langer said the changes recommend avoiding taking on the work, affairs, or profit in a task force or board that move community members in a task force or board that move community members in a way that could be seen as a conflict of interest.

She suggested avoiding tagging one’s personal or professional body should not only recuse themselves from discussing the item, but the entire meeting. Additionally, if they have a financial conflict of interest, they are asked to avoid any discussion of that item with city staff or the legislative body until the item is finished.

The proposal was supported by Shyne, Meister and D’Amico, Mayor Lindsey Horvath and Councilman John Erickson voted against it, with Erickson stating he felt the policy was “too broad.”

Langer said they’d try to avoid those nuances with training.

Church’s suit against WHCHC, developer remains ongoing

**FBCBH seeks two luxury condominiums, parking spaces**

BY CAMERON KISZLA

No resolution has been reached in a West Hollywood church’s lawsuit against the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation and a Beverly Hills developer.

After a status conference meeting last month, Mark Kawa, an attorney representing the First Baptist Church of Beverly Hills, said the church is “still in discussions” regarding its suit against the WHCHC and developer David Aghaei of Oak Road Capital.

According to the lawsuit filed by the church at 9052 Cynthia St. in West Hollywood, when the church sold three parcels of land at $910-916 N. Wehrly Drive in 2017 to Aghaei for the development of luxury condominiums, the church was promised two units and 18 to 20 parking spaces in addition to the $1.5 million sale price. However, Aghaei, in 2019, sold the land to the Wetherly Palms project for $2.65 million.

In the church’s belief and contention the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation cannot satisfy that obligation to provide luxury condominiums because they are not in the business of building luxury condos. Kawa told the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press last month. “They are in the business of building affordable housing. We do not believe that West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, whether their intentions are honorable or otherwise, is going to perform the obligations that they’re required to perform.”

The WHCHC declined to comment, with Sam Borelli, the WHCHC’s director of external affairs, noting that: “we remain focused on our mission of building homes and providing services that move community members from insecurity to stability.”

Aghaei, who declined to comment, served as a West Hollywood Planning Commissioner until 2018, and if he had been a commissioner when a project related to this property went before the commission, he would have had to recuse himself.

Kawa said the church “[doesn’t] know yet” if there is any connection between Aghaei’s role on the Planning Commission and the sale of the property to the WHCHC, which happened after he left the commission.

“We have yet to undertake extensive discovery on that issue,” Kawa said.
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JUSTINCASEBH.org
Organizers of Just In Case BH are working to fill leadership positions before starting emergency preparedness training.

Local federal lawmakers tout rescue plan

■ House Democrats point to multi-pronged benefits for Americans

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

U.S. Reps. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) and Ted Lieu (D-Torrance) held a briefing with other federal lawmakers from Southern California on March 11 to outline what people can expect from the American Rescue Plan, legislation that President Joe Biden signed into law the same day.

The $1.9 trillion relief package includes billions in funding for states and cities, as well as direct financial assistance to individu- als and those who are unemployed. Millions of Americans earning less than $80,000 a year will receive $1,400 stimulus payments, which the U.S. Treasury began sending out this week. The rescue package also includes funding for COVID-19 vaccines and recovery efforts aimed at getting the country back on track in the coming months.

“We are very excited that President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan. The intent of the plan is to get us on the road to recovery by helping to get children back into arms, kids into schools, cash into pockets and people into jobs,” Lieu said. “I’m very pleased that this is going out to Southern California, Los Angeles County is going to get approximately $1.9 billion from the American Rescue Plan.”

Lieu broke the plan down into three general categories. He said it will provide funding for more vac- cine production, contact tracing and other programs to suppress the virus. It will also offer economic relief with stimulus payments and funding to continue unemployment insurance. Third, it will provide billions of dollars for local cities, which can decide the best ways to use the money in their jurisdictions. The city of Los Angeles will receive approximately $1.3 billion, while Beverly Hills will receive approximately $6.3 million and West Hollywood will receive approximately $6.6 million. The amount each city receives is based on population and formulas taking into account the age of the population, poverty and density.

Schiff said the American Rescue Plan was sorely needed and will provide help for struggling people until the virus subsides and the economy improves.

“I’m just thrilled with the passage of the American Rescue Plan. It’s going to help many tens of millions of Americans who are struggling right now to put food on the table and a roof over their heads. This is probably the most significant anti-poverty measure within a genera- tion,” Schiff said. “It will provide a much-needed infusion of resources into the rollout of the vaccination. It will help us reopen our schools by giving them the resources they need to reopen and reopen safely. It will help small businesses with another infusion of resources. It will help cities and states avoid further rounds of layoffs.”

Schiff also highlighted a provi- sion that will extend unemployment payments through Labor Day and provide an additional $300 per week. He said he fought for a provi- sion that will provide unemploy- ment payments for workers with multiple incomes, including actors, musicians and entertainment indus- try professionals. Those employees, referred to as gig workers, had been ineligible for compensation under a previous stimulus package in 2020.

“People are excited about it. It’s really, very, very exciting for all of us,” Markowitz said. “We’re trying to cover all those bases. People feel more secure if they’re prepared.”

She said they are also still in the process of developing a manual to be delivered to every household in Beverly Hills about the program. That’s part of a push to make the program more sustainable, should some volunteers relinquish their posts due to age or other commit- ments.

“We’re trying to make this pro- gram sustainable for years and years and years,” she said.

The program will hit its offi- cial launch in the next couple months, and Barton said the next step will be to provide emer- gency preparedness training for volunteers. He said those skills, which include fire suppression and the ability to stop bleeding, are useful outside of the pro- gram.

He cited two examples of past trainees that were able to stop a fire and save the leg of a person who was a victim of a car colli- sion.

“The training is great because it’s not only for the big disaster, but it’s also for day-to-day instances that happen,” he said.

Those who want to get involved can visit justincasebh.org.

“People have really been excited about it,” Markowitz said. “They’ve really been excited, they’ll provide the best service possible once the program is up and running.”

“We’re trying to make this program sustainable for years and years,” she said. “It’s really, very, very exciting for all of us.”

The mixed-earner provision is designed to really target that group that has multiple employment sources. Many are in a difficult sit- uation because they have a small amount of W2, or traditional income, but get most of their income from 1099s. Because they have a small amount of W2 income, they were disqualified from getting the full benefit. We are not able to make them whole in terms of unemployment compensation, but we are able to give them that added benefit. If they were to lose one form of employment they would still qualify, but it might affect the amount of their unemployment compensation.”

Other lawmakers including U.S. Reps. Tony Cardenas (D-Pacoima) and Scott Peters (D-San Diego) dis- cussed implications the American Rescue Act will have on their con- stituents in the San Fernando Valley and San Diego, respectively. Lieu concluded by saying he will continue working with colleagues in Congress to advance more legislation to pro- vide additional relief, with the goal of ending the pandemic quickly and rejuvenating the economy.

“It’s a matter of priorities,” Lieu said. “The debate believe providing unemployment benefits and getting schools reopened and shots in peo- ple’s arms is what we need to be doing right now, and that’s why we are doing it.”

BY JUSTIN SAYERS

The program was launched last year as a way to bring residents, businesses and city services lead- ers together to assist each other before, during and after an emer- gency preparedness disaster prepared- ness, organizational leadership and communication, according to Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton.

“Right now, the city of Beverly Hills has a leadership fire and police departments, and they’ll provide the best service they can, but they’ll get over- whelmed in a major disaster,” he said. “What this program does is bring the community together to basically help them help themselves to take care of their own neighborhood and their own areas, which is huge, because the fire department, the police department will be dealing with the large incidents, and we need the residents to really take care of the smaller areas that need help.”

Since starting work on the program back in May 2020, Just in Case BH organizers have been working to fill leadership positions in the program. Just In Case BH breaks the city into nine zones, which are represent- ed by zone coordinators, neigh- borhood coordinators, and block captains.

Each zone has a neighborhood meeting place to report to in an emergency, where first aid and supplies can be provided.

Vera Markowitz, head of the advisory committee for the pro- gram, said they have filled many of those positions with “different people who do different things.”

The goal is to leverage the talent from the community – whether it’s engineers, doctors, search and rescue professionals – that can help in an emer- gency.

They are also working on cre- ating a website that will serve as an informational hub, both before, during and after an emer- gency.

“People are excited about it.... It’s really, very, very exciting for all of us,” Markowitz said. “We’re trying to cover all those bases. People feel more secure if they’re prepared.”

She said they are also still in the process of developing a manual to be delivered to every household in Beverly Hills about the program. That’s part of a push to make the program more sustainable, should some volunteers relinquish their posts due to age or other commit- ments.

“The program will hit its offi- cial launch in the next couple months, and Barton said the next step will be to provide emer- gency preparedness training for volunteers. He said those skills, which include fire suppression and the ability to stop bleeding, are useful outside of the pro- gram.

He cited two examples of past trainees that were able to stop a fire and save the leg of a person who was a victim of a car colli- sion.

“The training is great because it’s not only for the big disaster, but it’s also for day-to-day instances that happen,” he said.

Those who want to get involved can visit justincasebh.org.
Judge denied restaurant’s request to reopen before county entered red tier

BY JUSTIN SAYERS

A judge initially denied a request for a temporary restraining order to reopen the Classic Cat restaurant, but the owners of the refurbished eatery on the Sunset Strip did open their doors this week after California loosened restrictions to allow indoor dining.

During a hearing last Friday, Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Elaine W. Mandel denied a final ruling for the restaurant, located at 8830 Sunset Blvd., as part of a civil rights lawsuit filed by the owners against the city of West Hollywood and Los Angeles County Public Health Department.

“The judge’s decision was made with the caveat that changes to dining restrictions could occur in the next few days, with a show-cause hearing scheduled for Wednesday after press time,” said Donn Berdahl, co-owner of the Classic Cat, said Monday, March 15, that the restaurant planned to reopen on Tuesday, March 16, marking the first time they’ve allowed customers since Feb. 23 and second time overall since their planned March 2020 reopening was delayed due to the pandemic.

Berdahl said the restaurant’s regular capacity is 110 people—meaning they’ll be able to accommodate 27 guests at a time, or about 5 1/2 tables. When they opened for the first time during similar circumstances for a brief stretch in July, he said they were barely able to pay their bills.

“I labeled the current survival scenario as ‘naïve to the fact that this is an uphill battle. We’re going to do our best to see if we can make a go at it,’ he said. “We plan on going full steam ahead. Fortunately we have enough people and generate enough income to pay our employees and pay our rent.”

He said that the restaurant has already turned down 190 reservations after the lawsuit was filed and subsequent media coverage.

“The demand is there. We think that part of the world and some-thing that we would like to go back to,” he said.

The restaurant closed after city and county inspectors issued a citation, prompting the lawsuit that alleged that they were targeted by the city and county and did not have a right to due process.

The Los Angeles Department of Public Health has declined to comment specifically on the lawsuit, only reiterating the dining room “is an enclosed room with a retractable roof, which does not meet the state Department of Public Health's definition of what is considered an outdoor activity,” according to a statement.

“While the city of West Hollywood cannot comment on any specific legal actions, the city is in the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the city actively enforces the L.A. County Health Officer Order and related protocols,” the statement said.

Earlier this month, the public health department sent a letter to the owners clarifying that the state has said that all permanent patios fall under the same guidelines for temporary structures.

“Based on the evaluations conducted of your restaurants on Feb. 11 and Feb. 16, 2021, your restaurant doesn’t meet state guidance,” the letter read. “As a result, your restaurant is limited to takeout and delivery only.”

Berdahl said that even with the judge’s initial ruling—and the reopening—they’re going to move forward with the lawsuit to recoup lost capital, damages and attorney fees. He’s said they’re missing out on $5,000 a day in revenue and potentially $20,000 for events.

“It’s a battle of survival and we’ve come this far. I’ve put my life savings in this, so what’s the alternative, close up shop?” he said.

“The damage that has been done has been done. We know we’re fighting a monolith that has unlimited funds and time. We’re not naive to the fact that this is an uphill battle.

“If we shut a third time, obviously that’s a death knell,” he added.

Photo courtesy of the Classic Cat
Owner Donn Berdahl said that if Classic Cat closes a third time, it may spell the end for the Sunset Strip restaurant.

Notable quotes

“A little madness in the spring is wholesome even for the king.

The complete poems of Emily Dickinson, No. 1333 [c.1875]

Emily Dickinson
1830-1886

With the vernal equinox occurring this Saturday and the college basketball March Madness Tournament about to jump start, here’s to a new and bright spring, 2021.

-Editors

(source: “Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations”)
Bloom recognizes Betty White as woman of the year

Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) has selected television legend and animal rights advocate Betty White as the 50th Assembly District’s 2021 Woman of the Year.

White received the award in recognition of Women’s History Month on Saturday in a virtual ceremony on March 15, along with other women from across California who were also recognized by their state senators and Assembly members for their accomplishments and contributions to the state.

“Betty White is often called a national treasure. She is known not only for her prolific career in television, becoming an activist for women for pursuing legislation to protect animals, and always with kindness, warmth and humor,” Bloom said.

A seven-time Emmy Award winner, White is recognized as one of the first women to produce a sit-com and was one of the first women to hold positions both in front of and behind the camera. A dedicated supporter of animal health, White is a trustee of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association and serves as president of the Wildlife Waystation, a wildlife rehabilitation and education center.

“I am surprised and honored to be recognized for Woman of the Year. I can’t think of a better woman to call ‘good to be,’” White said.

“Betty White represents the best of Los Angeles and the business of entertainment. A staple on the television screen, she has brought laughter into the homes of generations of families. She is adament on using her consider- able platform to bring awareness to issues that affect animals, and always with kindness, warmth and humor,” Bloom said.

White has earned numerous awards during her entertainment career spanning over 80 years, including a career achievement award at the Television Critics Association, a Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award in Acting from the American Women in Radio and Television, AP Entertainer of the Year, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Broadcasters and Cable Hall of Fame, a People’s Choice Award for Favorite TV icon, the TV Land Legend Award and the Icon Award for Women in Television from the Paley Center for Media. She has also been added to the Guinness World Records under the title, Longest Career as an TV Career for an Entertainer (Female) and was named the world’s Most Trusted Celebrity by Reuters.

Legislator consider group of environmental bills

While recently celebrating the protection of natural resources during Ocean Day at the California State Capitol, legislators including state Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) announced a package of bills to address the mounting waste crisis affecting the coastline, waterways and landfills.

Led by Allen, the group includes Sens. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) and Assemblymembers Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica), Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles), Wendy Carrillo (D-Los Angeles), Laura Friedman (D-Glendale), Phil Ting (D-San Francisco), Steve Bennett (D-Ventura) and Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego).

“Plastic waste is a global threat to our oceans, marine life, natural resources and public health,” said Allen, who chairs the California Senate Environmental Quality Committee. “But it’s also hitting regular folks who are being asked to pay for the cleanup through trash pickup rates to put patches on our broken waste management system. I’m glad to be joined by my colleagues as we work to tackle this issue. It’s going to take a coordinat- ed, multi-faceted approach to begin to address this urgent financial, health, equity and environmental challenge.”

The package of legislation includes Senate Bill 54, the Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act. It will ensure California is on the forefront of reducing pollution from single-use packaging by keeping the most problematic disposable items out of the waste system, saving local governments millions of dollars in disposal costs and protect- ing the environment. The bill requires producers to reduce disposables by right-sizing packaging and which includes microfibers. It also sets ambitious recycling and composting requirements for materi- als that do not biodegrade, including disposable packaging and food serv- ice disposable ware to be recyclable or compostable by 2032.

The package also includes Senate Bill 343, the Truth in Labeling for Recyclable Material Act. SB 343 will reduce consumer confusion about which plastics are recyclable in California by building on the Truth in Environmental Advertising law by prohibiting the use of the word recyclable on products that are not actually made from recyclable materials. SB 343 will extend this prohibition to also include the chas- ing arrows symbol, which most con- sumers believe denotes recyclabi- lity.

Assembly Bill 649, the California Buy Recycled Act, will require state agencies to adhere to the same min- imum content standards for procure- ment as private industry. Assembly Bill 802, the Microfiber Filtration in State and Commercial Facilities Act, will reduce the leakage of microfibers into the natural environ- ment and AB 818, which will require pre-moistened, nonwoven disposable wipes to be labeled with the phrase “do not flush” and pre- vents manufacturers from making claims that products are flushable. Additional legislation would regu- late the use of food service plac- ement, plastic film in e-commerce, microfiber filtration in washing machines, overseas recycling exports, composting and the way recyclable materials are recycled.

Allen recognizes mural artist for contributions

California Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) has selected Hollywood Hills street artist Corie Mattie as the 26th Senate District Woman of the Year.

“Corie has taken one of the most challenging periods of our lifetime and channeled it into something moving and meaningful,” Allen said. “Her work is testiment to the power of art and the ability to deliver something that has felt scarce over the last year – hope. Corie’s designs and messages elevate every community they touch, helping remind us that brighter days are ahead.”

After several years in the sports industry, Mattie left her job to pur- sue her true passion for art around the world through art. She brings humility and personal experiences to her creative endeavor and workforce often in large public spaces. One of her prominent murals with a mes- sage, “Cancel Plans. Not Humanity,” can be seen at the cor- ner of Beverly Boulevard and Doheny Drive.

“I am honored to receive the recognition of Woman of the Year.2021. I appreciate Senator Allen’s央企 remodels under the Women of the Year award to bring awareness to our communities. Art is a powerful platform to bring awareness of the issues that face our community and the world. Corie’s work is a shining example of how art can bring beauty into our lives and help us through the darkest of times. Art expression is vital to the world we live in, and will continue to make our community grow and heal.”

Santiago pays tribute to public banking advocate

Assemblymember Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles) has honored Trinity Tran as Woman of the Year for the 53rd Assembly District.

“Trinity Tran is an example of a model public banking advocate,” Santiago said. “I am absolutely honored to give this distinction to Trinity Tran. She has worked tirelessly to fight for economic justice for many mem- bers of my district and people across California,” he added.

As co-founder and lead organizer of California Public Banking Alliance, Public Bank L.A. and Divest L.A., Tran has mobilized activists in Los Angeles and Sacramento to advocate for public banking options at the city and the state level. She formed a statewide coalition to support AB 857 – the Public Banking Act – which was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2019. Tran has also worked to address food insecurity in Los Angeles as the volunteer executive director of Urban Partners Los Angeles, which runs one of the largest food banks in the area. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, UPLA has provided food to thousands of individuals and families.

“I am incredibly honored to receive this recognition from Assemblymember Miguel Santiago and the 53rd Assembly District,” Tran said.
LaBonge was top dog at Pink’s on La Brea

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Family and friends of the late former Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge gathered on March 12 for the debut of the Mr. Los Angeles Tom LaBonge Hot Dog – a Polish sausage topped with sautéed onions, charred asparagus, bacon and nacho cheese.

Owners Richard and Gloria Pink and Beverly Pink-Wolfe welcomed guests and unveiled the new hot dog, which many attendees enthusiastically enjoyed with a side of French fries. LaBonge, who represented the 4th District from 2011-15, died on Jan. 7. Known as a tireless cheerleader for the city Los Angeles, LaBonge visited Pink’s Hot Dogs at least twice a week and loved sharing the experience of being at an L.A. landmark with other guests, Pink said.

“What Tom meant to me and my family, how he felt about Los Angeles. He loved the city and we loved him,” he added. “Tom was a cheerleader and a booster for Los Angeles, and many other family members only recently learned about his brother’s personal achievements.”

LaBonge’s wife, Brigid, and children, Charles and Mary Cate, helped unveil the new hot dog at Pink’s with owners Richard and Gloria Pink, and Beverly Pink-Wolfe, front.

Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles

Girl Scouts donate cookies to frontline vaccine workers

Troop 4475 of Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles donated cookies to workers at the Dodger Stadium vaccination site on March 12, marking National Girl Scout Day along with their L.A. City partners since 2020, providing access to free services inclusive of COVID-19 testing and now vaccinations.

Soleil Moon Frye. CORE has been working on the frontlines with their L.A. City partners since March 2020, providing access to COVID-19 pandemic, many troops pivoted to utilizing Digital Cookie, which enables customers to order cookies online for home delivery. However, this year, Troop 4475 kicked their cookie season up a notch by initiating a service project. At the Dodger Stadium site, representatives from CORE thanked Troop 4475 for their donation and congratulated them on their hard work.

For information, visit girlscout-la.org/findcookies or call (213)213-0123.

The late former Councilman Tom LaBonge’s wife, Brigid, center, and children, Charles and Mary Cate, helped unveil the new hot dog at Pink’s with owners Richard and Gloria Pink, and Beverly Pink-Wolfe, front.

Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles

Eggciting Easter

M E N U

Thursday, April 1 through Sunday April 4

Entrées

Bourbon Glazed Ham
Or Roasted Salmon

Adults: $29.95
Children: $17.95

Children’s order does not include soup or dessert

D I N E I N O R
T A K E - O U T !

Side Dishes

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Charred Asparagus
Creamy Mashed Potatoes
Soup du Jour
Dinner Rolls
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Du-par's

- Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Park Labrea News/Beverly Press

9 March 18, 2021
The Los Angeles Department of Transportation has announced a new express lane service to L.A. vaccination sites for seniors and paratransit clients. LADOT Cityride, which provides on-demand transportation to eligible seniors and individuals with accessibility needs, is offering the express service, which will pick up Cityride members who have scheduled vaccination appointments on request and provide transportation directly to the front of the line. The vehicle will wait while the individual receives their vaccination and return them to their point of origin at no charge.

"Transportation should never be the gap that stands between our residents and the vaccine," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said. "Vaccines are our ticket to ending this pandemic, and this program will help break down a barrier that can keep our most vulnerable residents from accessing these life-saving doses."

Express lane service is available for appointments at vaccination sites at Dodger Stadium; California State University, Los Angeles; and the Forum in Inglewood. Riders must have an appointment for vaccination and be an active Cityride participant to use the service. The vaccine will be given in the van. The driver will remain in the vehicle with the passenger during the entire process.

Clients should book trips one to two business days in advance and should state that a trip is needed for a vaccine appointment. Trips must be made during normal business hours.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, LADOT Transit has stepped up to protect the health and safety of our community," LADOT General Manager Seleta Reynolds said. "The Citywide Express Lane service is just the latest example to help those who may struggle to access drive-through vaccination locations. I encourage everyone eligible to take advantage of this service and get vaccinated."

For more information, visit adottransit.com/cityride.

City puts seniors in express lanes for vaccinations

After more than a year of mandated closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art will reopen its galleries on April 1. The Broad Contemporary Art Museum and the Renwick Pavilion will house the exhibits and will reopen.

LACMA has implemented new health and safety protocols for in-person visitors. All visitors must complete an online health screening and pass a body temperature check. Masks must be worn at all times, except when eating or drinking.

Physical distancing of at least 6 feet from others must be maintained. All visitors must follow traffic-flow directions to enter and exit buildings, and one-way traffic flow along pathways in galleries. To reduce gathering, new gallery guidelines have been implemented and hand sanitizers and other stations will be located throughout the campus.

The LACMA Store and LACMA Cafe steamer will also be open on April 1. Ray’s & Stark Bar and Coffee + Milk will reopen on April 7.

All in-person public programs, including tours, talks, panels, art classes and workshops, films, concerts, will continue to take place online until further notice. The museum plans to continue engaging online audiences through LACMA @ Home, a digital space to watch, learn, listen and browse the museum’s virtual resources.

LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit lacma.org.

The Petersen approaches starting line for reopening

The Petersen Automotive Museum will reopen to the public on Thursday, March 25, with new exhibits, new vehicles and new operating hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.

"To express gratitude to those serving on the front lines during the pandemic, the museum will offer healthcare workers and first responders complimentary admission for themselves and up to three immediate family members for the rest of 2021.

The museum will follow health and safety guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state of California and the county of Los Angeles to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Staff members and visitors are required to wear masks. Social distancing of at least 6 feet will be enforced. Entrance and exit signs will mark each exhibit and there will be designated navigation paths for each exhibit. The museum will also increase the frequency of cleaning and offer hand sanitizing stations on each floor. Interactive exhibits, including the Forza racing simulators and Discovery Center, will remain closed.

“We are excited to welcome visitors back to the museum in a safe and responsible manner,” Petersen Automotive Museum Executive Director Terry L. Karges said. “We cannot thank the healthcare workers and first responders enough for everything they have done for our community. We hope this small token of our appreciation signals how grateful we are to them and their families.”

During the closure, the Petersen virtually launched three new exhibits including “Supercars: A Century of Spectacle and Speed,” which showcases the evolution of the supercar; “Star Wars: The Power of the Prop,” which celebrates the iconic props and costumes of the Star Wars saga; and “Racing for the Future: A Global Conversation on Electric Vehicle Technology,” which features the world’s leading EV manufacturers from various perspectives.

The Petersen Automotive Museum is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd. Information and reservations can be made at (323)930-CARS or visit Petersen.org.

The museum is ready to turn the key and welcome visitors back with new exhibits, as well as health and safety protocols, in place.

Photo courtesy of LACMA

LACMA will reopen doors to visitors on April 1

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LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit lacma.org.

Photo courtesy of LACMA

Physical distancing and other health and safety protocols will be in place when the Los Angeles County Museum of Art reopens. 
Cheri Todoroff, director of Community Programs at the Department of Health Services, has been selected to succeed Phil Ansell as head of the county’s Homeless Initiative upon his retirement on March 31, Chief Executive Officer Fiesa Davenport announced.

Todoroff, a native Angeleno, will begin her new post on April 1. She is currently the director of Community Programs at DHS, where she oversees Housing for Health, a pillar of the county’s efforts to combat homelessness. Before being promoted to her current position, she was the director of Housing for Health and served as an executive in the program for nearly nine years. She has been with the county for 32 years.

The Homeless Initiative was launched by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and CEO on Aug. 17, 2015, with Ansell as its first director. Since that time, the 88-city, 88-agency collaboration has spearheaded a countywide movement to prevent and combat homelessness, including a record $2.6 billion Measure H in March 2017 and doubling of the number of people seeking services each year through the homeless services system.

Todoroff is an experienced manager with extensive skills in facilitating essential collaborations among county departments and the county’s health and behavioral health partners, community-based organizations, support service providers, interim and permanent housing developers and housing authorities, as well as other stakeholders.

The county is extremely fortunate to have a leader of Cheri Todoroff’s stature to take the helm of the county’s continuing Homeless Initiative following the retirement of Phil Ansell as the Initiative’s inaugural director,” Davenport said. “She combines a detailed knowledge of the county’s homeless services system, tremendous expertise and a vast network of relationships which will enable her to seamlessly lead the Homeless Initiative through the rest of the current pandemic and beyond.”

Todoroff acknowledged the magnitude of the challenge ahead and said she will build on a strong foundation of partnership and collaboration to lead the initiative into its next phase.

“I am grateful for this opportunity to continue serving Los Angeles County and its residents, especially those who are the most vulnerable and look forward to continuing progress as the county and in our part in the region,” she said.

“Toward this end, we are focused on continued efforts to address the humanitarian crisis facing our county,” Todoroff said. “The COVID-19 pandemic has brought an even greater urgency to our work. We have more than doubled the number of people we support and are working to ensure we have the right people in the right places.”

WeHo memorial is a misguided idea

WeHo city manager to retire, new chapter)

As a former mayor, council member and council deputy in West Hollywood, I wanted to acknowledge West Hollywood’s incredible City Manager Paul Arevalo upon the announcement of his pending retirement.

I have always said that his hiring was the key turning point in the history of the city.

During the 1984 campaign for cityhood, and even in the early years after West Hollywood was created, many questioned whether the city had enough of a tax base and fiscal ability to survive. Doubts were expressed that we might have to return the community to L.A. County control.

Arevalo was paramount to WeHo’s success

Re “WeHo city manager to retire, new chapter,” March 11 issue

As a former mayor, council member and council deputy in West Hollywood, I wanted to acknowledge West Hollywood’s incredible City Manager Paul Arevalo upon the announcement of his pending retirement. His hiring in 1990 as director of finance quickly put this concern in the rearview mirror. The city having added to its reserves virtually every year has largely been because of his fiscal discipline and vision.

I was proud to be one of the West Hollywood council members who voted to promote him to city manager -- one of the best decisions I have helped make during my 30-year career in public office. He is the most capable city manager I am aware of, which is why he has been leading the city as interim for over 20 years, a rarity for most cities.

Paul can look back and know that his capability and vision helped make West Hollywood the wonderful city that it is.

Crews are building underground passageways and rooms known as appendages at the future subway stations along the Purple Line Extension project.

Excavation and the construction of underground structures in and around subway stations will continue this week on the first two phases of the Purple Line Extension project.

Crews are still digging at the Wilshire/Rodeo station but nearing completion, expected later this month. Lane and sidewalk closures remain in place around the staging yards near West Hollywood/Rodeo. Work is occurring 24 hours underground.

Gondege was able to work on weekends and at night around subway stations will continue through October 2022. To accommodate the work, a K-Rail work zone will be located on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard between the San Vicente Boulevard and a point mid-block between Gale and Robertson avenues. The work will include excavation, material delivery, hauling and construction.

K-Rail work zones also remain on Ogden Drive to two lanes in each direction between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards.

Similar work on underground rooms and passageways, also known as appendages, is occurring at the Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire-La Brea stations. Crews will be working on the streets around the future subway stations, requiring intermittent and permanent lane closures. Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction between San Diego Way and Spaulding Avenu. Ogden Drive will be intermittently closed south of Wilshire Boulevard.

To accommodate construction near the Wilshire/La Brea station, Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction between Detroit and June Streets through September. Hauling and deliveries to and from both La Brea Avenue yards will continue as tunnelling progresses.

K-Rail work zones also remain on Wilshire Boulevard near Rimpau and Plymouth boulevards. Wilshire Boulevard has been reduced to two lanes in each direction between June Street and Mirfield Road, and Windsor and Plymouth boulevards.

Near Wilshire/Western, tunnels continue. Intermittent single-lane closures will be necessary on Wilshire Boulevard between Avenue of the Stars and Manhattan Place.

Letters to the Editor

Re “Proposed memorial in West Hollywood would be a hollow sacrifice to suicide victims,” March 11 issue

I am neither a psychiatrist nor psychologist but I am an historian of, among other issues, suicide, from the present to the present.

Any decision to create a memorial for suicide victims) will only increase the problem. The idea of a memorial is a “self-killing.” According to what design specifications would you build it? How would you build a memorial commemorating suicide victims? A bridge over a freeway ramp? Any memorial for suicide victims? A social memorial? A bridge over a freeway? A memorial site will only increase suicide.

According to what social theories would you design this memorial? From Durkheim to the present. The history of the city.

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Wyse
West Hollywood

Park Labrea News/Beverly Press 11 March 2021

Homeless initiative names interim director

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission on March 10 approved the recommendation of its Ad Hoc Committee on Governance. The report laid out a path to a systemic failure to help people when they need it most. We can and must do better,” Olivia said. “We must work in alignment across jurisdictions, which is challenging in a large, decentralized area like Los Angeles. This report recommends putting city and county at the same table to build upon the unprecedented work of the county and its partners to help those in great need.”

For information, visit homeless.lacounty.gov.

LAHSA report offers path to streamlining governance

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Gondege was able to work on weekends and at night around subway stations will continue through October 2022. To accommodate the work, a K-Rail work zone will be located on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard between the San Vicente Boulevard and a point mid-block between Gale and Robertson avenues. The work will include excavation, material delivery, hauling and construction.

K-Rail work zones also remain on Ogden Drive to two lanes in each direction between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards.

Similar work on underground rooms and passageways, also known as appendages, is occurring at the Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire-La Brea stations. Crews will be working on the streets around the future subway stations, requiring intermittent and permanent lane closures. Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction between San Diego Way and Spaulding Avenu. Ogden Drive will be intermittently closed south of Wilshire Boulevard.

To accommodate construction near the Wilshire/La Brea station, Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction between Detroit and June Streets through September. Hauling and deliveries to and from both La Brea Avenue yards will continue as tunnelling progresses.

K-Rail work zones also remain on Wilshire Boulevard near Rimpau and Plymouth boulevards. Wilshire Boulevard has been reduced to two lanes in each direction between June Street and Mirfield Road, and Windsor and Plymouth boulevards.

Near Wilshire/Western, tunnels continue. Intermittent single-lane closures will be necessary on Wilshire Boulevard between Avenue of the Stars and Manhattan Place.

Crews are building underground passageways and rooms known as appendages at the future subway stations along the Purple Line Extension project.

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Brosthers Meatballs

A new 100% plant-based Italian biscoto opened in Hollywood by brothers and food industry veterans Maurro and Sergio Corbia. For over three decades, they have been feeding L.A. diners at Mauro’s Cafe inside Fred Segal. They joined forces with second-generation Italian chef Mark Mittleman, their self-proclaimed brother, and created the concept for Brothers Meatballs. Sandwiches include the green verde made with Brothers meatballs, arugula, pesto green tomato sauce, calabrese peppers, basil and fresh mozzarella. The bianco truffle sandwich is made with Brothers meatballs, arugula, pesto green tomato sauce, calabrese peppers, basil and fresh mozzarella. The bianco truffle sandwich is made with Brothers meatballs, arugula, pesto green tomato sauce, calabrese peppers, basil and fresh mozzarella. The bianco truffle sandwich is made with Brothers meatballs, arugula, pesto green tomato sauce, calabrese peppers, basil and fresh mozzarella. The bianco truffle sandwich is made with Brothers meatballs, arugula, pesto green tomato sauce, calabrese peppers, basil and fresh mozzarella.

Dunkin’s new spring food and beverages

For a limited time, customers can celebrate spring green items including Dunkin’s Irish Crème, a smooth velvety flavor of sweet creme and vanilla, enhanced with the flavor of Irish creme whiskey. It’s available in hot, iced and frozen coffees, as well as other Dunkin’ handcrafted espresso drinks, lattes, cappuccinos, Americanos and macchiatos. Other March specials include a new avocado toast for just $3, a new green matcha topped donut and new blueberry matcha latte that is available hot, iced or frozen. 6201 Hollywood Blvd., (323)536-9220.

Casa Vegas brings backFoo Fighters plate and cocktail

Through the end of April, a special collaboration created by Foo Fighters lead singer Dave Grohl and Casa Vegas is available to enjoy while dining outdoors or for takeaway. The Foo Fighters Special is smoked brisket on homemade flour tortilla with back heat barbecue sauce, Mexican coleslaw, pickled red onion and served with elote, Spanish rice and refried beans for $22. Enjoy with the Los Luchadores Foo shot of La Gritona reposado, fresh lime juice and Modelo especial for $14. The profits from each taco served will be donated to No Us Without You, a charity providing food security for undocumented back-of-house staff and their families created by Va La Hospitality, 13301 Ventura Blvd., (818)788-4868.

STK Steakhouse specials

To honor St. Patrick’s Day, STK is providing $5 lil’ corned beef sliders served with tater tots and $7 leprechaun cucumber ollietto cocktailsthe end of Happy Hour – 3 to 6:30 p.m. – through Sunday, March 21. The corned beef sliders are also available for dinner as a set of three for $21 for takeout and delivery. 930 Hilgard Ave., (310)659-1535.

David Myers’ Adrift Burgers & Bentley

Here’s a one-of-a-kind dining experience from Beverly Hills car rental and Michelin-starred chef David Myers now through April 15. Start with a cavair and truffle cheeseburger while in the driver’s seat of a $250,000 2021 Bentley GTC Mulliner Edition. The white Bentley GTC with red leather interior will be dropped off at your home to take and drive for the day. Directions to Adrift Burger Bar will be provided. At Adrift, you will pick up a super decadent burger topped with cavair, edible gold leaf, a fried egg and truffle cheese. Sides and non-alcoholic drinks will also be provided. This is the perfect surprise engagement, life celebration or self-care personal pampering. This experience is $2,000, and proceeds benefit Covenant House California, a nonprofit that helps youth who are experiencing homelessness. If you just want the Adrift burger, it can be ordered à la carte for $250. Call (310)956-0500 to book this unique experience 24 hours in advance. This special is dependent on car availability, plus a valid driver’s license and insurance. 1025 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, (424)236-5753.

Slater’s 50/50 fish and chips burger

The new fish and chips burger is available for a limited time at Slater’s 50/50 through April 4. It’s an exciting fusion of surf and burger, featuring a half pound of IPA beer-battered Atlantic cod on top of a pile of house made waffle chips, pickles, malt vinegar slaw and scratch-made tartar sauce. Enjoy dining outdoors or for takeaway. 61 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, (626)765-9700.

Slate Ora & Winston virtual meal event

On Sunday, March 21, be part of James Beard Foundation Taste of America series to celebrate and support local restaurants in the community. Open for Good is a James Beard Foundation campaign committed to helping independent restaurants survive, rebuild and thrive. For more information visit: https://www.openforgood.org/event/ora-winston-virtual-meal-event/

Bushi by Jinya ramon at home

Enjoy Bushi by Jinya ramen kits delivered to your door. Enjoy Bushi by Jinya ramen kits delivered to your door. Enjoy Bushi by Jinya ramen kits delivered to your door. Enjoy Bushi by Jinya ramen kits delivered to your door. Enjoy Bushi by Jinya ramen kits delivered to your door. Enjoy Bushi by Jinya ramen kits delivered to your door. Enjoy Bushi by Jinya ramen kits delivered to your door. Enjoy Bushi by Jinya ramen kits delivered to your door.

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Mini Muffins & Donuts Fresh Fruit Skewers Iea & Apple Juice

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Children’s Tea for 4 - $34.00
Children’s Tea for 6 - $45.00
Children’s Tea for 8 - $56.00

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in the Original Farmers Market • 3rd & Fairfax
323.933.8446 • 323.933.8447
Guests looking to hit the road and enjoy an unforgettable stay in the heart of Beverly Hills as the weather heats up will want to book Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills’ new Summer Escape package.

The award-winning five-star hotel is offering travelers a soothing escape that includes access to a guest room or suite with a terrace and stunning views of the city, an exclusive welcome amenity, a lunch for two guests at the Rooftop by JG and complimentary nightly valet parking for stays between two and five nights. The new Summer Escape Package is available for travel between March 15 and Sept. 30.

“We are so pleased to welcome guests to Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills for a summer retreat and look forward to extending this special offer to local Angelenos and guests in nearby cities and states,” said Vanessa Williams, general manager of Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills.

“With the warm summer months ahead, this is the perfect time to visit our hotel with a refreshing dip in our rooftop pool, a luxurious treatment at La Prairie Spa or delectable creations from chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten.”

The Rooftop by JG, the al-fresco eating and drinking experience that offers panoramic views located atop Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills and helmed by executive chef Vongerichten, has recently reopened with new offerings and hours of operation following the installation of an expansive shade trellis over the rooftop to further improve the guest experience.

Jean-Georges Beverly Hills, the hotel’s signature fine dining experience, currently offers an intimate eight-course tasting option from Thursday to Sunday evenings. The restaurant will open for indoor and outdoor dining tomorrow, March 19, from 5:30 to 10 p.m.

The on-site luxurious La Prairie Spa is also open daily for a range of relaxing services in the 5,000-square-foot spa.

Property safety precautions through Hilton CleanStay program include markers to indicate safe distancing, sanitization systems in high traffic areas, elevated cleaning methods, contactless check-in and check-out, with the addition of environmentally responsible and ultramodern technology. The five-star property also utilizes Electrostatic sprayers to disinfect, Pathosans – an environmentally responsible LEED and Green Seal approved cleaner and disinfectant – and Xenex UV LightStrike Robots.

The Xenex UV robots have long been used in hospitals and deliver up to 4,300 times killing intensity than UV-c mercury vapor. For information, email laxwa.reservations@waldorfastoria.com, call (310)890.6565 or visit WaldorfAstoriaBeverlyHills.com.

During her journey, Raya learns that it takes more than drag-
The Police Blotter provides information on recent criminal activities in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and the area patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions. The content covers incidents from March 7 to March 14, compiled from crime mapping data. The news is intended for a general audience and covers various types of crimes, including burglaries, thefts, and assaults.

**West Hollywood Police Department**

**March 7**
- At 5 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 8300 block of Wilshire.
- An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. Tower at 9:10 p.m.

**March 10**
- At 9:49 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of N. Canon.

**March 11**
- At 3 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 300 block of S. Elm.

**March 12**
- At 9:39 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 9800 block of Durant.

**Los Angeles Police Department**

**March 7**
- At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 700 block of N. Cole.

**March 8**
- An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8900 block of Oak.

**March 9**
- At 4:46 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8900 block of Oak.

**Beverly Hills Police Department**

**March 7**
- At 5 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 8300 block of Wilshire.
- An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1300 block of N. Harper.

**March 10**
- At 11:50 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

**March 11**
- At 6 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1400 block of N. Hayworth.

**March 12**
- At 9:30 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 9100 block of N. Fuller.

**March 13**
- At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1600 block of La Palmas.

**March 14**
- At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6800 block of Sunset at 4:45 p.m.

**Park LaBrea News/Beverly Press**

**March 10**
- At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of N. Highland.
- An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Seward and Melrose at 8 a.m.

**March 11**
- At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Maryland and La Jolla.
- An unauthorized suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Wilton and Wilshire at 11:40 a.m.

**March 13**
- At 4:40 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of S. Bronson.
- At 11:14 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 1600 block of N. La Brea.

**March 14**
- At 12:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 1900 block of Wilshire.
- An arson fire was reported in the 8200 block of Third at 11:50 p.m.

**West Hollywood Sheriff's Station**

**March 7**
- An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1500 block of N. Bronson.

**March 10**
- At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Van Ness and Lemon Grove at 3:30 a.m.
- At 12:50 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Laurel and Beverly.

**March 11**
- At 2:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 1500 block of S. La Cienega at 4:05 p.m.
- At 4:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of N. La Brea.

**March 12**
- At 5:26 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Cahuenga and Yucca.
- An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1600 block of N. Martel.
- At 3:15 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8800 block of Sunset at noon.

**March 13**
- At 11:40 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 1600 block of N. La Brea.
- An arson fire was reported in the 8200 block of Third at 11:50 p.m.

**March 14**
- At 12:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 1900 block of Wilshire.
- An arson fire was reported in the 8200 block of Third at 11:50 p.m.

**March 12**
- At 12:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 1900 block of Wilshire.
- An arson fire was reported in the 8200 block of Third at 11:50 p.m.

**March 13**
- An arson suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1600 block of N. La Brea at 11:05 a.m.
- At 12:45 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7600 block of Sunset.

**March 14**
- At 8:10 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1000 block of Vine.
- An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1500 block of N. Orange at 10 p.m.

**March 15**
- At 1:14 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 1600 block of N. Fuller at 1 a.m.
- At 9:10 a.m., a assault occurred in the 1000 block of N. Bronson.
- At 11:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 5600 block of Wilshire.
- An unknown suspect burglarized a victim in the 5400 block of Harold.

**March 12**
- At 12:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 1900 block of Wilshire.
- An arson fire was reported in the 8200 block of Third at 11:50 p.m.

**March 13**
- At 12:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 1900 block of Wilshire.
- An arson fire was reported in the 8200 block of Third at 11:50 p.m.
Fountain Theatre plans to open outdoor stage in June

The Fountain Theatre has announced that it will host the Los Angeles premiere of “An Octoroon” by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins as the inaugural production on its new outdoor stage. Winner of the Obie Award for Best American Play, Jacobs-Jenkins’ work has earned positive reviews nationwide. “An Octoroon” is a radical, incendiary and subversively funny riff on Dion Boucicault’s once-popular 1859 mustache-twirling melodrama set on a Louisiana plantation. A collision of the Antebellum South and 21st century cultural politics, “An Octoroon” twists larger-than-life stereotypes into blistering social commentary and satire.

“I’m proud the Fountain will introduce this bold play to Los Angeles audiences on our new outdoor stage,” Fountain Theatre Artistic Director Stephen Sachs said. “It could not be timelier. The moment has come for our nation to confront its own racist history. Branden uses satire to get to the dark core of American slavery and the racial stereotypes that continue to plague this country today.”

Earlier this year, the Fountain received approval from the city of Los Angeles to install the outdoor stage to safely present live performances and other events during the pandemic. Construction is set to begin this month, with the opening of “An Octoroon” scheduled in June.

The Fountain Theatre is currently in the process of preparing the site. The parking lot will be repaved and a stage, lighting, sound and video equipment will be installed. Seating for 84 people will be distanced per health and safety guidelines. The entire site will meet all safety requirements for artists and audience members.

For information, visit fountaintheatre.com.

Farmers Market debuts new mural

The Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax, debuted a new mural on March 16. The market collaborated with the Los Angeles Times to develop the project. Local artist Mike Farrell was commissioned to design and paint the mural, which is intended to serve as a photo-op for visitors.

Local artists James Haunt, Caitlin Kuhwald, Andrew Cooper, Wonder Crush and Mister Sampson were also selected to design images for banners that will be on display at the market representing the diversity of Los Angeles. Each artist was tasked to create a work that captures their unique interpretation of the city.

The project debut coincides with the re-launch of the Los Angeles Times’ culture magazine Image, which will publish its first “re-issue” on March 19. The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. For information, visit farmersmark.com.

‘Frankenstein’ among The Wallis’ Ovation nominations

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has picked up 22 nominations from the LA Stage Alliance for its annual Ovation Awards, including Best Season for its productions of “Frankenstein,” “Love Actually Live” and “Sisters in Law.”

“As a performing arts center that both presents work in theater, dance, music and film and produces theater, we are particularly proud of the 22 nominations, which speaks to the significant commitment we have made to our produced work,” said Artistic Director Paul Crewe. “These three very distinctive productions, each of which were developed here in Los Angeles with our collaborating partners, are particularly meaningful not only because of their popularity with audiences, but also because of our dedication to working alongside excellent Los Angeles-based performers, creative teams, makers and technicians. We are grateful to LA Stage Alliance and the Ovation voters for this honor.”

“Frankenstein,” created with Four Larks after Mary Shelley’s classic novel, picked up 11 nominations. The play was an exuberant amalgamation of dynamic physical theatre, live music and experiential design that brought the tale to life in a modern take that spotlighted the dangers of unregulated technology.

“Love Actually Live,” a co-production from The Wallis and the award-winning For the Record Live, received nine nominations. It presented the unforgettable holiday classic in a three-dimensional world in which the film and live-action intertwined with an all-star cast of singers and a 15-piece orchestra.

“Sisters In Law,” starring Tovah Feldshuh as Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephanie Faracy as Sandra Day O’Connor, celebrated the friendship and conflict between two modern-day legends who became the U.S. Supreme Court’s first female justices. It was produced by The Wallis with Elizabeth Weber, Dale Franzen and Don Franzen, and received one nomination.

The 22 Ovation nominations are the most received by The Wallis in any of its seasons since it opened in 2013. The theater has received 79 total Ovation nominations since it opened in 2013. The 31st Ovation Awards will be held virtually on March 30 at 8 p.m. For information visit ovationawards.com. To purchase tickets, visitthewallis.org.

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Ark. professor honored for music education

Jeffrey Murdock of the University of Arkansas has been named the 2021 Music Educator Award, presented by the Recording Academy and the Grammy Museum. In addition, nine music teachers were announced as finalists for the award. Initial nominations were submitted from all 50 states.
The Music Educator Award was established to recognize current educators (kindergarten through college in public and private schools), who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in schools.
The award is open to current U.S. music teachers, and anyone can nominate a teacher – students, parents, friends, colleagues, community members, school deans and administrators. Teachers are also able to nominate themselves and nominated teachers are notified and invited to fill out an application.
Each year, one recipient is selected from the finalists for recognition for their remarkable impact on students’ lives. The 2021 honoree was recognized during Grammy week. The winner will also receive a $10,000 honorarium, a matching school grant. The nine additional finalists will each receive a $1,000 honorarium and their schools will also receive matching grants.
The grants provided to the finalists and schools are made possible by the generosity and support of the Grammy Museum’s Education Champion Ford Motor Company Fund. In addition, the American Choral Directors Association, National Association for Music Education, NAMM Foundation and National Education Association support this program through outreach to their constituents.

Workshops, performances on tap for virtual program

The Music Center’s 42nd annual Very Special Arts Festival Goes Virtual will transform its long-standing tradition of showcasing the talents of students of all abilities into a virtual format for 2021. Usually a private event for K-12 schools located throughout Los Angeles County, the online offering now gives the public a first-ever opportunity to participate and join the celebration.
The fun, hour-long program will stream on the Music Center Offstage virtual platform on April 16, from 10 to 11 a.m., featuring student performances, educational entertainment segments and participatory educational workshops.
The festival will also highlight hundreds of visual artworks created by students based on this year’s theme, “Seeds of Kindness,” in a virtual gallery. The program will include an ASL interpreter and will be transcribed for people with visual impairment. This free, annual inclusive event, the only student festival of its kind in the county, celebrates the student’s artistic achievements and encourages active participation in the arts and connection within the community.
“Music Center’s Very Special Arts Festival is going on 42 years strong, and we are going to make sure these incredible students still have the opportunity to show off their creative talents and have the chance to shine for friends, family and other student performers,” said Rachel S. Moore, president and CEO of the Music Center.
“The opportunity of an online format enables students and teachers – and the public – to engage with the program at their convenience without the worry of missing any of the many dynamic arts experiences. The Music Center’s 42nd Annual Very Special Arts Festival Goes Virtual as well as our other arts learning offerings available on the Music Center Offstage provide opportunities for all to enjoy no matter your age or ability,” added Keith Woyfeles, associate vice president of education, TMC Arts.
Hosted by master teaching artists David Prather and mezzo-soprano Suzanna Guzmán, the festival will feature four three-minute video performances of students from Little Citizens Westside Academy (Leimert Park); Christopher Dena Elementary School (East Los Angeles); Millikan Middle School (Sherman Oaks); and Pico Middle School (Mid-City). These students have created videos and edited videos of themselves sharing their artistic expression of the theme “Seeds of Kindness.”
The program, directed by Nicole Alexander, will also entertain viewers with master magician Kenrick “Ice” McDonald, as well as include performances by ULL Abilities, an international professional break dancing crew featuring differently abled dancers showing the world that anything is possible; Infinite Flow Dance, an L.A. dance company composed of dancers with and without disabilities who use dance to promote inclusion and innovation; and student members from Straight Up Abilities, a local nonprofit which provides dance training to students of all abilities and ages.

University of Arkansas professor Jeffrey Murdock will receive a $10,000 honorarium with a matching school grant.

LA Phil wins Grammy for second-consecutive year

Los Angeles Philharmonic Music and Artistic Director Gustavo Dudamel and the orchestra’s recording of the complete symphonies of Charles Ivey won the Grammy Award for Best Classical Performed Import for the 63rd annual Grammy Awards.
The composer’s four symphonies were recorded by Deutsche Grammophon in landmark interpretations by Dudamel and the philharmonic during highly acclaimed concert performances at Walt Disney Concert Hall in February 2020, just weeks before the world went into COVID-19 lockdown. The win marks the third Grammy for Dudamel.
“Recording this was made during some of the final performances before the pandemic shutdown, and so we all have such powerful, poignant memories around it. We are so humbled that they have received this award and in recognition, and we look forward to the day when we can all make music together again safely,” Dudamel said.
This is the second year in a row that L.A. Phil and Gustavo Dudamel have received the award for Best Orchestral Performance. The live, world premiere recording of Andrew Norman’s “Sustain” previously won.
For information, visit latinphl.org.

‘Borat,’ ‘Judas and the Black Messiah’ among PGA nominees

The Producers Guild of America announced nominations in the Motion Pictures and Television categories for the 32nd annual Producers Guild Awards, which will take place virtually on Wednesday, March 24, at 5 p.m.
The Producers Guild Awards are often a bellwether for the Oscars. Since its inception, the PGA has predicted 21 of the past 31 winners of the Academy Award for Best Picture. Each year, the PGA Awards attract illustrious producers, industries leaders, Hollywood elite such as Robert de Niro, Tom Hanks, Nicole Kidman and Jordan Peele, and their producing teams to celebrate the art and craft of producing by honoring the producers behind the best films, television series and new media projects of the year.
The nominees for the Darryl F. Zanuck Award for Outstanding Producers of Theatrical Motion Pictures are “Borat Subsequent Moviefilm” (Producers: Sacha Baron Cohen, Monica Levinson, Anthony Hines); “Judas and the Black Messiah” (Producers: Charles D. King, Ryan Coogler, Shaka King); “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” (Producers: Denzel Washington, Todd Black); “Mank” (Producers: Cein Chaffain, Eric Roth, Douglas Urbanski); “Minari” (Producer: Chistina Oh); “Nomadland” (Producers: Frances McDormand, Peter Spears, Molly Asner, Dan Janvey, Chloé Zhao); “One Night in Miami...” (Producers: Jeff Wu Calder and Keith Calder, Judy Klein); “Promising Young Woman” (Producers: Josey McNamara, Ben Browning, Ashley Fox, Emerald Fennell); “Sound of Metal” (Producers: Peter Harnick, Sacha Ben Harroche); and “The Trial of the Chicago 7” (Producers: Marc Platt, Stuart Besser).
For the full list of nominees and more information, visit producersguild.org.

Infinite Flow Dance is one of the performers during the Music Center’s virtual program on April 16.

Photo courtesy of the Grammy Museum.

Infinite Flow Dance is one of the performers during the Music Center’s virtual program on April 16.
Please make more films like "Moxie" that stress the necessity of female performing artists and educators, presenting, supporting and presenting, and inspire others to come to the forefront. That changes when the cool kids post their yearly "awards" for female classmates, all as wretched as you'd expect.

Introvert Vivian (Hadley Robinson) hopes to find her voice, but she often caves to social pressure, favoring silence over confrontation. That is until her friend group expands, as girls unite behind Moxie, never knowing its author, to vocally resist all the toxicity overtly on display. First, BFF Claudia (Lauren Tsai) remains uncomfortable with the movement. Initial clues hint at jealousy, but the real reason is much more complex.

When Viv makes the cut as "most obedient," she finally finds her voice with some help from her mom's (Amy Poehler) glory days as a Root Girl and old '90s zines, becoming her own anonymous publication called Moxie and posting it in every girl's restroom. Overnight, her friend group expands, as girls unite behind Moxie, never knowing its author, to vocally resist all the toxicity overtly on display. First, BFF Claudia (Lauren Tsai) averse to ruffling feathers.

Viv's revolution comes with several hiccups. First, BFF Claudia (Lauren Tsai) remains uncomfortable with the movement. Initial clues hint at jealousy, but the real reason is much more complex. Among the items available are a signed copy of "Lily Tomlin On Stage" is available as part of the Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival auction. Proceeds of the auction will benefit the Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival.

For information, including the full schedule and how to get tickets, visit lawtf.org or call (818)796-0408.

Amy Poehler and Hadley Robinson give good performances in "Moxie," but the film covers too much subject matter.

Signed ‘Grace and Frankie’ script among auction items

The Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival is celebrating 28 years of presenting, supporting and empowering female performing artists with six evenings of programs co-hosted by distinguished artists, along with a silent auction, featuring distinctive works of art and one-of-a-kind celebrity and Hollywood memorabilia. The festival, which has the theme "And Still We Rise," is directed by Fay Hauser-Pérez and features hosts including Hattie Winston, Ted Lange, Margaret Avery, Dawn Didaway and Florence LaRue, among many others. Events run from March 25 through March 30. Meanwhile the festival will also host the auction, dubbed the Sound and Vision-28 Auction, from March 20 through March 30. Bids can be placed at the festival website, lawtf.org. Items can be viewed in advance.

Proceeds of the auction will enable the continuing work of the nonprofit organization, providing platforms for the artistic output of female performing artists and educational outreach programming to develop new works.

Among the items available are a script from "Grace and Frankie," season 6, episode 8, signed by June Finley and Cindy Thomas, and "The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe," signed by Tomlin and playwright Jane Wagner. The festival features a DVD of the film version signed by Tomlin and Wagner, and "The Mother of Black Hollywood" memoir signed by Jenifer Lewis from "Black-ish," provided with a signed postcard for "So Much Love – An Evening with Jenifer Lewis." For information, including the full schedule and how to get tickets, visit lawtf.org or call (818)796-0408.

Viv also falls for longtime friend Seth (Nico Hiraga), who went through some changes over summer. And at home, mother and daughter clash as well, though their relationship began on rather solid ground.

That premise alone should amount to solid drama, ripe for complex emotional exploration. But "Moxie" tries to address everything — slut shaming, intersectionality, double standards, white privilege, bullying, divorced parenting, reverse victim-blaming and rape. In doing so, critical engagement devolves into lip service.

Perhaps that all wouldn't be so bad — films often summarize social woes — if the film provides something else along the way. Poehler, directing her second Netflix feature, shoots for something between "Mean Girls" and "Booksmart," but each character is interested in a white savior. Alas, "Moxie" tries to address everything else along the way. Poehler, directing her second Netflix feature, shot for something between "Mean Girls" and "Booksmart," but each character is interested in a white savior. "Moxie" rallies on ethnic and racial stereotypes, allegedly to disrupt them. It never does that since Viv is the sole character of consequence. Everyone else accents her coming-of-age journey.

"Moxie’s" greatest sin arrives in the final moments (minor spoilers here). A dramatic speech and melodic inspiration by others to rise up — confess personal traumas in front of a whole lot of people — creates a pandering climax. Reality isn’t this clean. It’s also callous to use such important issues — rape here — as fodder for a tidy ending.

Now that public opinion seems to care less about millennials, Gen Z must weather a barrage of obnoxious bad-faith slights. "Moxie" briefly touches on that too before trudging along, serving as a high school equivalent to a CliffsNotes study guide on social justice rather than an in-depth volume.
BHUSD principal set to retire at year’s end

Beverly Vista Middle School principal Kevin Allen, who started with the Beverly Hills Unified School District in 2014 as the principal at El Rodeo School, announced that he is retiring at the end of the school year.

“After more than 30 years in this profession, serving as the principal at both El Rodeo and BVMS have been my greatest pleasure,” he said in a statement. “I have come to love this district and community and find it to be my second home. While I look forward to the next stage of my life and the new adventures that it will bring, I will always remember this experience and all that we accomplished together.”

Rebecca Starks, the district’s director of public relations, said that the search for his replacement will begin in the coming weeks.

“We will always be grateful to Mr. Allen, who has truly shaped the future of our district for every student. Mr. Allen, you have left some very large shoes to fill. Thank you, Mr. Allen, we wish you all the best in your retirement, you are truly one of a kind,” she said.

Allen took over at El Rodeo and after the impact of a seismic shift was discovered, the entire school was closed with just hours of notice resulting in an enormous effort to move the school into portable classrooms. Allen guided the community through the early stages of construction and modernization. Under his leadership, the school achieved California Distinguished Schools Status prior to the reconfiguration of the district.

Allen then oversaw the establishment of El Rodeo Middle School, the first consolidated middle school in the history of Beverly Hills Unified School District. Although many people supported this herculean effort, Allen’s vision, passion and dedication were integral to the success of the opening of BVMS.

While the first year in person was cut short due to the global pandemic, Allen fostered a school community that remains strong to this day. Under his care, the physically closed school has continued to thrive. The culture created by Allen promotes communication, collaboration and school spirit.

“Please know that while I am not a part of the selection process for my replacement, I have poured my heart into for the past 10 years,” he said.

For information visit bhusd.org.

LAUSD to teach media literacy starting next year

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution to help students learn to determine fact from fiction in an environment when many depend on social media or one-sided information. Critical Media Literacy instruction would begin with the 2021-22 school year.

“Bombarded by misinformation posing as fact on social media, television and in publications, our students need to use their critical thinking skills to determine what to believe,” said board member Jackie Goldberg, who sponsored the resolution.

“The internet is an invaluable powerful tool for our students, but it is also one that must be used responsibly,” board President Kelly Gonez said. “Now more than ever, it’s important that students be equipped with the tools and skills to recognize biased depictions and distorted narratives in order to become more informed and active participants in our community.”

“Learning how to critically evaluate the validity of information has become an even more important skill because too often those we believe we can trust treat lies as truth,” board member George J. McKenna III said. “Also, sources of information have grown exponentially because of social media, cable TV with its hundreds of choices and publications that spread unverified information.”

“Our students are surrounded by the need to be critical thinkers and digitally literate,” board member Monica García said. “I support transforming education and empowering each learner.”

“In light of recent and evolving fake news,” board member Kelly Gonez said. “The internet is an undeniably powerful tool for our students, but it is also one that must be used responsibly.”

Kevin Allen, who has been with the district since 2014, first at El Rodeo School and then at the new Beverly Vista Middle School, is retiring at the end of the school year.

Photo courtesy of BHUSD

BH hosts virtual camp showcase

Join Beverly Hills Community Services Virtual Summer Camp Showcase on Saturday, March 21, from noon to 5 p.m. to discover over a dozen summer camp offerings for children that are fun, engaging and imaginative.

Choose from over a dozen camps offering different days and times to fit every school’s schedule. Chat with camp facilitators, ask questions and choose the perfect camp for your child. Those who register early on March 21 from noon to 5 p.m. will receive a special discount.

Offerings include Camp Beverly Hills Day Camp, as well as specialty camps in theater, math, science, sports, fitness, enrichment and more. Animal Encounters; Bizzy Girl Entrepreneur Camp; Camp Italian, Spanish, Persian and Russian language and cultural camps; Houdini’s Magic Camp; Yoga Retreat; Cheer 4 U Athletics and Music Camp are returning.

For information and a catalog of summer camps, visit beverlyhills.org/summercamps.

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Beverly Hills High School senior Max Menache signed a national letter of intent to play football at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Menache plays linebacker, right end and is the long snapper for the Normans. He’s also a member of the track and field team, where he competes in both the shotput and discus. Off the field, Menache has maintained a 4.1 GPA in the classroom over four years.

LAUSD pays tribute to Women’s History Month

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education unani- mously approved a resolution saluting contributions made by women now and throughout history in the United States and around the world.

“We salute the women left out of today’s headlines and yesterday’s history,” said board member George J. McKenna III, who sponsored the resolution, which was co-sponsored by the rest of the board. “We cele- brate their victories past, present and future. We thank those who pio- neered paths and opened the way for women to achieve their own lead and the battle, often while earning less than a man.”

“Women’s history not only teach- es our students to think critically about sexism in our society, it also empowers them to challenge the patriarchy on a cultural and institu- tional level,” board member Kelly Gomez said. “Further, it helps us to recognize the importance of education and supports the top scorers and some of the top academic students in California. The Beverly Hills Unified School District Board plans to return to in-person classes for middle and high schools next month. On March 15, the BHUSD Board of Education and Superintendent Michael Mbray sent an email to the BHUSD community to let parents and students know that students who attend Beverly Vista Middle School and Beverly Hills High School will return to in-person classes on April 8, pending approval by the BHUSD board and leadership of the Beverly Hills Education Association.

Further details are expected to be released by April 6, the officials wrote, and “if your family wishes to continue with distance learning, it will be available.”

“The city of West Hollywood has a long way to go until there is parity,” board member Jackie Goldberg said. “We have a long way to go before we reach parity across all sectors and I’m proud that our district supports gender equality in order to achieve a better tomorrow for all.”

“I’m grateful every day for the chance to work alongside talented women leaders within L.A. Unified, on our majority-female board, and with my allfemale team,” board member Nick Melvoin said. “We have a long way to go to reach gender equity and parity across all sectors and I’m proud that our district will keep working to be part of the solution.”

“While progress has been made, for every dollar a white woman earns 82 cents; an Asian woman earns 87 cents; an AfricanAmerican woman earns 65 cents and a Latinx woman earns 58 cents,” board member Jackie Goldberg said. “We have a long way to go until there is parity.”

For information, visit lausd.net.

BHHS seniors named National Merit finalists

The Beverly Hills Unified School District announced that three seniors at Beverly Hills High School, Parsa A. Farmad, Bradley K. Moon and Nicholas M. Walker, have been recognized for their academic achievements as National Merit finalists.

The students are among 50,000 of the 1.5 million students who take the PSAT, National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in their junior years. Those 50,000 students qualifying for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Of the 50,000 students, approximately one-third – or roughly 16,000 students – qualify as semifinalists and among 15,000 become finalists.

Parsa, Bradley and Nicholas represent the top scorers and some of the top academic students in California.

“We are aware that COVID-19 has impacted our families, our employees and our community significantly,” the officials wrote. “We recognize that our families have taken on new roles and responsibilities, juggling many commitments and supporting chil- dren at home through virtual learn- ing. We must also applaud our employees who have shown dedi- cation, loyalty and extraordinary skills, reimagining education to fulfill their responsibilities for an entire year.”

There will be continued pres- sures as we move forward in our reopening efforts,” the officials added. “Each member of our com- munity faces different challenges and holds different opinions on how reopening should take place. We commit to you that we will lis- ten and work together with our leadership as we navigate this time.

For information, visit bhUSD.org.

Scholarships for WeHo students

The city of West Hollywood has opened the application period for the 2021 Youth Scholarship Program with awards valued at $2,000 for graduating high school students who are West Hollywood residents and pursuing a post-secondary edu- cation at an accredited college, uni- versity, trade or vocational school.

Students must have completed 150 verified hours of community service to be considered.

The city created the scholarship program in 2007 and it remains one of the first municipal government sponsored programs of its kind in the country. The West Hollywood Youth Scholarship Program recognizes the importance of education and supports local students. The city supports the program but scholarship funds come entirely from indi- vidual and community donations.

For information and applications visit weho.org/services/social-services/youth-scholarship-program.

BHUSD looks ahead to school reopenings

Park LaBrea News/Beverly Press 19 March 18, 2021

BHUSD looks ahead to school reopenings

Pilgrim School is: Small enough to be nimble, large enough to be safe.

Pilgrim School can: Teach our students safely on campus, effectively online, or both.

Pilgrim School will: Continue to focus on teaching each student as a unique learner.

The Mission of Pilgrim School is to nurture the mind, spirit, and moral awareness of our students.

For information on enrolling your student Toddler-Twelfth Grade or booking a virtual tour, please visit our website www.pilgrim-school.org/admissions.

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In celebration of Women’s History Month, the Holocaust Museum LA is honoring female heroes from the museum community throughout the month of March to shine a light on their incredible stories of survival and strength.

On Tuesday, March 23, Beverly Hills City Councilwoman and former mayor, Lili Bosse, will speak with Holocaust Museum LA CEO Beth Kean on the impact her mother’s “never give up” outlook, determination and optimism had on her drive to become a community leader and activist committed to justice and equity. Her mother, Rose Toren, survived Auschwitz by escaping a death march and hiding.

On Thursday, March 25, Holocaust Survivor Lea Radziner, who was born in Amsterdam on Nov. 10, 1938, the day after Kristallnacht, will speak. A few weeks after the German invasion, her father was arrested and deported to Mauthausen. Her mother then made the difficult decision to separate her family to save her daughters. She placed each daughter with a different family connected with the Dutch underground. She was eventually rescued by a Christian farming family in the southern part of the Netherlands. Her mother and sister also survived the Holocaust, and the three reunited in 1945. They lived for many years in Brazil until she settled in Los Angeles. To RSVP, visit holocaustmuseumla.org. A $10 donation per event is recommended.

**Schindler House reopens with art exhibition**

The MAK Center reopened the Schindler House to the public on a limited basis on March 12.

Visitation is by reservation only. One party able to visit per hour, and each party limited to five people. Masks and social distancing are required at all times.

The general public will be available to visit Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Other COVID-19 safety guidelines include hand sanitizer available at the entrance, children must be supervised by an adult and any one exhibiting signs of illness will not be permitted entry. Restrooms are not open to the public.

On March 28 is “Demo,” a group exhibition featuring Nadгал Anvariina, Margarethe Drexel, Lexis-Olivier Ray and Yan Tomaszewski that explores the lines between demolition, transformation and extinction. It is curated by Priscilla Fraser and Anthony Carfello. Visit by reservation only.

For information or to make a reservation, visit makcenter.com.

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**Female Holocaust survivors honored**

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is celebrating Women’s History Month with a series of virtual programs and events that honor women’s past and present achievements, including a virtual spring day camp exploring the scientific contributions of women scientists.

Several events will explore a range of topics that address women’s suffrage and their ever-changing role in society, presented in tandem with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County exhibition “Rise Up LA: A Century of Votes for Women.”

Highlights will include a discussion on the influence of power dressing, an interview-based virtual performance and a special livestream conversation between Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell and NHMLAC President and Director Lori Bettison-Varga. They will discuss the significance of the 2020 election, which resulted in the historic election of Kamala Harris – the country’s first woman and person of color as vice president – and the first-ever all-woman county board of supervisors, as well as their own journeys as leaders.

“Rise Up LA: Our Stories, Our Voices,” the interview-based virtual performance based on conversations between Jenny Bokoch Gillett of the NHMLAC’s Performing Arts Department and six of the women interviewed for the Rise Up Los Angeles Oral Stories Project will be held on March 23 at 6 p.m. The discussion with Mitchell and Bettison-Varga will be held March 25 at 7 p.m.

For the full list of events and to RSVP, visit nhmlac.org.

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**Schindler House reopens with art exhibition**

The March 3, 1983, issue of the Park Labrea News featured a photograph of new galleries that were opening at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art after a major expansion. The project included 300,000 square feet of space for new exhibits and works not previously exhibited in the museum’s permanent collection. This week, LACMA announced that it will reopen on April 1 after being closed during public health orders due to the pandemic. New exhibits will be on display and visitors can enjoy permanent outdoor works located throughout the campus. Health and safety protocols will be in place and reservations will be required.

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**LACMA plans a reopening**

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The council also appointed Lauren Companies founder and CEO Lauren Langer, who was previously the assistant city attorney and is a partner at the law firm Best and Krieger, as Jenkins' replacement.

"I would post this in capable hands. This past year, Lauren Langer has played a more visible role in serving the city and has proven to be professional, reliable, responsive and a great fit for the position in the great adventure that is West Hollywood," Jenkins said during the meeting. "We’re looking at a budget that will have more time to spend with my three grandchildren and the two who are on the way.

The meeting was held one day before his Tuesday birthday, and he joked that "if you knew how old I was, [retirement] would be no sur-

prise." Jenkins, recognized by The Daily Journal and Southern California Super Lawyers as one of the state’s leading authorities on public law, including municipal incorporation, constitutional law and land use, regularly served as city at-

orney for multiple cities, including Healdsburg and Rolling Park. He teaches local government law at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law and law of the City Attorney Department of the City of Los Angeles. He also served as chair of the League of California Cities. He negotiated, on behalf of California cities, changes to the state’s open

meetings law.

But of all his accomplishments, he said it was this role in West Hollywood that "has filled my pro-

fessional life."

"I was nothing short of thrilled at my selection by the City Council. I knew something big lay ahead. But little did I know just how wild and wonderful a journey it would be," he said.

Jenkins is credited with develop-

ing and defending some of West Hollywood’s boldest legislation. He helped the City Council draft the first anti-discrimination ordinance and helped hire the first city manager. He helped draft policies regarding the city’s social insurance, domestic partner ordi-

nance, ordinance prohibiting AIDS discrimination, gun control and pro-

viding workers a living wage. He successfully warded off numerous infrastructure improvements and managing finances.

He should have guessed that a council that selects leaders so bravely, so willing to push the enve-

lope of what is possible, so com-

fortable with risk, would take us to places where few cities venture," Jenkins said.

He thanked his wife and family, as well as members of the council and city staff. But he ultimately thanked West Hollywood’s resi-

dents.

"Our democracy depends on citi-

zen participation," he said. "This community has demonstrated just how impactful local government can be. It is more important than ever that we continue vigilant in the preservation of our form of govern-

ment and the fight we have fought so hard to gain.

He recalled the city’s inaugural City Council meeting on Nov. 29, 1984, at Fiesta Hall at Plummer Park, remembering how the crowd was packed to the rafters, with an overflow visitors gathered outside. Representatives from other cities had been sent to deliver certificates of congratulations, but the crowd was so full that they couldn’t make it inside.

"It was electric – a heady, moment full of expectation, cele-

bration and enthusiasm," he said.

"At the time, Jenkins had just cel-

brated the birth of his first daugh-

ter. Now, that daughter had just become a first child of her own.

"I guess that means I’ve served twice for a generation," he said.

He ultimately said the city has lived up to the expectations set dur-

ing the meeting at Fiesta Hall.

"I’m proud of what we’ve done in WeHo, my support for defense of all initiatives has been the most significant accomplishment of my career. In so many ways, this city has defined me. It has been my second family," Jenkins said.

Jenkins retires, Langer chosen as replacement

From page 1

Beverly Hills council split on no-confidence vote

From page 1

Dr. Rohit Varma, who is also the founding director of Southern California Eye Institute at HPMC, specializes in comprehensive, high-tech

ology to provide the highest quality care for our communities. He performed the first ClearPath glaucoma surgery, spec-

ially designed for complex and advanced glaucoma patients, in Los Angeles and specializes in using OCT-A technology for earlier diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma in patients.

For information, visit hollywood-presbyterian.com.

Hollywood Presbyterian marks World Glaucoma Week

March 7-13 was World Glaucoma Week, and CHA Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center kicked off an awareness campaign to raise the leading cause of irreversible blindness across the world. Glaucoma is a chronic, progressive disorder of the optic nerve of the eye and causes visual field loss. It is estimated that more than 70 million people worldwide have glaucoma – this number is predicted to reach 111 million by 2040, according to the hospital.

In the United States, the preva-

lence of glaucoma is rising rapidly, according to HPMC. More than 3 million Americans are living with this condition, 2.7 million of whom – those aged 40 and older – are African Americans, who are at higher risk for the disease.

Glaucoma cannot be completely cured, early diagnosis and timely treatment can help reduce damage and improve quality of life. With Varma’s ongoing research, SCEI at CHA HPMC is strengthen-

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For information, visit hollywood-presbyterian.com.
School reopening plan criticized by parents

From page 1

“We’re glad they’re doing some- thing,” said Novee Novie, Pan Pacific Park protest leader and member of the L.A. School Uprising, a nonpartisan group seek- ing a return to in-person education. “Although it’s something, and we’re happy it is something, like you’re walking in a desert and get a drop of water.”

Given the limited return to in- person classes this year, Novie said it’s clear that the district did not have “a plan coming back to the semester,” and he’s hopeful that there will be a better plan in place for the fall so students can return to traditional classes.

“Let’s accept that we failed [to return to in-person school this year],” she said, “let’s make it better for next semester.”

Kamlager tours L.A. LGBT Center South

Whenever she drives down Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Assemblywoman and state-Sen- elect Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles) said she lights up as she passes by Center South, the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s facility in South Los Angeles.

“It makes me smile every time I see the sign,” she said following her tour of the building last month. “I love the location, I love that it rights out front on it’s an LGBT center in South L.A. I am all for liv- ing outside of the shadows and hav- ing this organization here.

At the time of her tour, Kamlager represented the 54th Assembly District, which includes the nearby neighborhoods of Leimert Park and Slauson Avenue Center South is located, though later that month she was elected to enter into the state Senate. She won the race to replace current L.A. County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, 2nd District, on March 2.

“There’s so many Black and brown families who have LGBT family members in their families, and I wonder about them every single day,” she said. “I wonder if they are being recognized, if they’re being supported. By being here, the Center South Center South is here for you. And that really is important.”

Over the January 2020, Center South’s programs and services are provided for free or at low cost to everyone with a focus on serving the needs of young gay and bi men of color ages 12 to 29 and trans women of color. In addition to HIV and STI testing. Center South’s ser- vices include access to PEP (pre- exposure prophylaxis) and PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) ser- vices; linkage and retention to HIV care; housing and employment naviga- tion; mental health services; legal services; a drop-in space for community trainings and events; and a CyberCenter stocked with new desktop computers, made pos- sible through the David Bohnett Foundation, for community mem- bers to use.

The 3,500-square-foot facility recently achieved federally qual- ified health center status, which allows for more services to be expanded there.

“The center is doing what we need, and we need to be doing it regardless of your race, your gen- der, your sexual orientation, your age, your ethnicity,” Kamlager said.

Senior Program Manager David Flores hosted the tour for Kamlager, who presented staff with a certificate of recognition before departing.

“We’re going to bring back finding ways to support,” Kamlager said. “I’m a true ally, and that’s why I’m asking questions about ways the state can honor and recognize and celebrate our LGBT community.”

For information, visit lalgbtcen- ter.org.

Bill intends to increase supply of affordable housing

U.S. Sens. Diane Feinstein and Alex Padilla (both D-Calif.) and U.S. Reps. Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) and Mike Thompson (D-St. Helena) this month introduced the Affordable Housing Redevolvement Act, a bill to reau- thorize the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and authorize $1.5 billion to help create new affordable housing through the rehabilitation or redevelopment of old, vacant or foreclosed properties. The bill would provide for the portion of low-income units.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program was created in August 1996 to help communities that were forced what we already knew: how to deal with consideration of low-income units. The legislators said.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program was created after the 2008 financial crisis to help build new affordable housing and improve blighted neighborhoods. Given the expense of new construction, rehabili- tation of old buildings and the redevelopment of abandoned, fore- closed and bank-owned properties has proven to be more cost-effec- tive way to add affordable housing in areas struggling with housing shortages.

“Increasing access to affordable housing in an urgent priority for our state’s recovery from this pandemic,” Padilla said. “Reauthorizing the Neighborhood Stabilization Program will allow more develop- ment of affordable housing for California’s most vulnerable com- munities. Federal support for local redevelopment projects is a critical long-term investment in our eco- nomic stability.”

The bill also would ensure all housing created through the pro- gram would serve households with income below area median income, and at least 25% of housing must serve households with income below 50% of area median income, the legislators said.

It also gives preference to pro- jects that are located in areas with high levels of hardship, residen- tial and community; or in close proximity to high-frequency public transporta- tion; are located in communities where local land-use policies encourage adaptive reuse or other means to achieve greater housing production; or have a higher pro- portion of low-income units.

“The pandemic has only rein- forced what we all already knew: the need for creative, lasting solutions in need of creative, lasting solutions and Senator Feinstein’s legisla- tion delivers on that front of bold action we need right now,” Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said.

Parents of LAUSD students are working to ensure that the 2021-22 school year will be held in-person and that teachers will be in the class- rooms with students.

Watch robbery in BH remains unsolved

From page 1

Subin said. “We spoke to the LAPD detectives. We believe, based on the suspects’ descrip- tions, they are the M.O., they are not connected.”

Subin said the robbery in Beverly Hills is “straight out of the movie of other robberies in Los Angeles and elsewhere, but had no further specifi- cations as well as the M.O., they are not working faster to get these kids back to school,” Bailey said.

Subin said. “It makes me smile every time I see the sign,” she said following her tour of the building last month. “I love the location, I love that it rights out front on it’s an LGBT center in South L.A. I am all for liv- ing outside of the shadows and hav- ing this organization here.

As the time of her tour, Kamlager represented the 54th Assembly District, which includes the nearby neighborhoods of Leimert Park and Slauson Avenue Center South is located, though later that month she was elected to enter into the state Senate. She won the race to replace current L.A. County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, 2nd District, on March 2.

“There’s so many Black and brown families who have LGBT family members in their families, and I wonder about them every single day,” she said. “I wonder if they are being recognized, if they’re being supported. By being here, the Center South Center South is here for you. And that really is important.”

Over the January 2020, Center South’s programs and services are provided for free or at low cost to everyone with a focus on serving the needs of young gay and bi men of color ages 12 to 29 and trans women of color. In addition to HIV and STI testing. Center South’s ser- vices include access to PEP (pre- exposure prophylaxis) and PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) ser- vices; linkage and retention to HIV care; housing and employment naviga- tion; mental health services; legal services; a drop-in space for community trainings and events; and a CyberCenter stocked with new desktop computers, made pos- sible through the David Bohnett Foundation, for community mem- bers to use.

The 3,500-square-foot facility recently achieved federally qual- ified health center status, which allows for more services to be expanded there.

“The center is doing what we need, and we need to be doing it regardless of your race, your gen- der, your sexual orientation, your age, your ethnicity,” Kamlager said.

Senior Program Manager David Flores hosted the tour for Kamlager, who presented staff with a certificate of recognition before departing.

“We’re going to bring back finding ways to support,” Kamlager said. “I’m a true ally, and that’s why I’m asking questions about ways the state can honor and recognize and celebrate our LGBT community.”

For information, visit lalgbtcen- ter.org.
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RELL MA VIS, Judge of the Superior Court.


Hearing on the petition in the following

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For 22 years, Homeboy Industries, a nationally recognized successful gang intervention program, has provided jobs and support services to former gang members and at-risk youth from more than half of the 1,300 known gangs in Los Angeles County. Homeboy businesses, including Homeboy Bakery and Homegirl Café, offer hands-on training and real experience in a safe work environment. The program also offers mental health counseling, legal services, education, job counseling and tattoo removal services, which offer hope and opportunities to participants. But we need your help to keep our doors open.

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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across
1. Police alert
4. Scholastic sort, perhaps
14. Empty pronouns
15. Dangerous game
19. Met
22. Coward in the theater
20. Oui’s opposite
18. Affect
14. “Eso ___” (Paul Anka hit)
13. “Look ___ hands!”
12. Omega’s predecessor
9. Big name in chips
7. Gloomy
6. Panic
5. “To ___ is human ...”
4. Indian bread
3. High tech speakers
2. Hairdo
1. Interest rate, abbr.

Down
65. Barber played by Depp
66. Decked
Down
1. Police alert
4. Scholastic sort, perhaps
14. Empty pronouns
15. Dangerous game
19. Met
22. Coward in the theater
20. Oui’s opposite
18. Affect
14. “Eso ___” (Paul Anka hit)
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6. Panic
5. “To ___ is human ...”
4. Indian bread
3. High tech speakers
2. Hairdo
1. Interest rate, abbr.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME:
CASE #21GDCP00072
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner, DAVID MOTTAHEDEH AND
FATEMEH DIANA FLORA KEH
SHAVERIYAN, filed a petition with this
court for a decree changing names as fol-

dows: Present name: MOTTAHEDEH (1
GIRL). Proposed name: NIRVANA KEH
SHAVERIYAN MOTTAHEDEH;
MOTTAHEDEH (2 BOY). Proposed name:
NIRVANA KEH SHAVERIYAN MOTTAHEDEH;
MOHAMED KESHA VERIYAN MOTTA-
HEDEH (2 BOY), Proposed name:
NIRVANA KEH SHAVERIYAN MOTTAHEDEH;
MOHAMED KESHA VERIYAN MOTTA-
HEDEH (1 GIRL).

If no written objection to the name change is timely filed, the court may grant the peti-
tion; if no written objection is timely filed, the court may either set for a hearing to show cause why the petition
should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the peti-
tion with out a hearing.

HEDEH. THE COURT ORDERS that all
persons interested in this matter appear be-
fore this court for a decree changing names as fol-
dows:

LATEX

DOWN

HARDWARE

INCOME TAX

ALAKAZAM UPHOLSTERY & DRAPERIES

INCOME TAX

HARDWARE

INCOME TAX

ALAKAZAM UPHOLSTERY & DRAPERIES

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