



Partly cloudy, with highs in the 70s

# BEVERLY PRESS

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Serving the Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Hancock Park and Wilshire Communities

May 27, 2021

## Beverly Hills man charged in murder-for-hire plot

■ Authorities claim Berkett sought hit man online

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 24-year-old Beverly Hills man was arrested on federal charges on May 21 for allegedly orchestrating a murder-for-hire plot targeting a woman he briefly dated in 2020.

The defendant, Scott Quinn Berkett, was taken into custody without incident on May 21 when federal agents searched his father's residence in the 300 block of South El Camino Drive. A criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles charged Berkett with one count of murder for hire.

Federal authorities were notified about the alleged plot on May 7 through a tip about an individual seeking a hit man online, according to the criminal complaint. The individual had allegedly been seeking a hit man on a dark web site advertising murder-for-hire services, the complaint read. The dark web refers to websites using encrypted correspondences and messages designed to be untraceable by law enforce-



photo courtesy of the U.S. Attorney's Office  
Scott Quinn Berkett

ment, authorities said. FBI agents said the website advertising murder-for-hire services is a scam, but the individual allegedly seeking a hit man believed he was legitimately corresponding with someone who

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## Two men arrested after attack on Jewish restaurant patrons

■ Leaders come together in united stance against hate

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Two men have been arrested for an attack on May 18 on La Cienega Boulevard that is believed to have been a hate crime committed against a group of Jewish individuals by members of a pro-Palestinian group.

The suspects, Xavier Pabon, 30, of Banning, California, and Samer Jayylusi, 35, of Whittier, were taken into custody on different days in different locations. Pabon was arrested on May 21 at an undisclosed location outside the city of Los Angeles by the United States Marshals Service, police said. Detectives from the Wilshire Division arrested Jayylusi on May 25 in Anaheim.

Both men were booked for assault with a deadly weapon. Investigators are in the process of



photo by Edwin Folven

Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Simon Wiesenthal Center expressed confidence that all of the perpetrators of recent hate crimes against members of the Jewish community will face justice.

presenting the cases to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and will ask that hate crime charges be filed. Greg Risling, spokesman for the D.A.'s office, said Wednesday that the cases had not yet been presented by the LAPD.

The attack occurred at approximately 9:50 p.m. at Fumi Sushi, located at 359 N. La Cienega Blvd. Cell phone footage from the scene posted on social media showed a group of a pro-

See **Antisemitism** page 22

## Recall looming for Councilwoman Raman

■ Despite residents' concerns, chief of staff asserts situation is improving

BY CAMERON KISZLA

With the threat of the pandemic easing, the office of Los Angeles City Councilwoman Nithya Raman, 4th District, is ready to return to in-person engagement with community stakeholders, but some in the community claim they've seen enough.

The website recallraman.org, which was produced by a group called the L.A. Council District 4 Neighborhood Coalition, claims Raman, who was elected in November 2020 and took office the next month, is "reckless" and "in denial" of "gang-run encampments" and "terrorized residents." It also claims her urban-planning ideas are "ruinous" and would "restrict single-family homes."

"How much damage can one tone-deaf politician do in a four-year term? ... Yea, a lot!" the website said.

Allison Cohen, publisher of the Los Feliz Ledger news website and a lead proponent of the effort to

recall Raman, said Raman and her staff focus too much on homelessness and have been ignoring other district issues.

"Now that COVID is waning and the city is reopening, issues are going to start popping back up again, issues that have been sort of buried for a year because of COVID," Cohen said. "... In some regards, Nithya has had it easy, because that's really been the only thing in the news, COVID and the George Floyd protests. Those are large things ... but now that COVID is waning, the more bread-and-butter issues of the district are going to come back into play. Therefore, her staff needs to get up to speed on these issues as soon as possible."

Raman was not made available for an interview, but Najeeba Syeed, Raman's chief of staff, said the office is focused on keeping the district and city clean, homelessness, public safety and helping businesses and the community recover from the pandemic. Though the pandemic made the first few months difficult in terms of getting to know area leaders and constituents, the easing of public health restrictions are making building those relationships easier, Syeed



photo courtesy of the 4th District office  
Councilwoman Nithya Raman

said. "The transition period between the winning of the election and taking office was a very fast timeline," she said. "The turnaround time was very quick. We also started in a period of COVID when we weren't able to appear in person. It was really an unprecedented start to a new office in terms of the challenges

See **Raman** page 22

## Roxy, Rainbow billboards moving ahead in WeHo

■ Historic Preservation Commission protects Rainbow sign

BY CAMERON KISZLA

The West Hollywood Historic Preservation Commission approved a pair of billboard changes near Sunset Strip landmarks on May 24.

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve a

planned 26-foot-by-10-foot internally lit static billboard for the Roxy Theatre and 58-foot-by-10-foot billboard near the Rainbow Bar and Grill with one internally lit static side and one digital side. Both billboards also are expected to include visual components near ground level and up the pole to the advertising space.

Mikael Maglieri, co-owner of the Rainbow and Roxy, as well as

See **Billboards** page 21



rendering courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

The adjacent Rainbow Bar and Grill and Roxy Theatre want to use new billboards to help recapture revenue lost during the pandemic.





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photo by Cameron Kiszla

The Beverly Hills Complete Streets Plan examined different modes of mobility, including driving, cycling, walking and using public transit.

## City adopts Complete Streets Plan for improved mobility

After several years of development and community outreach, the Beverly Hills City Council recently adopted the Complete Streets Plan, which balances the needs of bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders and motorists.

The plan enables city staff to move forward on projects, implement concepts, prepare for emerging technologies, prioritize first-last mile improvements around Metro subway stations and increase grant funding eligibility. Included is "Connect Beverly Hills: Meet me on Wilshire and La Cienega," a streetscape plan recommending new sidewalk designs and pedestrian amenities in preparation for the opening of subway stations on the Metro's Purple Line Extension project. Next steps will include finalizing and implementing the conceptual design elements.

Other ongoing projects identified

in the plan include installation of signal upgrades citywide to help prepare for connected and autonomous vehicles; expanding bike parking on sidewalks and in bike corrals; purchasing software to allow for improved collision analysis; and evaluating a project at Camden Drive and Brighton Way as part of the grant-funded pedestrian and bicycle awareness campaign.

Other new initiatives to be implemented soon include community engagement for a bikeway project on Roxbury Drive, south of Olympic Boulevard, which will connect with other bike lanes in Los Angeles. The city's Traffic and Parking Commission will also review the Complete Streets Action Plan at the Aug. 5 meeting to confirm priorities.

For information, visit [beverlyhills.org/completestreets](http://beverlyhills.org/completestreets).

## Residents encouraged to join Just In Case BH

On June 5 and 6, members of the Beverly Hills community will join personnel from the Beverly Hills police and fire departments to walk Zone 8 (neighborhoods south of Wilshire Boulevard and east of Beverly Drive) to promote participation in Just In Case BH, the city's collaborative emergency preparedness program.

The city recently launched Just In Case BH, which brings together Beverly Hills residents and business owners with the fire and police departments and other city agencies to coordinate before and during disasters. Emergency responders may be busy addressing fires, structural collapses and other major problems after a major earthquake. The program prepares residents and business owners to address emergencies themselves until help arrives.

The program divides the city into geographic zones, with each zone designed to be able to support itself during times of emergency.

The group will begin assembling at 10:30 a.m. on June 5 and 6 at Oakhurst Mini Park, 120 S. Oakhurst Drive. The walk begins at 11 a.m. on both days.

For information, visit [justin-casebh.org](http://justin-casebh.org).

## CALENDAR

### 'Released, Not Free'

Skylight Theatre Company and Housing Works present "Released, Not Free," a collection of 10 unique stories of formerly incarcerated individuals available on demand from Thursday, May 27, through Sunday, May 30. Michael Kearns collaborated with formerly incarcerated individuals from Housing Works, Van Ness Recovery House and M.E.N.T.O.R.S. Inc. in writing workshops to further explore stories about how they are rebuilding their lives. "Released, Not Free" includes the stories and a Q&A session with the writers. Minimum donation is \$15. [skylighttheatre.org/event/sky-light-live](http://skylighttheatre.org/event/sky-light-live).

### Petersen auto talk

The Petersen Automotive Museum is holding "The Numbers Behind the Passion: A Conversation with McKeel Hagerty" on Friday, May 28, from 6 to 9 p.m. Join museum board member Hagerty for a special in-person presentation about today's car market. The speaker is also CEO of Hagerty, a company that insures classic cars. Guests can tour the museum's "Supercars" exhibit. Facemasks are required and COVID-19 safety protocols will be enforced. Tickets are \$10. 6060 Wilshire Blvd., [petersen.org](http://petersen.org).



### Jazz at LACMA

Jazz lovers are invited a virtual Los Angeles County Museum of Art performance by the Curtis Taylor Quartet on Friday, May 28, at 6 p.m. The concert was previously recorded during the Jazz at LACMA series. It features music and inter-



views hosted by LACMA's Mitch Glickman. Viewing is free. [lacma.org](http://lacma.org).

### Bold Faced Secret series

Enjoy the Echo Theater Company's Bold Faced Secret series, an online hour-long production of curated personal stories on Friday, May 28, at 7:30 p.m. The theme is "elephant in the room." Storytellers were invited to submit stories about a big topic, hot button issue or controversy. Viewing is free but reservations are required. [echotheatercompany.com](http://echotheatercompany.com).

### History of Tulsa Race Massacre

Join the Hammer Museum for "The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre: A Historical Context" on Tuesday, June 1, at 5 p.m. UCLA professor Brenda E. Stevenson will moderate an online conversation with Karlos K. Hill and Hannibal Johnson, authors and experts on the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, in which a white mob assaulted and murdered residents and looted a predominantly Black neighborhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The discussion will focus on the history of Black migration to Oklahoma, the Jim Crow era of the early 20th century, the facts about the Tulsa massacre and the immediate aftermath. Admission is free, RSVP requested. [hammer.ucla.edu/programs-events/2021/1921-tulsa-race-massacre-historical-context](http://hammer.ucla.edu/programs-events/2021/1921-tulsa-race-massacre-historical-context).

### Latino International Film Festival

The Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival will be held from Wednesday, June 2, through Sunday, June 6. Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the festival will feature virtual screenings and films shown in-person at the TCL Chinese Theatre and the TCL Chinese 6 Theatres in Hollywood. It includes a special preview screening of "In the

Heights" on June 4, as well as feature films, short films, master classes, arts programs and musical performances. Events for industry professionals are also included during Industry Days programming. RSVPs required. 6925 Hollywood Blvd. For a full schedule, visit [laliff.org](http://laliff.org).

### Holocaust story

L.A. Theatre Works presents the world premiere of "A Good Day at Auschwitz," a new play based on an extraordinary true story available for on demand viewing beginning on Wednesday, June 2. The production by actor Stephen Tobolowsky stars Alan Mandell as Abe, a Holocaust survivor whom the playwright met at Adat Ari El synagogue in Valley Village. Tobolowsky also stars as himself in the production about Sarna's life. Sarna was imprisoned in the Auschwitz Concentration Camp during World War II. With tenacity, he survived atrocities, moved to the United States and settled in Los Angeles, where he enjoyed many years with family. The cost is \$20 and includes a Zoom interview with Tobolowsky and L.A. Theatre Works producing director Susan Albert Loewenberg. [latw.org/digital-season](http://latw.org/digital-season).



### American Youth Symphony gala

American Youth Symphony will celebrate the conclusion of its 2020-21 season with the 56th Annual Gala on Thursday, June 3, at 5 p.m. The virtual program will feature 31 AYS musicians performing Copland's "Three Latin-American Sketches," Clyne's "Within her Arms," St. George's "Symphony No. 1" and Mozart's "Serenata Notturna." Music Director Carlos Izcaray will lead the young musicians in the program at UCLA's Royce Hall. Admission is free but reservations are required. [aysymphony.org/gala](http://aysymphony.org/gala).

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# One Beverly Hills developer's attorney draws heat

■ Council criticizes 'overzealous' attempt to protect Alagem

BY CAMERON KISZLA

After approximately eight and a half hours of reports, public comments and questions over two nights, the Beverly Hills City Council has yet to take any votes on the One Beverly Hills project. Discussions will resume tonight, May 27, at 7 p.m.

While nothing has yet been decided, it appears that Eric Amdursky, an attorney with O'Melveny and Myers who is representing the project's head, Beny Alagem, has drawn the ire of Beverly Hills city officials.

Earlier this month, Beverly Hills residents Andrea and Rick Grossman raised concerns about the development team and referenced media reports, including from the Wall Street Journal, that alleged unsavory business practices by Alagem. Beverly Hills-based Alagem Capital Group is undertaking the project in partnership with London-based Cain International. In response, Amdursky wrote to the Grossmans and called their statement "defamation" and demanded the Grossmans retract it, which they did in an effort to avoid a lawsuit.

Planning Commission Chair Peter Ostroff interceded on the Grossmans' behalf, writing to the council that Amdursky had been successful in using "intimidation tactics" to muzzle public comment. Councilman John Mirisch agreed.

"I believe that the process must be protected. When I found out about this, it made my blood boil. Our residents need to be protected. They need to be able to speak their minds," Mirisch said.

City Attorney Laurence Wiener confirmed that not only were the Grossmans' comments protected from defamation lawsuits – they would likely emerge victorious in court – but also that Amdursky's letter was intended primarily to limit criticism of Alagem and the project.

"[The Grossmans] could be sued, and that would chill speech, probably," Wiener said.

Mirisch made clear he did not believe Alagem himself directed the sending of this letter, but he asked that Amdursky be made available on May 27 to answer questions.

Mirisch's colleagues agreed that the letter went too far.

"Sometimes an attorney is overzealous in their protection of their client. Perhaps that is what occurred here, and that is unfortunate. I believe our residents must come first and must be heard, whether I agree with them or not," Councilman Lester Friedman said.

Councilman Julian Gold suggested the letter be discussed further at a future study session, which seemed to draw support from a majority of the other council members.

"We're not going to solve this tonight ... It may well have been an overreaction, and we should not overreact [in response]," Gold said.

The topic is likely to be discussed again on May 27, as will some of Mirisch's remaining questions and the development agreement for the project.

Aside from the discussion of the Grossmans' letter, the project team faced hours of comments from the public and questioning from the council members about One

Beverly Hills, which will include residences, hotels – including the existing Waldorf Astoria and the Beverly Hilton – retail and restaurant space, and botanical gardens on both sides of Merv Griffin Way.

The public comment was largely split, with dozens of residents speaking in favor of the project and its anticipated benefits for the city. Dozens of other residents criticized its scale – it includes a 28-story and a 32-story tower – and the timing of the project, which has cleared many necessary hurdles during the pan-

demie. The development team, led by Alagem, praised the project as being transformative for the Beverly Hills community.

"We are building a bright future for our city and our great community ... One Beverly Hills will be the spark that ignites the city's economic recovery," Alagem said.

The development team highlighted the project's sustainable features and the availability of 4.5 acres of

See Alagem page 22



rendering © DBOX for Alagem Capital Group

The One Beverly Hills project includes the existing Waldorf Astoria and Beverly Hilton.



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photo by Edwin Folven

Beverly Hills Police Department officers arrested and booked the suspect, but charges were not filed and he was released on May 25.

## Evidence didn't warrant charges in assault, D.A.'s office says

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has declined to file charges against a man who was arrested and booked for attempted murder on May 20 for allegedly attacking another man in the 200 block of Beverly Drive in Beverly Hills. Both men involved are believed to be homeless, police said. The D.A.'s office declined to press charges because there was insufficient evidence regarding who started the altercation, and no security camera footage to definitively show what happened, according to an affidavit filed when the case was declined.

Beverly Hills Police Department Capt. Max Subin said officers responded to the 200 block of Beverly Drive around

1:45 a.m. and found a male victim unconscious and bleeding from multiple stab wounds. Paramedics took the victim to a hospital, where he remains in stable condition, Subin said.

At the same time as BHPD officers were investigating the stabbing, officers from the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division were called to a location just outside of Beverly Hills near La Cienega Park on a report of a man who needed medical aid. Officers from both agencies coordinated and determined the man in contact with LAPD officers was the alleged perpetrator in the stabbing, Subin said. BHPD officers arrested the alleged suspect, who was 29. He was released after the D.A.'s office declined to file charges.

## Three arrested for double-murder at mini-mall

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Three people are in custody and have been charged for a double murder on May 3 in a mini-mall parking lot near Crenshaw and Washington boulevards.

Two men were found dead at approximately 1 a.m. in the parking lot, victims of a shooting that allegedly occurred after an argument at a restaurant and bar in the mini-mall, police said. One of the deceased men, Ruben Vasquez, 26, of Los Angeles, was not involved in the argument and was an innocent victim, said Lt. John Radtke, of the Los Angeles Police Department West Bureau Homicide Unit. Vasquez was found seated behind the wheel of his vehicle and was pronounced dead at the scene.

A female victim also believed to have been a bystander suffered a gunshot wound to the leg, was

taken to a hospital and is recovering, Radtke added.

Police found the other victim, Marlon Carrillo, 44, of Los Angeles, lying in the parking lot in front of a 7-Eleven store in the same mini-mall. He was also pronounced dead at the scene.

Radtke said Carrillo came to the strip mall after his son had been involved in an argument with patrons inside the restaurant and bar. The son had left but the people with whom he had been arguing were still at the scene when the elder Carrillo arrived, he added. A confrontation allegedly ensued between Carrillo and the suspects before gunfire erupted, Radtke said.

The suspects in custody were identified as Jose Hernandez, 32; Jobany Villatoro, 43; and Gerardo Delcampo, 44, all of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles County District

Attorney's Office filed murder charges against Hernandez and Villatoro, and they are being held on \$2 million bail. Accessory to murder charges were filed against Delcampo, who is also facing firearms and narcotics possession charges and is being held on \$2 million bail.

Delcampo was taken into custody on May 3 by detectives serving a search warrant at an undisclosed location, police said. Hernandez and Villatoro were arrested on May 18 by an FBI-LAPD Fugitive Task Force.

No further information was available about how police solved the case because of the ongoing court proceedings, although Radtke said detectives worked tirelessly to identify the suspects.

Anyone with further information is urged to call investigators at (213)382-9470.

## Support mounts for federal bill on policing changes

The Los Angeles City Council unanimously voted on May 25 to support H.R. 1280, the George Floyd Justice In Policing Act of 2021, a bill introduced by U.S. Rep. Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles).

The vote came on the one year anniversary of the murder of George Floyd by former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. Los Angeles City Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas, 10th District, said it is essential to support the George Floyd Justice In Policing Act of 2021.

"It has been one year since George Floyd was murdered at the hands of a Minnesota police officer while his fellow officers stood by. A year later, although our friends and

neighbors no longer convene on the streets to collectively voice our discontent, we now convene around the halls of government, ready to support new policy that meaningfully, strategically and pointedly dismantles systemic racism," said Ridley-Thomas, who co-introduced the resolution with Councilman Curren Price, 9th District. "As a city, we must continue to raise our voice in support of efforts to end the senseless violence toward people of color and in particular, African Americans, at the hands of law enforcement."

Officials said much work has been done at the local and federal levels to reimagine public safety. H.R. 1280 will further address policing policies and issues nationwide, including

increasing accountability for law enforcement misconduct; restricting the use of practices such as no-knock warrants, chokeholds and carotid holds; enhancing transparency and data collection; and establishing best practices and training requirements. The bill has been approved by the U.S. House of Representatives and is currently awaiting consideration in the Senate.

"Many of my friends on the council remember the pain of not getting national reforms enacted after Rodney King was beaten 30 years ago," Bass said. "I hope that acting this time on the heels of the torturous murder of George Floyd, we can enact real, substantive change to our policing system."

## Former teacher sentenced to 30 years for sexual abuse

A former elementary school teacher who produced pornographic images of a 15-year-old ex-student was sentenced on May 13 to 30 years in federal prison.

Sean David Sigler, 56, of Burbank, was sentenced by United States District Judge John A. Kronstadt, who described Sigler's conduct as "inexcusable." Sigler, who pleaded guilty in September 2019 to two counts of production of child pornography, previously taught fifth-grade students at Bret Harte Elementary School in Burbank and Gardner Street Elementary School in Hollywood, where he first met the victim, according to authorities.

Sigler was the victim's fifth-grade teacher and kept in contact with her after she advanced to higher grades. Authorities said he used his position as a former teacher and mentor to gain the trust of the vic-

tim and her parents, and then sexually assaulted the girl. Sigler also created multiple sexually explicit videos of the victim and took sexually explicit photographs. The crimes took place between September 2016 and May 2017.

Sigler also created child pornography by modifying a pornographic image of the victim with the face of a different former student who was also a minor. Authorities found the image during a January 2018 search of Sigler's digital devices, which contained more than 5,000 images of child pornography.

As part of the sentence, Sigler agreed to forfeit \$271,506 seized by the government, which constitutes proceeds from the sale of a home where he produced child pornography. United States Homeland Security Investigations and the Burbank Police Department investigated the crimes.

## Warning issued about benefits scam

The L.A. County District Attorney's Office is warning people to beware of social security scams in which perpetrators attempt to steal identities.

The scams commonly target seniors and involve a call from someone claiming to be from the

Social Security Administration. The caller tells the victim their social security number has been compromised and they may become ineligible for benefits.

Hang up on such calls. Never provide a social security number. For information, call (800)772-1213.

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# Hearings begin on Saban Theatre lawsuit

■ Temple of the Arts claims Metro work damaged building

BY CAMERON KISZLA

Court hearings have begun in Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts' lawsuit related to the ongoing Purple Line Extension subway construction.

The temple is suing the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the city of Beverly Hills over the construction work, which the temple claims has caused damage to the theater at 8440 Wilshire Blvd. and limited access to the venue for pre-pandemic concerts and events.

The first phase of the trial began earlier this month. If California Superior Court Judge Steve Goorvitch agrees that the Saban Theatre, which is overseen by the Temple of the Arts and provides revenue for the temple's operations, is entitled to damages, then the trial will move to a second phase, to be decided by a jury.

Edward Lear, an attorney with Century Law Group who is representing the Temple of the Arts, said the temple only needs to prove that the damage to the building and lack of access was "substantially" caused by the excavation work on nearby Wilshire Boulevard.

**"Temple of the Arts and Saban Theatre ... welcome the subway. We just didn't want to be destroyed in the process."**

*-Rabbi David Baron, Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts*

"[The defendants are] going to argue that the damage, if any, is cosmetic and minor, and even to the extent that there was cosmetic and minor damage, that it was not caused by the settlement of the soil, but from some other factor, including the 1994 Northridge earthquake," Lear said.

Lear added "we don't agree with that," and he believes a 2015 survey commissioned by Metro will show that the damage is new and caused by the excavation work.

"We have to prove any damage was substantially caused by the excavation. We believe that we've proved damages to the structural integrity of the [theater] building, but we don't have to even go that far," Lear said.

Beverly Hills spokesman Keith Sterling said the city is being defended and indemnified by Metro and deferred comment to the transit agency, whose spokesman, Dave Sotero, said that "Metro does not comment on pending litigation."

Rabbi David Baron of the Temple of the Arts noted that they've seen "a number of vertical cracks that are new and recent, and we've had falling plaster."

"The trial is ongoing, and we're staying cautiously optimistic that the court understands the scope of the damage we've sustained here at the Saban Theatre and that we continue to sustain and how it was sub-

stantially caused by the excavation in front of our building," Baron said.

Lear, who is also representing the Flats Restaurant in their lawsuit that alleges that they went out of business due to the Purple Line Extension construction, said he expects the defense to conclude its arguments this week, with more oral arguments likely scheduled for July or August. Lear declined to state how much the temple is seeking in damages, describing it as "an amount not yet determined, not yet presented to the court."

"Best case is that they will be fully compensated for their losses,"

Lear said.

Baron also hopes to be compensated enough to restore the theater to its pre-construction state, and said he was surprised more had not been done to protect the Saban Theatre, a national, state and local historic landmark.

Baron added that the Temple of the Arts and theater are in favor of the subway, which is "a great benefit to any community."

"It's important to understand that our Temple of the Arts and Saban Theatre as stakeholders welcome the subway," he said. "We just didn't want to be destroyed in the process."



photo by Cameron Kiszla

The Saban Theatre building includes the theater space and an office tower.

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<p><b>6/10</b> JOSÉ TANAKA FLAMENCO GUITAR TRIO</p>	<p><b>6/11</b> GUILTY PLEASURE MAKERS <i>50 years of Pop Rock</i></p>
<p><b>6/17</b> EINSTEIN BROWN CALYPSO</p>	<p><b>6/18</b> SUSIE HANSEN LATIN JAZZ TRIO</p>
<p><b>6/24</b> CALIFORNIA FEETWARMERS <i>20s Ragtime &amp; Stompy Blues</i></p>	<p><b>6/25</b> ABBY GIRL &amp; THE REAL DEAL <i>50s style Rhythm &amp; Blues</i></p>

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# O'Farrell seeks help for young refugees in L.A.

■ Councilman traveled to Tijuana in 2019 to learn about unaccompanied minors

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District, is seeking to expand efforts to help unaccompanied minors who are refugees from Central American and other countries who have been recently arriving in greater numbers in the city.

Federal immigration authorities have been housing thousands of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in facilities in Long Beach and Pomona. Some have family members or friends in Los Angeles, and the councilman is working with organizations to link them with supporters. Others have no family in the United States, and nonprofit organizations intervene with resources so the youth don't become homeless or involved with gangs.

At the forefront of the effort is the Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund, which coordinates services for immigrants including housing, meals, clothing, health care, job training and legal assistance. The need is critical, said Jocelyn Duarte, executive director of SALEF.

"The most important thing is to ensure they have what they need to survive," Duarte said. "Some of them have family or friends that can help, but a lot of the time, the youth don't have any family, and they become our youth."

SALEF, based at 421 S. Bixel St. near downtown, frequently assists youth who are referred by others. Duarte said a 19-year-old girl from Honduras with a 3-year-old child recently sought help from SALEF after being homeless and staying in a park in South Los Angeles. She was referred by a youth who was previously helped by the organization. SALEF secured temporary housing for the woman and her child along with other resources and will continue to ensure their progress, Duarte said.

"We were able to find her space at one of the local shelters that accepts families," she added. "That's why a holistic approach is so important. We help them get into the county's coordinate entry system, which puts them in the queue to receive a bed and other services."

Duarte said most of the nonprofit's

clients are from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Many fled their home countries due to violence and economic disparity. Duarte said civil war, crime, gang violence and other factors have forced people to flee in large numbers. The trip across Mexico is also an arduous journey fraught with danger, she added, and once they reach the border, the minors often find themselves without support as they navigate the legal system seeking asylum. Under federal regulations, the unaccompanied minors have been transported to cities around the United States, with the goal of possibly unifying them with family or friends that can provide support during the process.

Duarte estimated there are approximately 2,500 youth under the age of 18 at the facility at Fairplex in Pomona and was unaware of how many were being housed in Long Beach.

"There are about 300 to 500 kids who come each day," she added.

**"We saw firsthand how incredibly vulnerable these under 18-year-old unaccompanied minors were ... I wanted to make sure stateside, we could provide a safe environment."**

*-Mitch O'Farrell,  
Los Angeles City Councilman*

"We help the youth navigate the system."

O'Farrell said he saw the need for assistance for immigrants and unaccompanied minors when he and Councilman Curren Price, 9th District, traveled to Tijuana with SALEF in 2019. They met with members of other organizations helping immigrants at the border and learned the situation for many refugees is dire.

"We specifically visited some of these refugee camps where the unaccompanied minors had, in various caravans, arrived at the border. We saw firsthand how incredibly vulnerable these under

18-year-old unaccompanied minors were," O'Farrell said. "Knowing that they were awaiting asylum cases, and knowing some of them ended up coming to Los Angeles, were brought here to wait for their asylum hearing without any safety net whatsoever ... I wanted to make sure stateside, we could provide a safe environment."

In 2019, O'Farrell introduced a motion to provide initial funding for a program assisting unaccompanied minors. The City Council approved \$100,000 for SALEF, which started the project. In a motion introduced in early May of

this year, O'Farrell called for a report from SALEF and other organizations assisting refugees, as well as the city's Office of Immigrant Affairs, to determine best practices for helping people and what additional resources are available to further the effort.

"I wanted to bring them all in to explore how we could partner on ensuring their safety and security while they are waiting for these asylum hearings, and if they stay beyond, put them on a pathway to well-being," O'Farrell added.

The councilman said he knows the assistance SALEF is providing is working. He said he saw it firsthand in the positive attitudes of some of the minors the organization previously helped when they volun-

teered at a recent food distribution at his field office in Echo Park.

"It was really gratifying to see them be to the point where they could come out, participate with my office and volunteer," he added. "It was a really great turn of events."

Duarte was grateful for the support of the councilman and remains optimistic that the city will provide more resources to help the minors. She added that the goal is to get to a point in which government and nonprofit partners can fully address the situation.

"We are very thankful to the city and elected officials like Councilman O'Farrell for their leadership," Duarte said. "He understands our community very well."



photo courtesy of Councilman Mitch O'Farrell's office

Los Angeles City Councilmen Mitch O'Farrell, left, and Curren Price addressed the dire situation facing many unaccompanied minors at the border during a trip to Tijuana in 2019.

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## Groundbreaking signals final stop on subway project

■ Third phase of Purple Line Extension expected to open in 2027

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Federal, county and local officials broke ground on May 24 on the third and final section of the Purple Line Extension project.

The last 2.5-mile segment will run between the Century City/Constellation station and the Westwood/VA Hospital station. It is expected to open in 2027 and will include an additional station – Westwood/UCLA.

The entire Purple Line Extension, which will run 8.9 miles between Wilshire/Western and Westwood, is a critical piece of infrastructure in the plan to bring rail service to all sections of Los Angeles, the officials said. Construction on the route under Wilshire Boulevard has been ongoing for the past decade. The first phase of the project between Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/La Cienega is expected to open in 2023 and will include stations at Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax. The second section from Wilshire/La Cienega to Century City/Constellation is anticipated to be operational in 2025 and includes the Wilshire/Rodeo station in Beverly Hills.

When completed, the Purple Line will offer 25-minute commutes between downtown and the westside, officials said. It will also ease traffic congestion and offer new access to areas such as the Miracle Mile and Beverly Hills. A northern extension of the Crenshaw Line that would connect with the Purple Line before heading through West Hollywood and into Hollywood is also under consideration.

“The Purple Line Expansion is the key that will unlock our transportation future and burst open doors of opportunity on the westside. [This] groundbreaking moves us one step closer to completely redefining our city’s relationship with public transit,” said Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti, who also serves as chairman of the Metro Board of Directors. “We promised Angelenos a world-class transit system when we passed Measure M, and this milestone is a clear indication of our commitment to make Los Angeles a more accessible, sustainable and inclusive city.”

The groundbreaking for the third segment of the subway line was held on the grounds of the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Medical Center, just west of the San Diego (405) Freeway. Crews will be driving steel piles into the ground to create a perimeter around the future subway station. The area will then be excavated before station construction begins.

The final segment is being partially funded by a \$1.3 billion federal grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation through a Federal Transit Administration Capital Investment Grant program referred to as New Starts. More than \$2 billion in additional funding will come from half-cent sales tax increases in measures R and M, approved by voters in 2008 and 2016, respectively.

Outgoing Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington said the Purple Line will be transformational for the

region. He also expressed gratitude to partners in the effort to build the subway project.

“I want to thank U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein for championing this project as a key member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations,” Washington added. “I also want to express my appreciation to Federal Transit Administration Deputy Administrator Nuria Fernandez, Vice President Kamala Harris, Congresswoman Karen Bass, Congressman Ted Lieu and all members of the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation for uniting behind this project and

ensuring that federal funding would be prioritized for this important project. It is truly a project of regional and national significance.”

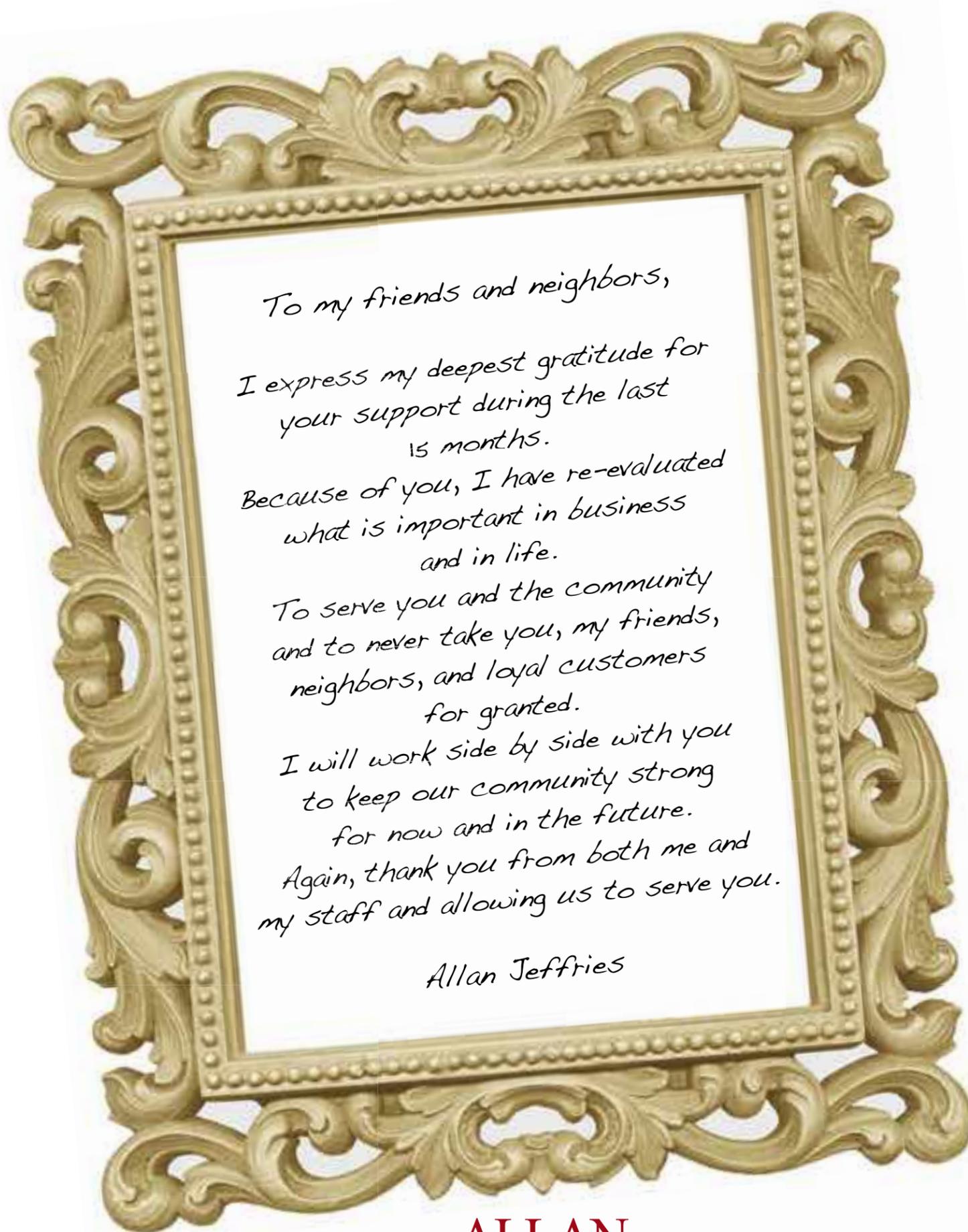
Officials said the first section of the subway line between Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/La Cienega in Beverly Hills is nearly 70% complete, and the second section through Beverly Hills is nearly 45% finished.

The Purple Line Extension is projected to have approximately 49,300 daily weekday boardings at the seven new stations, adding 78,000 new daily trips to the Metro Rail system.



photo courtesy of Mayor Eric Garcetti's office

Mayor Eric Garcetti, center, led federal and local officials on May 24 in turning the first shovels of dirt for the final segment of the Purple Line Extension project.



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# Pandemic pushes back heavenly apartment plans

BY AUSTIN TURNER

As it turns out, even places of worship are shown no mercy by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before the pandemic, Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon, a Maronite Catholic church at 333 S. San Vicente Blvd., anticipated that construction would begin on a 19-floor apartment complex on church property in 2021. The Beverly Grove church now expects construction to begin no earlier than 2023, which would be “very optimistic,” according to the Rev. Albert Constantine, chancellor of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles.

The project is currently awaiting approval of its draft environmental impact report, which is in a public comment period until June 28. Until then, the public may send comments and concerns about the project to the Los Angeles Department of City Planning. According to the draft EIR, construction of the project “would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to noise and vibration.”

If no major issues arise during the EIR process, the church plans to submit the plans for building permits in hopes of beginning construction within the next three years.

Funding is yet to be secured for the project, but the church is exploring many avenues to find ways to fund construction.

Constantine said that despite delays as a result of the pandemic, the building plans remain unchanged. Designed by Nadel Architects, the complex will contain 153 apartments, with 17 units designated for “very low-income” residents.

“[The low-income units are] something we are committed to,” Constantine said. “Obviously we are a church, we have a moral obligation to take care of those less fortunate than we are, and we will do whatever it takes to make sure that we provide low-income housing.”

Harald Hahn, president of Burton Way Foundation, has strong opinions about the 17 low-income units. “It’s [BS],” he said. “The kind of low-income they’re talking about is already middle class ... Remember this is an area that has no supermarkets anywhere near ... It’s meaningless.”

Housing will be open to the public, regardless of faith or religion, Constantine said. The apartment buildings will be owned by the church but operated by an outside management company yet to be named.

The apartment complex proposal includes plans for an outdoor pool and recreation deck on the fourth floor. The proposal also includes plans to construct a five-level subterranean parking structure on church property, providing 252 residential parking spaces and 145 spaces reserved for the church, according to the draft EIR.

As for the church building itself, the draft EIR describes plans for “the deconstruction, off-site storage, reassembly, rehabilitation and limited alteration of the existing cathedral of Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon.” Constantine said the cathedral will be updated and modernized, but with no major changes.

“We love our church,” he said. “This is our home, our spiritual home for 55-plus years now. We want to be here for the next 100 years ... We are going to extraordinary lengths to preserve it and to make sure it retains its heritage and retains its character.”



photo courtesy of Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon

Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon plans to build a 19-story apartment building on its campus on South San Vicente Boulevard.

Constantine said the aisles will be widened to be more “user friendly” and will be updated to bring the building up to code. Hahn has concerns about the update of the 84-year-old cathedral.

“They’re proposing to tear down

a historic building and rebuilding the historic building larger and with improvements,” he said. “And [they’ll] still try to call it historic.”

While the cathedral is potentially under construction, Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon would temporarily

## Notable quotes

“Black power ... is a call for black people in this country to unite, to recognize their heritage, to build a sense of community. It is a call for black people to define their own goals, to lead their own organizations and to support those organizations. It is a call to reject racist institutions and values of society.”

Charles Vernon Hamilton  
“Black Power” (1967)

Charles Vernon Hamilton is the Wallace S. Sayre Professor Emeritus of Government at Columbia University. One of the first African Americans to hold an endowed chair at an Ivy League university, Hamilton focused his research on urban politics and the Civil Rights movement. His most famous book, which was a best-seller, was co-authored with Stokely Carmichael, “Black Power: The Politics of Liberation in America” (1967).

(source: “Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations”)

relocate its services to somewhere near its current Beverly Grove location. Constantine said the search for a new location is active.

Alison Simard, spokeswoman for Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th District, who is also a 2022 candidate for city controller, said Koretz wants to “assess com-

munity feedback” before giving thoughts on the project.

“Councilmember Koretz is always supportive of affordable housing, so he will take a very serious look at it,” she said, while adding that the height of the 19-floor building is an aspect that may need to be further examined.

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## Visitors return to Echo Park Lake after renovation project

Echo Park Lake reopened to the public following two months of extensive repairs.

The park was closed in late March after nearly 200 unhoused individuals were relocated to transitional housing, said Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District. The Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks had previously authorized \$1.1 million in repairs at the park prior to the pandemic, including upgrades to the children's play area, public restrooms, boathouse and lake bridge. Other improvements include new hydration stations, electrical and plumbing repair, irrigation system renovations, painting and graffiti removal, and new turf, landscaping and trees. Security cameras have been installed to help ensure that Echo Park Lake remains safe and secure for all park users, O'Farrell said.

The individuals who formerly lived in the park continue to receive housing and comprehensive services including meals, medical care, case management and job placement. Those who accepted housing were also allowed to keep animal companions.

"For over a year, my team worked tirelessly to provide resources, services and ultimately transitional housing to people experiencing homelessness at

Echo Park Lake," O'Farrell said. "As time went on, conditions at the park became increasingly unsafe for everyone – park visitors and park dwellers. Echo Park Lake is a shared public space, and unhoused people were existing in inhumane conditions, which is why every single person experiencing homelessness in the park was offered transitional housing and services."

From January until the closure in late March, O'Farrell funded essential services for people experiencing homelessness at Echo Park Lake including outreach for unhoused individuals, publicly accessible restrooms, showers and hygiene stations, laundry vouchers, storage bins and safe parking for people living in vehicles.

Prior to that, safety conditions at Echo Park Lake had deteriorated, O'Farrell said. Four deaths occurred in the park in 2020.

"The Echo Park community is compassionate and cares deeply about helping people experiencing homelessness receive the services that lead to stability and permanent housing," O'Farrell added. "But what transpired at Echo Park Lake should not be acceptable to any of us. The city will ensure that it remains safe, clean, accessible and secure for all who wish to use this shared public space."

## L.A. River reopens for summer recreation

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District, has announced that the Los Angeles River will once again be open for kayaking, fishing and increased public access beginning on Memorial Day, May 31.

After last year's river recreation season was halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, new safety protocols will be in place to ensure the health of all participants.

From May 31 through Sept. 30, two designated recreation zones – Elysian Valley and the Sepulveda Basin – will be open on a daily basis from sunrise to sunset. The zones provide safe, equitable public access and recreational opportunities. Thousands of Angelenos have used the zones to kayak, fish, bird watch or walk along a river-adjacent path. Free access to the recreation zones is provided by the city of Los Angeles.

"At long last, more people can learn about and enjoy our beloved Los Angeles River once more," said O'Farrell, chairman of the council's Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice and River Committee. "I know many of my constituents have been looking forward to this opportunity. Count me among you. I encourage all Angelenos to take part in this one-of-a-kind recreational experience."

"The Sepulveda Basin and Los Angeles River offer a much needed opportunity for Angelenos and our Valley families to relax and have fun outdoors," added Council President Nury Martinez, 6th



photo courtesy of Councilman Mitch O'Farrell's office

Councilman Mitch O'Farrell kayaked on the Los Angeles River as part of the announcement that recreation zones have reopened.

District. "I look forward to welcoming people back to this incredible natural amenity."

Both recreation zones are managed and patrolled by rangers from the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority. To ensure a safe experience, visitors are advised to follow health and safety protocols posted on signs and in informational material at all public access points. For maps and information, visit [lariverrecreation.org](http://lariverrecreation.org).

Visitors are also advised to check water conditions. Solar-powered water quality beacons installed by LA Sanitation and Environment will indicate water quality conditions at kayaking input sites. The colored beacons illuminate green for "safe;" yellow for "safe, but

take precautions" and solid red for "do not kayak." A blinking red light indicates that the recreation zone is closed for a reason other than water quality. Swimming is prohibited at all times. For information, visit [lacitysan.org/waterquality](http://lacitysan.org/waterquality).

"The Los Angeles River is a key waterway in the city of Los Angeles, crucial to a healthy environment, biodiversity and our own sense of place and pride," said Traci Minamide, COO for LA Sanitation and Environment. "LASAN strives to help ensure that all Angelenos are able to safely access and enjoy the river during these recreational months."

Information is also available by visiting [bit.ly/lariverpsa](http://bit.ly/lariverpsa).



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## Metro pairs unclaimed bikes with those who need them

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority has launched an Adopt-A-Bike pilot program allowing unclaimed bicycles left on buses, trains and Metro property to be offered free to county residents and people who are unhoused.

Metro collects approximately 400 to 500 bicycles each month on its property and they are transported to lost and found facilities. Approximately 75% of the bicycles are never claimed.

After the bicycles are stored for 90 days, as required by state law, they are sold at auction, per current Metro policy.

Under the new two-year Adopt-A-Bike pilot program, the need for auctioning bicycles will be eliminated. Metro will partner with community-based organizations to give the bikes away free to community members in need to help increase mobility options.

“Every Angeleno should have access to clean, healthy transportation, regardless of their zip code, income level or housing situation,” said Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board Chair Eric Garcetti. “The Adopt-A-Bike program will help provide our most vulnerable residents with a new vehicle [for] opportunity, a sustainable way to get around our city and a path to a

more equitable future.”

The program will be administered through a grant program that pairs Metro with community-based organizations and other entities working in disadvantaged communities. Up to \$120,000 annually will be available for organizations distributing the bicycles.

Metro will support the organizations, which will leverage their experience and utilize networks to distribute bicycles at events and giveaways. The community-based organizations will be responsible for rehabilitating damaged bicycles and performing comprehensive safety checks, as well as providing safety training to recipients.

“The Metro Adopt-A-Bike pilot program is our latest equity-focused initiative to provide more mobility options to disadvantaged residents of Los Angeles County,” said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. “In addition, the pilot program will provide a cost-free option for people to connect with the Metro transit system and access employment opportunities and to make other essential trips.”

Metro announced the new program as part of its observance of Bike Month in Los Angeles County.

For information, visit [metro.net/bikemonth](http://metro.net/bikemonth).

## Webinar outlines next steps for subway work

Metro will continue work on the Purple Line Extension subway project through the end of May and beginning of June. The next meeting on sections one and two of the project from Wilshire/Western to Century City will be held on Wednesday, June 2, from noon to 1 p.m., via Zoom. To participate, visit [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and use the webinar ID: 937 0548 5587, or call (888)788 0099.

Construction may impact traffic at many locations along the route between the Wilshire/Western and Century City/Constellation stations. At the eastern end near Wilshire/Western, support for tunneling continues near Manhattan Place. K-rail work zones will remain on Wilshire Boulevard near Rimpau and Plymouth boulevards through 2021. Support for tunneling and cross passage construction continues in the area. Wilshire Boulevard has been reduced to two lanes in each direction between June Street and Muirfield Road, and Windsor and Plymouth boulevards.

Station construction also continues at Wilshire/La Brea, where staging yards are located on both sides of the intersection. Work is also currently occurring in a construction zone along the north side of Wilshire Boulevard. Construction may necessitate weekend lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard at La Brea Avenue.

Work also continues at the future Wilshire/Fairfax station, where appendage structures housing vital systems are being built. Ogden



photo courtesy of Metro

Crews are building entrances and exits at future subway stations along the Purple Line Extension route.

Drive may experience periodic closures and Orange Grove Avenue will remain closed south of Wilshire Boulevard through January 2022.

Other station appendage work is occurring along the southwest corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue. Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction between San Diego Way and Spaulding Avenue through early August.

Subway station and appendage construction also at Wilshire/La Cienega, and in a staging area at Wilshire/Gale. Lane reductions on Wilshire Boulevard may be implemented between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards. Gale Drive will also be intermittently closed

north of Wilshire Boulevard.

Farther west at Wilshire/Rodeo, construction is ongoing underground. Two lanes will be open in each direction on Wilshire Boulevard between Beverly and Crescent drives from 10:45 a.m. to midnight, and one lane in each direction will be open from midnight to 10:45 a.m.

Support for tunneling continues at the Century City/Constellation station. Traffic controls and lane reductions may be in place around work zones near Constellation Boulevard and Avenue of the Stars.

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

## Galperin joins race for county supervisor

Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin has entered the 2022 race for Los Angeles County Supervisor in the 3rd District.

Galperin announced his candidacy on May 26, joining a field that also includes West Hollywood Mayor Lindsey Horvath and California Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica). Current Supervisor Sheila Kuehl will not seek reelection in 2022. Galperin's second term as controller ends next year.

“L.A. is at a turning point,” Galperin said. “Our region has always been the home of creativity, innovation and dreams. As we begin to emerge from more than a year of COVID-19, we face enormous challenges, but also have great opportunities that must be tackled with guts and vision. It takes leadership and a willingness to fight to deliver a more equitable Los Angeles.”

Elected as controller in 2013 and reelected 2017, Galperin oversees government expenditures, ensuring that public tax money is spent transparently, efficiently and effectively. He also serves as a watchdog over government fraud and waste. “Next year, L.A. will be electing new leadership that will chart the course for years to come. We must do more to combat homelessness, poverty, mental illness and inequity while strengthening our economy and expanding opportunity,” Galperin added. “The future depends on innovative, accountable and energetic leadership. That’s what I want to bring to L.A. County.”

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# Schiff's HAVANA Act to provide disability benefits

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, on May 19 introduced the Helping American Victims Afflicted by Neurological Attacks Act of 2021, or the HAVANA Act, a bill to grant additional authority to the director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the secretary of state to provide disability benefits to individuals afflicted by the anomalous health incidents in Havana and around the world.

Reps. Devin Nunes (R-Tulare), the ranking member on the Intelligence Committee, and Gregory Meeks (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, joined Schiff to introduce the legislation.

The HAVANA Act is a companion to legislation being introduced by U.S. Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It is the product of bipartisan, bicameral cooperation on an issue of urgent national importance.

"There's no higher priority than ensuring the health and safety of our people, and the anomalous health incidents that have afflicted our personnel around the world are of grave concern," Schiff said. "Our committee has been intently focused on these troubling incidents and will not let up until the full truth is known, our people are treated and

protected, and those responsible held to account. And as we continue that important work, we will take whatever action is needed to help those individuals affected, as this legislation makes clear."

"These benefits are well deserved by patriotic Americans who were apparently subject to attack while serving their country," Nunes said. "We need to provide the best possible care for these individuals while continuing our work to get a full explanation of their illnesses."

This measure provides a technical but important fix to existing benefits statutes, which could frustrate compensation for traumatic brain injuries arising in connection with anomalous health incidents. In 2020, the final Intelligence Authorization Act for 2018, 2019 and 2020 passed by the whole Congress included Section 6412 – a House Intelligence Committee provision of the Intelligence Authorization Act which created special authority for DCIA to increase workers' compensation payments to certain injured personnel and their dependents; this legislation builds on that provision.

This is one of many steps that the House Intelligence committee is taking to address anomalous health incidents. The committees have engaged in a long-running, regular dialogue and oversight work with both current and former U.S. personnel who have offered firsthand accounts of the anomalous health incidents and related matters – to include the executive branch's provision of medical care to those affected, as well as investigative and other activities to identify these incidents' cause or causes.



photo by Lt. Col. Robert Johnson

Beverly Hills Mayor Robert Wunderlich, top right, joined 1st Lt. Fernando Torres, bottom left, and Pfc. Oscar Stein, bottom middle, as they were honored at the French Consulate in Beverly Hills.

## French Consulate honors WWII vets

The French Consulate in Beverly Hills on May 20 awarded the French Legion of Honor to two U.S. Army veterans who served in World War II, 1st Lt. Fernando Torres and Pfc. Oscar Stein.

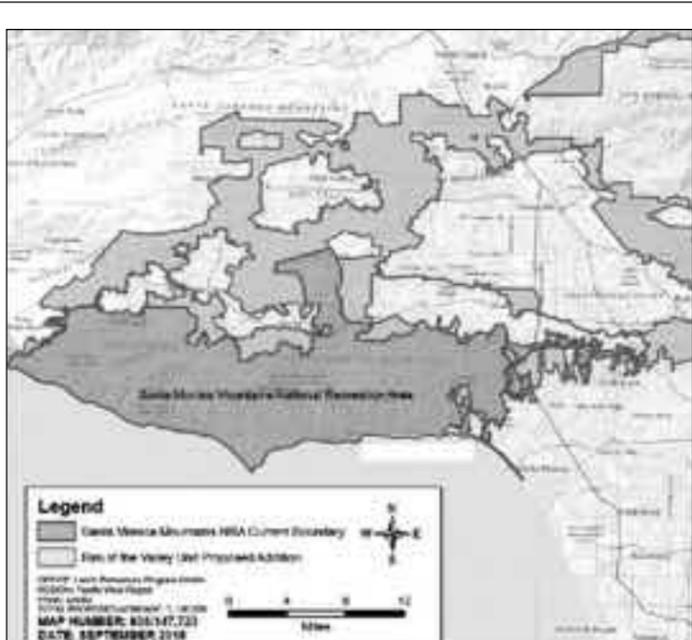
French Consul General in Los Angeles Julie Duhaut-Bedos presented the Legion of Honor, France's highest award, to the two veterans in recognition of their service in France in World War II.

Torres, 98, was born in Monterrey, Mexico in 1922. He landed on Omaha Beach on June 7, 1944, with Company A of the 17th Signal Operations Battalion. His significant decorations include the EAME Campaign Medal with five battle stars, the World War II Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. Torres and his wife, Gail, live in West Covina.

Stein, 97, was born in Dynow, Poland, in 1923, but his family moved to Vienna, Austria, when he was a week old. He landed on

Omaha Beach on June 10, 1944, assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division. His significant decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the EAME Campaign Medal with five battle stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the French Fourragere. Stein and his wife, Marya, reside in Sherman Oaks.

The French Consulate is located at 813 N. Camden Drive.



map courtesy of the National Park Service

The Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act would protect trails and open spaces in the Los Angeles area.

## Feinstein, Padilla introduce bill to protect Rim of the Valley

U.S. Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla (both D-Calif.) on May 20 introduced the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act, a bill to add more than 191,000 acres of the Rim of the Valley Corridor to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Companion legislation introduced by U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) was passed by the House of Representatives in February.

"Southern Californians deserve access to more natural places," Feinstein said. "Los Angeles County is one of the most park-poor counties in the state. Our bill would help fix that by protecting portions of the Rim of the Valley Corridor, connecting more people to the trails and vast open spaces in the foothills of the surrounding mountains. It would boost the local economy, protect sensitive habitat for wildlife and allow more people to experience the unspoiled beauty of the region."

"The science is clear: to solve the climate crisis, we must protect our natural spaces," Padilla added. "Conserving the Rim of the Valley Corridor is critical to helping California and the nation meet our goal of conserving 30% of our lands and waters by 2030. I'm proud to join Senator Feinstein in introducing the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act to help protect

this area's natural resources and diverse wildlife. Not only will this bill help us meet our climate-change goals, it will also improve access to the outdoors for some of the most park-poor communities in the country."

"The Rim of the Valley is the critical bridge between our urban city centers, suburbs in the Los Angeles basin and the spectacular wilderness that surrounds us," Schiff said. "I am thrilled to work with Senator Feinstein in getting this piece of legislation passed so we can protect these lands for generations to come. Millions of residents in the Los Angeles region depend on open space in our communities, and the benefits of widely accessible green space have never been more apparent than during the past year. The Rim of the Valley Corridor is an area of breathtaking natural beauty, and we must preserve this pristine land for the sake of our environment, wildlife and ecosystems, and for the benefit of L.A. residents, the millions each year who visit and for generations to come."

The proposed expansion is based on a six-year study of the region completed by the National Park Service in 2015. It would allow NPS and the local community to work together to better protect natural resources and habitat in the corridor and improve access for recreational and educational purposes.

## Letters to the Editor

### Public places on private spaces idea needs more thought

Re "WeHo explores new ways to create public spaces," May 20 issue

Perhaps West Hollywood would be less "densely urban" if the City Council didn't approve every new megabuilding project that comes before it. The concept of "pocket parks" on private property would be superfluous.

Rudi Logan  
West Hollywood

Nice idea, but what about liability? Seems to me that the property owner will have to pay higher insurance premiums due to the increased number of people who will be on the site during the open hours. More people mean more risks of accidents.

You will [also] need to create public and private sections, adding another burden to the owner. Security and safety of the residents will have to be addressed, too.

Seems like a lot to ask for.

Paul Salazar

### Hydrogen should get more consideration as fuel source

Re "WeHo looking to curb fos-

sil fuel gas stations," May 13 issue

Kudos to the West Hollywood City Council for prohibiting new gasoline stations within its city limits.

The council looks to the next generation's future. More and more vehicles will be electric or hybrids and the demand/need for gas will decline not rise.

The council could look to the best optimum future, the tortoise in this race – hydrogen. Hydrogen is cleaner than electric [power]. Small but not insignificant, there are 7,000 fuel cell vehicles [hydrogen] on the road today in the U.S., the majority in Southern California. Over 20 hydrogen fuel stations exist within a 30-mile zone. Hollywood, near Western, and Pico/Robertson have them. They are at existing gas stations. A separate pumping area.

Hydrogen refuels in under 10 minutes, much like gas or diesel. The more you read about hydrogen-plus-oxygen-powered cars, you'll think about getting on the list.

Toyota, Hyundai and Honda produce at least one fuel cell vehicle in their fleets. Mercedes has a GLK on the boards. They get 300-plus miles a tank.

When you consider the downsides to all the options, you'll see hydrogen deserves consideration. Putting a fuel station in town is "Jetson."

David Reid  
Hollywood

## WHAT IF I DO NO ESTATE PLANNING?

If you die intestate (without a will), then California's laws of descent and distribution will determine who receives your property by default. Contrary to popular belief, if you die without a will, everything you own does not automatically pass to the state. Typically, the distribution will be to your spouse and children and then to other family members. The state's plan reflects the legislature's guess as to how most people would dispose of their estate and establishes protections for certain beneficiaries, particularly minor children. The rules of "intestate succession" may or may not reflect your actual wishes. Estate planning affords you the opportunity to alter the state's default plan to suit your personal preferences.

### Disposition Outside The Will

It is important to understand that the transfer of your property after your death may be determined by something other than the laws of intestacy, even when you die without a will. Title to certain categories of property may pass outside the probate estate. Generally, upon your death, your half of any community property presumptively belongs to your surviving spouse. Additionally, if you own property with another person as joint tenants with right of survivorship, the property will pass directly to the remaining joint tenant upon your death and will not be part of your probate estate (it will, however, be a part of your taxable estate). Effective planning requires a knowledge of the consequences of each property interest and type of ownership.

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LAW GROUP  
Stephen W. Kramer  
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Suite 205  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
(323)964-7100

# RESTAURANT NEWS

by Jill Weinlein

## Memorial Day all weekend at Messhall

A neighborhood favorite for their all-day Carolina-style barbecue and craft cocktails with house-infused spirits, Messhall Kitchen has a sprawling outdoor dining area to celebrate Memorial Day all weekend long. Enjoy barbecue fare available for dine in or takeout (via pickup and delivery apps). Bring home barbecue platters starting at \$69 for a half pound of pulled pork, half a rack of baby back ribs, half chicken, dry-rub wings and a smoked ribeye. Each barbecue order comes with house pickles, sweet rolls, pit-baked beans, cheddar mash, Brussels sprouts and coleslaw. To-go cocktails including Brown Derby, the Negroni and the signature Amanda from Messhall's beverage manager start at \$22 for two and \$40 for four cocktails. Brunch is served Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 4500 Los Feliz Blvd., (323)660-6377.

## Pikunico supports India

With the pandemic surge in India, Japanese fried chicken concept Pikunico and ceramics studio and shop Still Life Ceramics at ROW DTLA are teaming up through June 5 to raise money to GiveIndia. The collaboration is inspired by the Empty Bowl Project, a national grassroots fundraising and marketing campaign. Participants start at Still Life Ceramics to purchase a bowl (which guests can take home to keep) and receive a voucher to take over to Pikunico to fill their bowl with Egg Drop Soup. The cost for the bowl plus the soup is \$29. They are giving 100% of the proceeds to donate to support hospitals, as well as critical patients with COVID-19 and their families. The bowls are made for this initiative by Still Life Ceramics, as well as a few local L.A. artists and members of the studio. 767 S. Alameda St., #198, (213)266-8138, and 767 S. Alameda

St., Suite 122, (213)278-0407.

## Still Standing at Hollywood's NeueHouse

Drink, dine and laugh every Friday through the end of June at NeueHouse. Botanas and cocktails are available on a menu by the Broken Spanish team as part of the restaurant's residency at NeueHouse Hollywood. The Still Standing show features performances from some of L.A.'s best comedians. Past performers include Jay Pharoah and Leslie Jones of "Saturday Night Live," Michael Rapaport and Nicole Byer. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m., for both NeueHouse members and the public. Tickets start at \$40 at neuehouse.com. Masks are required for entry. 6121 Sunset Blvd., (323)337-1420.

## The Brig in Venice reopens

The Brig is having a grand reopening and will welcome



photo courtesy of Haute Mess

## National Burger Day at Haute Mess

The European-inspired market and cafe Haute Mess is celebrating National Burger Day Friday, May 28, by preparing the Mess Burger, a delicious beef patty blend packed with flavor and topped with mouth-watering fresh tomato, melted cheddar cheese, crisp lettuce and caramelized onions with bacon aioli. Haute Mess also provides pasta and sauces and a delicious sandwich bar with 12 wholesome sandwiches named after cocktails. Sweet and savory products and wine are available. Open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. 7673 Beverly Blvd., (323)621-4556.

guests with a newly refreshed interior, fresh cocktail menu and expansive outdoor patio on May 28. The drink menu is remastered by Jared Meisler and Raul Yrastorza, who crafted the tequila and Mezcal collections at Nueva, El Carmen and

Las Perlas. They offer a playful take on boxing-centric craft cocktails aptly named Knock Out, Slugger and SouthPaw. Also on the menu are local brews, California wines, kombucha and sparkling ciders. Uncle Paulie's sets up shop

Scott Kaylin & Chris Hobson  
KAYLIN & HOBBS PICKLES

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at the far end of the bar making classic Italian-American sandwiches. The Brig opens Monday through Friday at 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 2 a.m. 1515 Abbot Kinney Blvd., (310)399-7537.

### Paloma Day all month at Lanea

Pick up a four-pack of Paloma cocktails for \$20 at Santa Monica's premier cocktail bar and taqueria, Lanea. Each pack includes a limited-edition Jaja tote while supplies last. Plus, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the I Got Your Back project. On Memorial Day weekend, Lanea will offer festive picnic party packs and have a cocktail canning pop-up on the Third Street Promenade. Lanea is open at noon on Monday through Friday, and on the weekend starting at 11 a.m. Delivery of alcohol and food is available through Toast, Grubhub, DoorDash, Postmates, Uber Eats (food only) and fetch.co (alcohol only). Pickup is available by calling the restaurant directly. gotolanea.com. 217 Broadway, (424)265-7437.

### Rooftop Cinema Club's June viewing

Celebrating their 10 years of providing al fresco movie-viewing this June, Rooftop Cinema Club El Segundo and the Drive-In at Santa Monica Airport are offering special events throughout the month. The Rooftop Cinema Club El Segundo is having Hip-Hop Night and kid-friendly screenings for the entire family, with movie times between 4 and 5 p.m. The drive-in at Santa Monica Airport offers Munchie Mondays, Pride Thursdays, and Theme Night. Tickets for screenings every night of the week are available at rooftopcinemaclub.com. 1310 E. Franklin Ave., El Segundo; and 2322 Donald Douglas Loop S., Santa Monica.



photo courtesy of Rooftop Cinema See "Barb and Star Go To Vista Del Mar" on May 27 at 8:30 p.m.

## Summer Sounds return to Farmers Market

The Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax, is celebrating Memorial Day and the official start of summer beginning Thursday, May 27.

The market's Summer Sounds on the Plaza series returns on Thursdays and Fridays from 5 to 7 p.m. from May 27-June 25. Performers include Carbe and Durand from Incendio on May 27, Dave Stuckey and the Hot House Gang on May 28, Otis Hayes Jazzy Trio on June 3, Maiya Sykes on June 4, the Jose Tanaka Flamenco Guitar Trio on June 10 and Guilty Pleasure Makers on June 11.

The Farmers Market also offers the perfect place to shop local, support local butchers and farmers, and give back to the community. Memorial Day is one of the most popular days of the year for barbecuing, and the market's merchants offer everything needed for the holiday weekend.

Huntington Meats and Sausage features the Nancy Silverton Special Burger Blend, based on the renowned chef's personal recipe, as well as a variety of beef, pork and poultry. Stop by Marconda's Meats



photo courtesy of the Original Farmers Market

and pick up a rack of ribs or unique housemade sausages and hot dogs. Both of the market butcher shops offer the highest quality cuts of meat and products.

All the vegetables and fruits needed for a summer meal can be found at Farm Fresh Produce, Farm Boy Produce and the newest market merchant, Rick's Produce Market. Strawberry and tomato season are in full swing, and juicy watermelon and corn on the cob are ready for picking. Rick's Produce makes a special spicy coleslaw and fresh housemade guacamole.

Monsieur Marcel Gourmet

Market offers everything needed to complement a Memorial Day barbecue. Pick up cedar grilling planks, gourmet barbecue sauces, finishing salts, artisan cheeses and bottles of wine.

Kaylin & Hobbs Pickles offers delectable artisan pickles in a mouthwatering variety of flavors, including honey mustard, spicy jalapeno and spicy dill. Add a little of the seasoned pickle brine to a cocktail or dirty martini.

The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. (323)933-9211, or visit farmers-marketla.com.



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# POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between May 16 and May 22. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department, (310)550-4951.

## Beverly Hills Police Department

### May 16

At 12:15 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Almont at 9:40 p.m.

### May 17

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9800 block of Olympic at 10 a.m.

At 2:19 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. La Peer.

### May 18

At 3:27 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 100 block of Le Doux.

A vandalism was reported in the 300 block of S. Beverly at 4 p.m.

### May 19

At 1:35 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Canon.

### May 20

At 3:30 a.m., a vandalism was reported in the 200 block of S. Gale.

A vandalism was reported in the 9800 block of Wilshire at 7:03 p.m.

### May 21

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Reeves at 6:03 a.m.

At 9:10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Canon.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Beverlywood and Charleville at 10:49 a.m.

### May 22

At 9:09 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 400 block of Smithwood at 7 p.m.

## West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

### May 16

At 1:14 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9000 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8600 block of Santa Monica at 11:18 a.m.

At 3:15 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8500 block of

Hollywood and Argyle.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of S. Van Ness at 6:05 a.m.

At 8:45 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Romaine and Orange.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 10:55 a.m.

At noon, an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Kilkea and Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5000 block of Wilshire at 2 p.m.

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of S. Sycamore at 3 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of S. Clark.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of N. Vista at 7 p.m.

At 9:15 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6400 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 700 block of S. Normandie at 10 p.m.

### May 17

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 600 block of S. Burnside at 12:01 a.m.

At 1:20 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of N. Vine.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 100 block of S. Beachwood at 2 a.m.

At 9:50 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1600 block of N. Orange.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1700 block of N. Cherokee at 10 a.m.

At 10:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6000 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7100 block of Hawthorn at 11 a.m.

At 12:46 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6200 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Western and Third at 1:21 p.m.

At 3:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of S. La Jolla.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5000 block of Sunset at 5 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8700 block of Burton Way.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. La Jolla at 3:15 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Hawthorn and Gardner at 10:40 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Third and Ardmore at 10:48 p.m.

### May 18

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 6300 block of Colgate.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7300 block of Franklin at 1:40 a.m.

At 1:50 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Burnside.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7600 block of Sunset at 6 a.m.

At 6:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 300 block of S. Western.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 700 block of N. Curson at 1:05 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5600 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 800 block of N. Vine at 1:52 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Tamarind.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Vine and Fountain at 6:50 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1600 block of Vine.

Five suspects assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. La Cienega at 9:50 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 5100 block of Wilshire.

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

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 700 block of N. Vine at 11 p.m.

### May 19

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Formosa and Sunset at 12:15 a.m.

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of S. Bedford.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 6000 block of W. Third at 6:05 a.m.

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 800 block of S. Windsor.

A vehicle burglary was reported near the corner of Bronson and Santa Monica at 12:30 p.m.

At 4:17 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Hawthorn and Highland.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 1:45 p.m.

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

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 700 block of S. La Brea at 5:25 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1400 block of N. Curson.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 500 block of S. Fuller at 7 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Edinburgh.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1500 block of N. Vine at 10:30 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1600 block of Cherokee.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7200 block of Hollywood at 11 p.m.

### May 20

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 700 block of N. Wilton at 2:30 a.m.

At 3 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft near the corner of Clinton and Edinburgh.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Beverly and Gardner at 3:30 a.m.

At 6:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Fuller and Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6900 block of Sunset at noon.

At 3:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of N. Western.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of S. Serrano at 4 p.m.

### May 21

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of N. El Centro at 1 a.m.

At 12:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8100 block of Sunset at 12:50 p.m.

At 3:45 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7700 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8100 block of W. Fourth at 9:30 p.m.

At 9:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8100 block of W. Fourth.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6000 block of Hollywood at 10 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Ivar and De Longpre.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Cherokee and Hollywood at 11:30 p.m.

At 11:55 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7000 block of Hawthorn.

### May 22

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Beverly and Sycamore.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Fourth and Arden at 2:15 p.m.

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1400 block of N. Poinsettia.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of N. Vine at 10 p.m.

At 11:40 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident near the corner of McCadden and Romaine.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5500 block of Hollywood at 11:45 p.m.

## KCCLA celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles continues to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May with special events and programs. On May 27, enjoy a special online screening of the movie "Minari," available for viewing on demand by visiting [kccla.org](http://kccla.org), as well as the center's social media channels.

Through June 25, view the 26th Juried Contemporary Art Exhibition, "6 Artists: Abstract Perspectives" in the KCCLA Art Gallery, 5905 Wilshire Blvd.

The exhibition includes works by female artists Jisoo Chung, Yoory Jung, Chloe Jeongmyo Kim, Hyunkyung Lim, Cat Chiu Phillips and Julia Kim Smith. It includes more than 30 mixed media works, paintings, photo collages, videos and installation art.

To provide a safe environment for visitors and staff, KCCLA has implemented new health and safety protocols and procedures based on guidelines by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Social distancing will be enforced and reservations are required.

For information, visit [kccla.org](http://kccla.org).



Works by artist Chloe Jeongmyo Kim are included in the KCCLA exhibit.

photo courtesy of KCCLA

## Dine in style atop The Grove's iconic trolley

Caruso is taking The Grove's newest outdoor dining experience to new heights with Bistro 1759, located atop the property's double decker trolley.

Bistro 1759 is a new private dining experience enjoyed while riding through The Grove. Visitors can hop aboard for the trolley's new top deck dining space for an unforgettable experience perfect for birthdays, celebrations, anniversaries and special events.

Available for parties up to 10, Bistro 1759 offers stunning new views of the property as the trolley traverses First Street past the park and dancing fountain. A four-course menu specially curated by Blue Ribbon Sushi Bar and Grill is available, with spicy tuna on crispy rice, wings, oxtail fried rice and chef-selected sashimi platters. Child-friendly options are also included. Diners can personalize menus for the 90-minute journey. Wine and cocktail pairings are also available to accompany meals.

"Our philosophy at Caruso has always been grounded in community and sparking joy," said Rick Caruso, founder and CEO of Caruso. "For so many in Los Angeles, The Grove is a beloved gathering place, and Bistro 1759 is yet another way for us to honor our



photo courtesy of Caruso

Bistro 1759 offers a unique dining experience perfect for special occasions.

commitment to surprising and delighting our guests. To me, there's nothing better than spending quality time with those closest to me, and after a year where so many of us have been forced apart, it's a privilege to introduce something that will bring us back together."

The Grove's green and gold trolley, adorned with numbers 1759, is built from a historic undercarriage of a 1950s Boston streetcar and has

been stationed at the property's First Street since The Grove opened in 2002. Driven by a classically attired conductor, the electric powered train has become an icon at The Grove for nearly two decades.

Bistro 1759 will accept reservations for private dining parties for lunch and dinner. The cost starts at \$1,000. For information and reservations, visit [thegrovela.com](http://thegrovela.com).



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## Pianos planned for public spaces in Beverly Hills

Sing for Hope, in partnership with the city of Beverly Hills and the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, announced on May 26 that it will bring its “Sing for Hope Pianos” program to Beverly Hills, with artist-designed upright pianos placed in public spaces from Aug. 5-Sept. 6.

Sing for Hope issued an open call for visual artists to design and create artwork on the pianos.

A community initiative that originated in New York City, “Sing for Hope Pianos” places artist-designed acoustic upright pianos in parks and public spaces. The public can play the pianos and enjoy the music. Locations will include the Wallis Center for the Performing Arts, Beverly Hills City Hall, Beverly Gardens Park and Rodeo Drive.

More than 500 “Sing for Hope Pianos” have been placed in New York City and elsewhere since 2010. The pianos are later donated



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Pianos in “Sing for Hope Pianos” program will be placed at The Wallis, Beverly Hills City Hall and Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills.

to underserved schools, hospitals, community centers and other locations serving people in need. Many will be donated to schools partnering with The Wallis.

Los Angeles-area artists are encouraged to submit proposals by June 4 by visiting [singforhope.org](http://singforhope.org). They will be selected by a volunteer panel of art experts and community leaders. For information, visit [singforhope.org/pianos](http://singforhope.org/pianos).

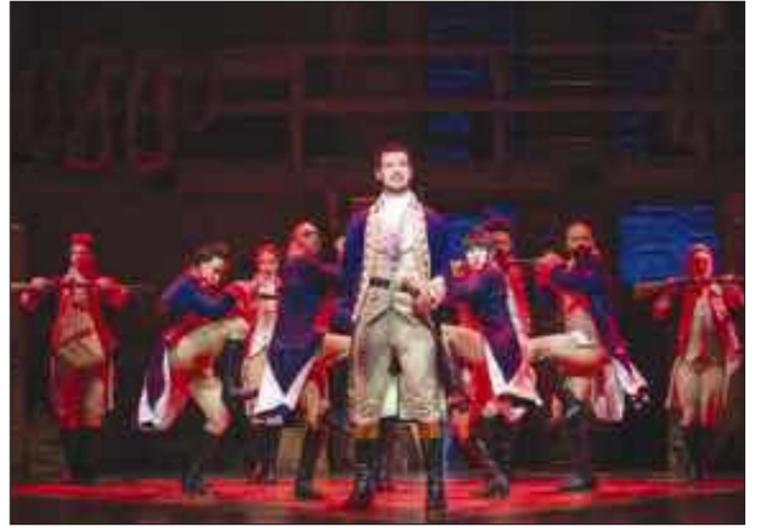


photo by Joan Marcus

Jameal Westman appears in the national tour of “Hamilton.”

## ‘Hamilton’ will make grand return at Hollywood Pantages

Producer Jeffrey Seller and Broadway in Hollywood have announced that “Hamilton” will begin performances on Aug. 17 at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre.

The production’s original start date was March 12, 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced a postponement. Performances had previously been announced to resume in October, but will begin eight weeks earlier, the show’s producers announced.

“We are thrilled to welcome back Los Angeles audiences to ‘Hamilton,’” Seller said. “After suspending performances on the eve of our return over a year ago, we are grateful to reassemble our cast, musicians and crew back to the magnificent, and safe, Hollywood Pantages Theatre.”

To ensure the health and safety of audiences, staff, cast and crew, Broadway in Hollywood has established COVID-19 safety measures for everyone who enters the venue, including wearing masks. Vaccinations or proof of a negative COVID-19 test may also be necessary to gain entry, depending on Los Angeles County Department of

Public Health guidelines at the time of a performance.

“Hamilton” is the story of America’s Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant from the West Indies who became George Washington’s right-hand man during the Revolutionary War, and was the new nation’s first Treasury Secretary.

Featuring a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, blues, rap, R&B and Broadway tunes, “Hamilton” is the story of America then, as told by America now. The production is based on a book by Lin-Manuel Miranda and features his music and lyrics.

Tickets are on sale for all performances between Aug. 17 and Jan. 2, 2022. There is a maximum purchase limit of eight tickets per household. Ticket prices start at \$55. A lottery will be held for a limited number of \$10 orchestra seats for all performances.

The Hollywood Pantages Theatre is located at 6233 Hollywood Blvd. For information and tickets, call (800)982-2787, or visit [broadwayinhollywood.com/hamiltonla](http://broadwayinhollywood.com/hamiltonla) and [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

## Smokey Robinson returns to the Greek for one night

Legendary singer and songwriter Smokey Robinson has announced that he will perform one night only at the Greek Theatre on Saturday, Sept. 18. Tickets go on sale on Friday, May 28, at 10 a.m., and are available by visiting [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

With a catalog spanning nearly five decades, Robinson’s hits include “Cruisin,” “The Tears of a Clown,” “Tracks of my Tears,” “I Second That Emotion” and “You’ve Really Got a Hold on Me.” In 1987, Robinson released the singles “Just to See Her” and “One Heartbeat,” which became top 10 hits. Robinson received his first Grammy Award for “Just to See Her” and that same year was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a solo artist.

Robinson has also been inducted into the Kennedy Center and awarded two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame – one as a solo artist and another as a member of the Miracles. He was awarded a National Medal of Arts, Heritage Award at the Soul



photo courtesy of Nederlander

Fans of the legendary Motown artist Smokey Robinson won’t want to miss his appearance at the Greek Theatre.

Train Music Awards and a BET Lifetime Achievement Award.

The event, presented by Nederlander Concerts and Live Nation, is subject to state, county and city health regulations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For information, visit [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

## CicLAvia partners with L.A. Al Fresco for new street events

CicLAvia announced its expanded outreach to more communities in its partnership with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to help the city grow its L.A. Al Fresco program, which offers streamlined approval for eligible businesses to provide outdoor dining on sidewalks, parking lots and streets. CicLAvia is known for highly successful and popular open streets events that create public spaces for Angelenos to enjoy through biking, walking, strolling, skating and jogging.

L.A. Al Fresco was launched in May 2020 as a response to the pandemic to help restaurants provide more usable outdoor areas. CicLAvia has been working with L.A. Al Fresco specifically in communities most impacted by the pandemic, such as Boyle Heights, Chinatown, Westlake, Pacoima and South LA.

Garcetti’s 2021-22 budget proposal now includes creating permanent areas for outdoor dining as part of the program.

CicLAvia has experience connecting communities to each other across Los Angeles via its open streets events. During its signature Sundays, CicLAvia temporarily



photo courtesy of CicLAvia

CicLAvia helps arrange for temporary closures that turn streets into public park spaces.

arranges for street closures to car traffic while opening them up as public park spaces for all to enjoy.

“CicLAvia has been utilizing its open streets planning expertise in a new way by reaching out to smaller ‘mom-and-pop’ restaurants in communities most impacted by the pandemic,” CicLAvia’s Executive Director Romel Pascual said. “By offering free assistance to these ‘hidden gems’ via the L.A. Al Fresco program, CicLAvia helps these restaurants accommodate more customers so they can serve

their neighborhoods safely and with greater capacity, stay open and continue to prosper.”

CicLAvia will soon reveal the upcoming route and date for its first post-pandemic open streets event.

“With this L.A. Al Fresco work, CicLAvia is coming full circle by providing a different type of outreach and ensuring that our return to our highly anticipated open street events will be back even stronger as we continue to expand the horizons of our L.A. community,” Pascual said.

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# Wolfgang Puck opens all-day Ospero

Located at the former House of Blues site on the Sunset Strip, Wolfgang Puck recently opened his new all-day restaurant Ospero at the new boutique hotel, Pendry West Hollywood. The entrance is at street level, looking out to the Comedy Store, and is within blocks of his first Spago restaurant that he opened in 1982.

It's been over 10 years since Puck, one of L.A.'s most famous chefs, has opened a restaurant. Puck became a household name for his award-season dinner parties, one-of-a-kind restaurants around the world, popular airport eateries and a line of culinary delights available at grocery stores.

Sit outside in the afternoon and watch the people and cars go by on Sunset Boulevard. In the evening, if you seek a quieter spot, ask to sit at the back of the restaurant on the al fresco dining terrace. The twinkling lights of the residences at the Pendry and views of greater Los Angeles are beautiful.

At Ospero there is a long dark blue bar and an open pizza kitchen. The low, soft leather teal-colored chairs resting on the Saltillo tile floor create an Italian trattoria feel.

We sat at a table for two at one of the coveted green velvet banquettes and opened the dinner menu on our smartphones. Ospero features some neighborhood-friendly favorites that Puck made so popular during his days at Spago. There are iconic and innovative salads, pastas and wood-burning pizzas. Ospero also offers vegan dishes, proteins, a really good burger, breakfast



By Jill Weinlein

favorites, grab-and-go items and a full bar.

We started with Puck's chopped Chino Farm vegetable salad that our server had the kitchen split into two bowls. It was a generous portion of chopped lettuce with a variety of crunchy cube-shaped vegetables dressed lightly with a balsamic vinaigrette and dusting of parmesan cheese shavings. The salad was very fresh, healthy-tasting and offered layers of pleasing flavors.

Other popular salads and share dishes include a grilled tuna niçoise salad with a soft-boiled egg and meatballs al forno, bathed in a tomato, garlic and basil sauce with whipped ricotta.

Puck's signature smoked salmon pizza with dill cream and salmon pearls is on Ospero's menu, along with five others, including a wild mushroom pizza that we ordered and enjoyed. It arrived with Puck's famous crust, thick and perfectly browned by the wood fire. A generous sprinkling of mushrooms topped a basil pesto spread, and chopped roasted garlic, caramelized onions and melted

cheese medallions finished off the pizza.

Other pizzas include a house made lamb sausage with Calabrian chiles, mushrooms and onions; a spicy chicken with melted leeks; and a squash blossom and goat cheese pizza.

There are four different pastas, including one named My Grandmother's Cheese Ravioli, and fresh pappardelle with braised oxtail ragout and fava beans topped with pecorino cheese.

Those seeking grilled fish have a choice between Atlantic salmon served with a fresh arugula and fennel salad on top, or a tender wood oven cooked branzino served with a delicious gremolata and Tuscan kale.

The table next to us ordered the prime beef burger topped with melted white cheddar cheese, a slice of grilled red onion and garlic aioli spread on the bun which comes with fries.

Other proteins include a half Jidori chicken served with Tuscan potatoes and broccolini, and a grilled prime skirt steak served with rosemary and garlic fries.

Stay for dessert and order the creamy Basque cheesecake topped with a farmers market strawberry sauce. It is so ethereal, rich and is sliced large enough for two to share.

Executive chef Mark Andelbrandt oversees the kitchen with Puck and has enjoyed an extensive culinary resume with the Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group. Besides being the executive chef at



photo by Jill Weinlein

Wolfgang Puck bakes a variety of his famous pizzas fresh in his wood-fired oven at Ospero.

Spago at the Bellagio Resort & Casino, he works alongside Puck to create one-of-a-kind globally influenced fare.

Now he is managing the kitchens at both Ospero and the more exclusive Merois, which offers stellar views from the Pendry's penthouse level, creating a fine dining menu using French techniques with an Asian spin.

The night I dined at Ospero, Merois was just opening to hotel

guests and private club members. I'll have to save that experience for another night. Puck's son, Byron Lazaroff-Puck, oversees both of these restaurants.

Come in for breakfast at Ospero starting at 7 a.m. Lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m. The grab-and-go and pizza menus are available between lunch and dinner. Dinner is served nightly starting at 5 p.m. \$8430 Sunset Blvd., (323)918-3420.

## NHM explores murals in June's First Fridays series

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is connecting homebound audiences to timely discussions and music with this season's virtual First Fridays Connected: L.A. at the Intersections.

On Friday, June 4, dive into a lively livestream discussion around murals of Los Angeles for the final event of the season, featuring muralist David Flores, who is best known for his instantly recognizable mosaic or segmented style; Karen Mack, who founded the South L.A.-based L.A. Commons 20 years ago to leverage the power

of arts and culture to empower individuals, build connections and develop communities; and Stacy R. Williams, head of the Helen Topping Architecture and Fine Arts Library at the University of Southern California. The event will be moderated by Knatokie Ford, founder and CEO of Fly Sci Enterprise.

Before the discussion, groove at home with DJ Kim Anh and prepare a special cocktail presented by Elle Nucci. After the discussion, enjoy a performance by Sasami (aka Sasami Ashworth), who crafts songs that are influenced by the

sonic textures of shoegaze and dream pop while fully embracing the confessional nature of modern singer-songwriters.

NHMLAC members can enjoy an exclusive pre show and watch "Secrets from the Vault" with Marina Gibbons, assistant conservator, to learn about the collection she oversees and discover details hidden in plain sight. To become a member, visit [nhmlac.org/join](http://nhmlac.org/join).

This event is free; reservations are required. Only one reservation per household is needed. For more information and to RSVP, visit [bit.ly/FFCJune21](http://bit.ly/FFCJune21).

## LGBT Center's Rainbowthon returns for a second year

Frankie J. Grande has always been extremely focused and goal-oriented. The current focus of the Broadway dancer, actor, singer, producer, television host and social media personality is something very close to his heart: the second annual Rainbowthon, a virtual concert benefiting the Los Angeles LGBT Center on Thursday, June 3.

Last year, with the help of some famous friends, Grande raised \$55,000 in one night to support center programs and services impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I would love to beat last year's total," Grande said. "Every year I do something, I always try to go bigger. I hope to raise \$100,000 one year!"

Grande has been a regular participant in AIDS/LifeCycle, the seven-day, 545-mile bike journey from San Francisco to Los Angeles which raises millions for San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the

HIV/AIDS-related services of the center.

Rainbowthon was born out of Grande's strong desire to do something after the ride was canceled and to produce a virtual event because of the pandemic. This year's AIDS/LifeCycle was also canceled, and a new charity event TogetheRide was launched to give participants an opportunity to set their own riding pace and time commitment goals.

"It's our second year not riding, and that was such a huge part of my year," he said. "So, Rainbowthon is my way of keeping it close to heart. Even though I won't be on a bike, I will be giving all my love and energy for one week in June – it's really exciting."

Grande, who has performed on Broadway in "Rock of Ages" and "Mamma Mia!," will host a star-studded lineup that includes JoJo Siwa, Jewel, Alexandra Billings and others.

"This year, we'll have the opportunity to do a lot more live appearances than we did last year," Grande said. "I'll be hosting live at the center and will be able to perform live. I'll be dancing, singing and hosting – a triple threat."

Grande said he gets constant reassurance from the public that his efforts to support the center are well worth it.

"Every time I mention the center, someone tells me how the organization has helped them, whether it's getting an HIV test, seeing a mental health specialist or simply finding their community," he said. "They are like, 'Oh my God, I love the center! They helped me.' I am immensely grateful for the center and cannot wait to bring more laughs and smiles to you – and raise more critical funds for this amazing organization."

Watch the livestream at [rainbowthon.org](http://rainbowthon.org).



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## School-based vaccination program launched for students 12 and up

Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Austin Beutner announced on May 24 that the LAUSD has launched a school-based vaccination program for children ages 12 and up. Built on the success of its COVID-19 testing program and existing school-based vaccination sites, Los Angeles Unified will deploy mobile vaccination teams to all middle and high school campuses over the next two weeks.

“Herd immunity won’t be reached in schools or in the broader community until children are vaccinated,” Beutner said. “No other organization has such a deep relationship with children and their families. School principals, teachers and staff are in almost daily contact with their students. This engagement is a critical piece of any vaccination effort. There is no better place to provide vaccinations to children than at their local, neighborhood school.”

More than 80% of students in schools in the LAUSD are from families who are struggling to get by. They live in communities which have been hardest hit by the virus but lack access to health care services. Thirty percent of students in the LAUSD do not see a pediatrician regularly and many already receive other vaccinations at schools.

“We are vaccinating students before this school year ends while teachers, staff and their students are

still in schools,” Beutner said. “Because health authorities require a family member to accompany anyone under 16 when they are being vaccinated, Los Angeles Unified will provide paid time off to all staff to be able to help their children. We applaud the Department of Water and Power for doing the same and encourage all employers in the area to do the same. The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Central City Association of Los Angeles and Valley Industry and Commerce Association have joined us in encouraging employers to support this effort.”

“We want to encourage every eligible child to get the COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves, their families and our community,” said Martin L. Adams, general manager and chief engineer of LADWP, the nation’s largest municipal utility. “We hope other major employers will join us in supporting employees in taking steps to get every eligible child vaccinated. Employees shouldn’t have to choose between a couple of hours’ wages and the health and welfare of their child and family.”

Mobile vaccination teams will visit each school on a predetermined schedule over the next two weeks to administer doses of the vaccine to students. Vaccination schedules and locations are available on the Los Angeles Unified website, lausd.net.

## L.A. County Department of Arts and Culture explores income disparities

A new report published by the Department of Arts and Culture and Claremont Graduate University’s Center for Business and Management of the Arts reveals disparities between earnings of L.A. County arts administrators that identify as Black, Indigenous and people of color and their white counterparts. The report also finds that entry-level arts staff, no matter their race, earned wages lower than the cost of living in L.A. County. This study further highlights the relationship between wages and the perceptions, lives and careers of arts workers, including education levels and the student debt incurred to get that education.

**As we build our ecosystem back, we must build it back better – with equity and opportunity for all of our creative workers and arts administrators at all levels.”**

— Hilda L. Solis  
Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

The report builds on a series of Arts and Culture studies aimed at building knowledge, equity and inclusion in the arts through data and research. It comes at a critical time as arts organizations emerge from the hardship of COVID-19 and begin to rebuild, rehire and, in some cases, reinvent themselves. It concludes with a series of recommendations that emerged from the findings to help arts organizations and funders address the challenges it brings to light.

Recent research has found that the creative workforce in Los Angeles

County does not reflect the demographic makeup of the population; it is overwhelmingly female and white. Report authors Cobi Krieger of CBMArts and Bronwyn Mauldin, Arts and Culture’s director of research and evaluation, along with adjunct faculty at CBMArts, sought to explore the relationship between entry-level compensation and diversity, equity and inclusion in the non-profit arts field. The questions that drove their project included whether pay scales acted as barriers to certain groups of people and if the arts field practices a compensation structure that reinforces the historical exclusion of people of color.

The arts administrators’ annual earnings from all sources was \$36,847 – slightly higher than the L.A. County minimum wage of \$31,200 but lower than the living wage of \$40,248. Average annual earnings for entry-level arts administrators were \$32,027 for BIPOC respondents and \$43,437 for white respondents, a difference of \$11,410, or 35%. No matter their education level, white respondents on average earned more than BIPOC respondents.

“What this report reveals on income disparities cutting along racial lines is not surprising,” said Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda L. Solis, 1st District. “I believe, however, that we can use this knowledge to inform the future. We know that arts and culture play a critical role in the economic and social resiliency of Los Angeles County, and as we build our ecosystem back, we must build it back better – with equity and opportunity for all of our creative workers and arts administrators at all levels.”

Visit [lacountyarts.org](http://lacountyarts.org).

## Otis College of Art opens virtual exhibition

Following the success of the 2021 Virtually Cool Fashion Show and Scholarship Benefit on May 8, which raised funds to provide over 50 first-generation student scholarships, Otis College of Art and Design has launched the second virtual iteration of its annual exhibition for graduating undergraduate and graduate students in 2021. The exhibition may be viewed at [annual-exhibition.otis.edu](http://annual-exhibition.otis.edu).

The 2021 annual exhibition website features fashion designs that were originally shown at Virtually Cool, including student work developed as part of a mentorship program with major fashion and entertainment industry figures like B. Akerlund, Ruth Carter and Vivienne Hu.

In addition, academic undergraduate departments such as fine arts, digital media, communication arts, architecture/landscape/interiors,



photos by Andrew Hylton/courtesy of Otis College

Fashion and visual art are included in Otis College’s virtual art show.

product design and toy design also display work from graduating students, along with graduate programs in fine arts, graphic design and writing. This virtual exhibition follows the campus closure last spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, offering students the challenge to work more innovatively and creatively than they have done before.

Particularly noteworthy are graduating students from the master of fine arts program, whose work encompasses themes addressing concerns of social upheaval, assimilation and the emphasized role of digital connectivity during a period of prolonged social distancing. Artwork portfolios by MFA stu-

dents are displayed along the same portfolio standards required in the professional visual arts field.

“We saw it as an opportunity to support our students in preparing them and their practice for a world that will be more comfortable than ever to exist virtually,” said Kathrin Burmester, interim chair of the MFA program.

A series of virtual events will take place throughout May and early June, including industry nights with art professionals, a rebroadcast of the fashion show and award ceremonies celebrating Otis College’s BFA and MFA students, including a commencement address by Los Angeles artist Lauren Halsey on May 15.

## State education leaders support Holocaust education

California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and state Sen. Henry Stern (D-Los Angeles) are urging support for Senate Bill 693, the Never Again Education Act, which will increase education on genocide, including the Holocaust.

Thurmond has sponsored the bill, authored by Stern, because it would help address the growing knowledge gap among young Americans about the Holocaust and other recent genocides by offering new teaching methods and enhanced

resources for teachers and students. The goal is to combat a recent rise in antisemitism, Holocaust denial and acts of hatred.

SB 693 will establish the Governor’s Council on Genocide and Holocaust Education, assembling experts on teaching about genocides and the Holocaust. New curriculum could help students learn the complex subject matter and embrace the importance of diversity, human rights and the responsibilities of citizens to combat misinformation, indifference

and discrimination, Thurmond said.

The California Department of Education is also helping to provide more resources to schools as they navigate and respond to incidents of hate. The work builds on Thurmond’s Education to End Hate Initiative, a multifaceted effort launched in 2020 to provide training, resources and tools to prevent incidents of hate and bias, including antisemitism.

For information, visit [facebook.com/caeducation](http://facebook.com/caeducation).



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## CASA/LA employs new strategies to help foster youth

For over 40 years, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children Los Angeles has provided services for youth in foster care, helping children navigate the court system. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting closure of schools, courts and service agencies has heightened the critical need for CASA/LA advocacy for Los Angeles County's 30,000 children and youth in foster care. The organization's Three to 3,000 campaign aims to raise an additional \$3 million for volunteer training and support for an additional 3,000 youth by 2024.

"CASA/LA has been steadily expanding our volunteer base and children served, actually accelerating both during the pandemic," CASA/LA CEO Charity Chandler-Cole said. "However, we also expect a rise in the numbers of children entering the child welfare system as kids return to classes, see doctors and [other people who report] abuse or neglect. The Three to 3,000 campaign is giving us a running start in helping to address one of Los Angeles County's most dire and heartbreaking challenges."

As a child's length of time in foster care increases, the probability of negative outcomes also increases, Cole said. Approximately 40% to 50% of youth in foster care in California experience homelessness within 18 months of aging out of the system, and 50% of emancipated youth experience high rates of unemployment within five years of turning 18. Within California's

prison system, 28% of inmates have spent time in foster care.

CASA/LA's goal is to expand operations and programmatic strategies by 2032 to reach all 12,000 youth in immediate need. The Three to 3,000 Campaign is the first component of the strategy.

The Early Childhood Initiative advances CASA/LA's commitment to help children ages 5 and under. In L.A. County, 35% of the children entering foster care are 5 and under, with 19% under 24 months old.

CASA/LA volunteers also advocate for youth in delinquency court. Volunteers support young people at juvenile justice court hearings and ensure they have needed services to spend the least amount of time in the system.

Volunteers participate in the Diversion Program, which strives to ensure that young people in foster care avoid returning to the juvenile justice system. The Essential History program aims to help social workers, attorneys and judges make trauma-informed decisions about young people by providing a summary of the young person's experiences and history in critical areas of life. Through this program, volunteers complete a detailed review of a child's file and write a report outlining developmental, medical and mental health history to ensure critical details are not overlooked.

For information, to support the program or volunteer, visit [casala.org](http://casala.org).

## Center Theatre Group remembers George Floyd

Center Theatre Group presents an exploration of George Floyd's legacy and impact on the country through a performance and discussion of his murder's influence on the American theater and the larger society.

"George Floyd: The Father of the Reimagined America" is based on a poem written by John Lee Gaston White, adapted for the screen by White and Lakisha May and directed and produced by May. The piece is airing on Center Theatre Group's digital stage at [ctgla.org/george-floyd](http://ctgla.org/george-floyd) until June 25.

The performance is paired with a discussion, "Journey Towards a New American Theatre: George Floyd's Lasting Impact," which is available at [youtube.com/ctgla](http://youtube.com/ctgla).

"George Floyd: The Father of the Reimagined America," is a blending of poetry and movement that

celebrates Floyd. His death, along with that of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and others, were the catalyst for what many are calling a modern-day civil rights movement.

The performance includes music by Jimmy King, choreography by Nia Lancelin-Brantly and animation by Josh Sessoms. The cast features dancers Desiree Elder (portraying the role of Mama), Zoë McNally (Ruby Gianna) and Taliyah Smith (Meg Olu) as well as actors Will Cobbs (voicing George Floyd's Spirit), Tyla Uzo (Meg Olu), Pauletta Washington (Mama) and Hayden Windham (Ruby Gianna).

Moderated by arts leader Keryl McCord (founder/CEO of Equity Quotient), "Journey Towards a New American Theatre: George Floyd's Lasting Impact" asks the

questions, had George Floyd not been murdered, would arts organizations across the country have taken such immediate and serious steps toward becoming anti-racist? How did the death of an otherwise ordinary man help change the world, and in turn, the future of American theater? In this free discussion, panelists including internationally known teacher, lecturer and diversity trainer Jane Elliott ("Blue Eyes, Brown Eyes" exercise), playwright/actress and Theatre Communications Group board chair Nikkole Salter ("In the Continuum" at the Kirk Douglas Theatre) and White will explore how art and art makers are beginning to reflect a world that is forever changed by the power of George Floyd's legacy.

For information, visit [centertheatregroup.org](http://centertheatregroup.org).

## L.A. to further promote equity, opportunity for small businesses

The Los Angeles Board of Public Works unanimously approved a motion on May 19 to officially establish the Bureau of Contract Administration's Community-Level Contracting program.

Community-Level Contracting aims to provide small and diverse businesses with more accessible opportunities to compete for and share in the billions of dollars allocated for public procurement in the city of Los Angeles.

"Community-Level Contracting is a core component of how the city of Los Angeles is elevating and investing into our small, local and diverse business communities," said

Shannon Hoppes, the city's chief procurement officer.

Through Community-Level Contracting, large contracts will be unbundled into smaller, more manageable work packages of approximately \$100,000 or less to provide small businesses an opportunity to do business directly with the city as contractors. Many of these small businesses also qualify for the city's certification program which is offered to minority, women, disabled veteran, LGBTQ and disadvantaged business enterprises. This program will transform the way that the city works with emerging businesses and help make economic opportunity

more widely available for everyone as the economy recovers.

The Bureau of Contract Administration has already partnered with the Bureau of Engineering on its Small Sidewalk Repair Program, resulting in the creation of a list of 35 qualified contractors for the Pre-Qualified On-Call Small Sidewalk Contractors List. Two-thirds of the contractors on the PQOC were first-time bidders. To date, 26 work packages have been awarded totaling more than \$1.8 million.

For information, visit [clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2018/18-0879\\_misc\\_6-19-19.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2018/18-0879_misc_6-19-19.pdf).

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## Tenor takes top honors in Zachary vocal competition



photo courtesy of Nedra Zachary

Tenor SeokJong Baek, a former Adler Fellow of the San Francisco Opera, won first place in the 49th annual Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competition on May 23.

The in-person event was held without an audience. The winner, shown with competition director Nedra Zachary, received the \$18,000 top prize for singing “O Souverain,” from the opera “Le Cid” by Massenet, and “Nessun Dorma” from Puccini’s “Turandot.”

Baritone Timothy Murray, an Adler Fellow at the San Francisco Opera and recent graduate from the Academy of Vocal Arts, won the second prize of \$12,000. The third place prize of \$7,500 was awarded to countertenor Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, formerly an Adler Fellow at the San Francisco Opera and studio artist at Houston Grand Opera. Tenor Joshua Wheeler, a former Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist at LA Opera, received the fourth place \$4,000 award; bass-baritone Hidenori Inoue, a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, won fifth place and \$3,000; and soprano Mary Beth Nelson, who will be entering the Juilliard School, won a sixth place grant of \$2,500. The remaining four finalists – baritone Ethan Vincent, soprano Alaysha Fox, bass-baritone Ted Pickell and bass Brent Michael Smith – each received \$2,000 grants. For information, visit [zacharysociety.org/competition](http://zacharysociety.org/competition).

## Grant supports recovery for L.A. Master Chorale

The Los Angeles Master Chorale, led by Grant Gershon, will receive a \$1.5 million grant from the L.A. Arts Recovery Fund, which was created recently to support Los Angeles-based arts organizations with budgets under \$10 million that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The L.A. Arts Recovery Fund was created to provide flexible general operating support for small and medium-sized organizations. Recipient organizations were selected based on applications that demonstrated excellence in artistic impact, community engagement, diversity of cultural expression, leadership and vision, and financial condition. The Los Angeles Master Chorale’s \$1.5 million grant will be payable over two years.

“The artists, staff and board of directors of the Los Angeles Master Chorale are immensely grateful to all the funders of the L.A. Arts Recovery Fund,” said Los Angeles Master Chorale president and CEO Jean Davidson. “With this grant, the Los Angeles Master Chorale will begin to recover losses from



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Master Chorale

The Los Angeles Master Chorale will receive a \$1.5 million grant from the L.A. Arts Recovery Fund.

more than a year of cancelled performances and be given resources to create a more inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible organization while continuing to innovate the choral art form.”

The grant will directly support the Master Chorale’s new digital initiatives, such as the upcoming

release of a video recording of Derrick Spiva Jr.’s “Ready Bright,” and the safe return of singers and orchestra musicians to live performances at Walt Disney Concert Hall during the 2021-22 concert season. For information, visit [lamasterchorale.org](http://lamasterchorale.org) and [calfund.org/laartsfund](http://calfund.org/laartsfund).

## LACO receives allocation for equity and inclusion

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra has been awarded a \$19,500 Catalyst Fund grant from the League of American Orchestras to strengthen its understanding of equity, diversity and inclusion and to help transform its organizational culture. Given to just 25 orchestras nationwide, the one-year grants comprise the final round of the Catalyst Fund, the league’s three-year, \$2.1 million grant-making program, made possible by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation with additional support from the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation.

“It is an honor for LACO to receive this grant and the support of our colleagues from the League of American Orchestras, and we look forward to working together with them to build a bright and inclusive future for classical music,” LACO Executive Director Ben Cadwallader said. “Although excellence is only possible through diversity, classical music has a history of excluding diverse voices from our stages, orchestras, staffs and board rooms. At LACO, we’ve made great strides in recent years toward becoming an organization that is inclusive, diverse and welcoming of all identities; this wonderfully generous grant from the league is both a recognition of what we’ve accomplished and an acknowledgement of the magnitude of the work ahead of us.”

LACO will utilize the grant to help support a consulting project with the Aspen Leadership Group that will help the orchestra transform existing and new EDI initiatives into a comprehensive, sustainable plan with clearly defined outcomes and accountability measures. Aspen is meeting with board members, orchestra, advisory committees, staff and key community partners to create a 360-degree look at LACO’s existing culture and how to map its future path.

The Catalyst Fund is informed by earlier dialogue and research. A major national convening co-hosted by the league and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in December 2015 was catalytic in launching national task forces and annual convenings to engage orchestras in EDI efforts. Two important League studies, “Racial/Ethnic and Gender

Diversity in the Orchestra Field” and “Forty Years of Fellowships: A Study of Orchestras’ Efforts to Include African American and Latino Musicians,” further served to inform and stimulate action. In April 2018, the league launched, in partnership with the Sphinx Organization and the

New World Symphony, the National Alliance for Audition Support, a national initiative that offers Black and Latinx musicians a customized combination of mentoring, audition preparation and audition travel stipends.

For information, visit [laco.org](http://laco.org).



## Veterans recognized for their sacrifices on Memorial Day



Flags were placed outside many residences in the local area in observance of Memorial Day in this photograph from the May 25, 1972, issue of the Park Labrea News. The accompanying article said the flags paying tribute to service members who had lost their lives were particularly poignant that year, as the country was involved in the war in Vietnam. It specifically called attention to the plight of those who were prisoners of war or missing in action. This year, Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 31. The Veterans Administration National Cemetery in Westwood will be open throughout Memorial Day weekend for flag placements and private visits, but no public ceremony will be held. The Department of Veterans Affairs has also launched new features on the Veterans Legacy Memorial website to virtually honor loved ones on Memorial Day. Photographs and information about a veteran can be uploaded by visiting [vlm.cem.va.gov](http://vlm.cem.va.gov). Forest Lawn is also holding a virtual Memorial Day observance on May 31, at 10 a.m., featuring patriotic music, a ceremonial wreath presentation, color guard and proclamation. For information, visit [forestlawn.com/events/memorial-day](http://forestlawn.com/events/memorial-day).

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NINE-5

# Suspect allegedly wanted to have woman killed

From page 1

would commit a murder on his behalf, and allegedly sent \$13,000 in Bitcoin payments to make arrangements, according to the criminal complaint.

The suspect had also allegedly relayed information about the female victim of the alleged murder-for-hire plot, including locations where she possibly would be, nicknames, an email address and social media information, along with a photograph of a distinctive tattoo, authorities said. FBI agents documented that the Bitcoin payments were made between April 5 and May 5, according to the complaint.

FBI agents also identified the female victim and interviewed her, which led authorities to Berkett, the complaint read. She told agents that she had met Berkett online last year on a website for fans of an anime program, and they became friends. She later flew to Los Angeles to visit him last October. The criminal complaint said the victim told authorities that Berkett was “sexually aggressive” during the trip. After she returned home and attempted to break off the relationship, he became “possessive,” the criminal complaint alleges. After

several months of being harassed by Berkett, a family member interceded on the victim’s behalf, calling Berkett and asking him to leave the victim alone, the criminal complaint read. The defendant allegedly agreed, but then began searching for a hit man on the internet, authorities said.

The individual seeking a hit man allegedly used the name Ula77 in correspondence with the website, and FBI agents said they tracked that online account to Berkett. They also corroborated some of the information provided in the tip and by the potential victim through an investigation, including identifying a Mercedes-Benz vehicle belonging to the suspect’s father that Berkett allegedly used to pick the victim up at Los Angeles International Airport last October.

As part of the further investigation, a federal agent posing as the potential hit man spoke with Berkett on the phone on May 21 to make arrangements for the murder, the complaint read. The defendant allegedly reiterated his desire that the victim be murdered. The undercover agent asked Berkett to wire an additional \$1,000 via Western

Union, and the defendant wired the money, the criminal complaint read. Transcripts of the conversation between Berkett and the undercover agent were included in the criminal complaint. The defendant allegedly asked that the murder be committed in a way that it would appear to be an accident, and he allegedly asked for proof that the victim had been killed, including a photograph of the victim’s body showing the distinctive tattoo, the complaint read.

According to transcripts of the exchange, the undercover agent asked Berkett, “we’re looking at some kind of accident or robbery to have gone wrong, right?” Berkett allegedly responded, “yeah” and “that way it doesn’t get traced.” When asked about what proof he wanted, Berkett allegedly responded, “picture of the corpse and a picture of the tattoo ... to verify ...,” the criminal complaint read.

The FBI is continuing its investigation into Berkett. If convicted, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison. Anyone with information is urged to call the FBI in Los Angeles at (310)477-6565.



photo by Cameron Kizla

West Hollywood Historic Preservation Commissioners said it’s important for the Rainbow Bar and Grill sign to remain prominent.

# Billboards to provide funds for COVID-struck businesses

From page 1

the Whisky a Go Go, said the businesses were hurt by the pandemic, as they were unable to host customers and concerts for long periods of time.

“The revenue from the new signage will be a lifeline for us,” Maglieri said.

Aaron Green, president of the Afriat Consulting Group, which represented the applicant, said the designs will accent, but not overwhelm, the properties, which the city declared local cultural resources in 2019.

“We want to make sure that we maintain the integrity of these resources ... providing for an excellent sign design that would provide visual enhancements to the overall property and financial sustainability to allow these properties to remain for many decades to come,” Green said.

The commissioners were generally in favor of the designs for the billboards, including colored tubes that will accent the Roxy billboard. They did take exception, however, to a plan for the middle portion of the Rainbow billboard’s pole to include designs. While they had no issue with the ground-level portion of the pole including famous performers, the middle area – planned to be made of a perforated steel portion that would be internally lit – raised concerns. That decoration would distract visitors from the Rainbow Bar and Grill sign, which was includ-

ed as a character-defining feature in the property’s historic designation, the commissioners said.

“I believe it does not allow the Rainbow ... sign to communicate its significance,” Commissioner Edward Levin said.

The project team attempted to address the issue, with Green asserting that the Rainbow sign would remain prominent.

“We will be installing an ambient light reader at this site so we can take into account the real-world conditions of how bright the ambient light is ... to ensure the illuminated pole structure is less bright than the [Rainbow] sign,” Green said.

The commissioners, however, were not convinced. Commissioner Jacob Sotsky said the middle section of the design “competes with the Rainbow sign.”

“Anything that takes away from that sign is problematic for me,” Sotsky said.

During her comments, Chair Lola Davidson shared her recollections of being a visitor and patron of the venues, and she came to the same conclusion as her fellow commissioners.

“The Rainbow Bar and Grill sign is so important and so iconic, and I don’t want anything to take away from that,” Davidson said.

The project will next go before the West Hollywood Planning Commission.

# West Hollywood honors Lady Gaga, the Abbey



photo by Jon Viscott/courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

A temporary “Born This Way” street-lane installation has been installed on Robertson Boulevard to honor Lady Gaga.

Each year, the city of West Hollywood celebrates the artistic contributions of the LGBTQ community with its vibrant 40-day-long One City One Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival. The festival kicked-off on Harvey Milk Day, May 22, and runs through June 30, which marks the end of Pride month.

**“Thank you for encouraging us to love ourselves and be proud!”**

*-Lindsey Horvath, mayor of West Hollywood*

This year, to recognize Harvey Milk Day-weekend with something extra, West Hollywood conferred two special proclamations officially declaring May 23, as “Born This Way Day” to honor Lady Gaga and the Born This Way Foundation on the 10th anniversary of the iconic “Born This Way” album, and officially declaring the day as “The Abbey Day” on the occasion of celebrating The Abbey Food & Bar’s 30 years of success. Proclamations marking these official declarations were presented by Mayor Lindsey Horvath to Lady Gaga and to David Cooley, owner of the Abbey, respectively, on behalf of the City Council. Horvath also presented a key to the city to Lady Gaga with a note of thanks: “Thank you for encouraging us to love ourselves and be proud!”

Lady Gaga, the Grammy- and Oscar -winning superstar and pop icon, is also well known as a supporter and ally of the LGBTQ community. Ten years ago, on May 23, 2011, the “Born This Way” album was released and its lead single became an LGBTQ anthem. The song has encouraged people of all sexual orientations, genders, ages and races to accept themselves and others, and to embrace differences, reject prejudices and feel empowered.

# Nonprofit hosts celebrity Virtual Pride Parade benefit

Celebrate Pride during the Lavender Effect’s “Star-Studded Live Virtual Pride Parade,” which will be broadcast on Sunday, May 30, at noon on YouTube.

Hosted by Alec Mapa, the Virtual Pride Parade will raise funds for the nonprofit Lavender Effect’s mission to advance the future of LGBTQ+ heritage and culture. Because many local Pride celebrations have been modified this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the virtual event will safely bring the LGBTQ+ community together in celebration.

The Lavender Effect has invited many LGBTQ+ celebrities and allies, activists and nonprofits from around the world to participate. They include Lily Tomlin, Judith Light, Betty Buckley, Kathryn Hahn and Sally Kirkland, among many others.

Last year, the Lavender Effect hosted its first Virtual Pride Parade due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The live fundraiser featured celebrities, civic leaders

and representatives of national LGBTQ+ organizations. More than 10,000 people viewed the program.

“As the LGBTQ+ community comes together for Pride again this year, we continue to find ourselves in a new normal,” said Andy Sacher, founder and executive director of the Lavender Effect. “Once again, Pride will be celebrated safely throughout the country this year. We wanted to continue our outreach to everyone with our second Virtual Pride Parade online this year. We celebrate our LGBTQ+ Pride with our diverse sisters and brothers in a way that everyone can join, no matter where they are or how they express their pride.”

The Lavender Effect aims to reduce shame, combat homophobia and empower LGBTQ+ youth through educational programs and event.

For information, visit [thelavendereffect.org](http://thelavendereffect.org). To view the Virtual Pride Parade, visit [youtube.com/c/thelavendereffect](http://youtube.com/c/thelavendereffect).

“Through her music and activism, Lady Gaga has become a cultural icon for our generation,” Horvath said. “The anthem ‘Born This Way’ has become an out-and-proud declarative stance for countless LGBTQ people. The Born This Way Foundation fosters honest conversations about mental health with young people and seeks to eradicate the stigma around mental health struggles.”

The Abbey Food & Bar opened in West Hollywood in 1991. Since then, it has become a social and cultural epicenter for the local LGBTQ community. Thirty years ago, Cooley, founder and owner of the Abbey, invested in a small, discreet space in West Hollywood that he renovated into a coffeehouse.

During three decades, the Abbey has expanded five times, growing from a humble coffee shop to a 16,000-square-foot venue with multiple rooms, four bars and a full menu.

“David Cooley and the Abbey have made an indelible impact on West Hollywood,” Horvath said. “The Abbey is as much a community hub as it is a global destination. It generously gives back by supporting dozens of LGBTQ and nonprofit groups, including regularly hosting events to support local organizations. We are so lucky to have the Abbey in our community and I’m thrilled to celebrate its 30 years of success.”

For information, visit [weho.org/pride](http://weho.org/pride).

# Antisemitism condemned by local leaders

From page 1

Palestinian demonstrators slowly passing by the restaurant on La Cienega Boulevard. Some allegedly made antisemitic slurs and allegedly attacked a group of Jewish individuals who were dining on the sidewalk in front of the restaurant, police said.

Nobody sustained serious injuries requiring hospitalization in the attack, police and fire department officials said. The suspects fled before officers arrived. Authorities are still searching for at least three additional men in the attack outside the restaurant.

Detectives are also still investigating whether the attack on May 18 was connected to another incident the previous night near La

Brea and Rosewood avenues in which a Jewish man was chased by a vehicle displaying a large Palestinian flag. That incident was captured on security camera footage. The victim ran through a parking lot and escaped unharmed, police said.

The attacks on the Jewish community were widely denounced. Government leaders, law enforcement officials and clergy members came together at Los Angeles City Hall on May 20 in solidarity against hate crimes and violence in Los Angeles.

The leaders said it was important to show a united front against hate in response to the recent attacks on the Jewish community. Los Angeles

Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department officials said they are working with the FBI to combat hate crimes and are taking a zero-tolerance stance. LAPD Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala reiterated the need for people to be vigilant and to immediately report incidents to law enforcement.

Numerous public officials spoke about the need to continue fighting hate in all forms. Civic leaders included Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Attorney Mike Feuer, Controller Ron Galperin and Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th District. Girmala and LAPD Deputy Chief Dominic Choi were joined by Sheriff Alex Villanueva

and Kristi Johnson, assistant director of the FBI's Office in Los Angeles. Faith leaders included Hedab Tarifi, of the Islamic Center of Southern California; Rev. John Edward Cager, of Ward African Methodist Episcopal Church; and Rabbi Abraham Cooper, of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"This violence cannot stand. L.A. is the second city of every national and ethnic group in the world," Cooper said. "I want to send a message to those criminals who think they can intimidate our community. We know that 99.9% of our neighbors are in solidarity with the Jewish community. I have every confidence that the LAPD and the sheriff's department will have our back."

Tarifi also denounced the attacks and called for peace.

"Any violence, of any and all sorts, should be condemned," Tarifi said. "The Islamic Center of Southern California unequivocally condemns the attack. When I heard about the attack on Jewish Angelenos, I was outraged. I, as a Palestinian who advocates for the freedom and rights of my people, say that crimes against Jewish bystanders on the streets of Los Angeles are not acceptable. It doesn't further the Palestinian cause, or

any cause."

The leaders spoke shortly after it was announced on May 20 that a cease-fire had been declared between Israel and Hamas following days of fighting. Local officials were hopeful the cease-fire would contribute to a de-escalation of racial conflict in Los Angeles.

"I want to be extremely clear. The fact that there is violence in the Middle East provides absolutely no excuse for violence on the streets of Los Angeles," Feuer said. "We often talk about tolerance here, but there can't be any tolerance for hate crimes. The crimes that we have seen in recent days were directed against members of the Jewish community, but let me be clear about hate crimes. Hate crimes don't merely target their direct victims. Hate crime is designed to intimidate a community, hate crime is designed to instill fear in a community, and we are standing in a united way to say we will not be intimidated, we will not succumb to fear. We are standing here to take action."

The Los Angeles Police Department is urging anyone with information about the recent hate crimes against the Jewish community to call investigators at (213)922-8230, or email wilshiremac@lapd.online.

# Raman looks to build relationships, chief of staff says

From page 1

that we faced. I'm excited that we are now out in the community, that we are engaging in service, that we are building modes for economic recovery."

Cohen also criticized Raman's staff, which she said lacked the necessary political experience to deal with constituents and has faced turnover that has frustrated residents. Raman's office was initially led by Meghan Choi and Jessica

Salans, high-level campaign staffers who served as co-chiefs of staff until February, when Syeed, a professor who has a law degree and teaches negotiation and mediation, took over the chief of staff role.

"I think the recall effort against her is due to self-inflicted wounds," Cohen said. "Nithya didn't have to have such a green and inexperienced staff vis a vis city government and city operations. And that's just one of

the many reasons for a recall."

Syeed said "community-based problem solving" has always been "central" to her work, making her a good fit for the role, and Raman and her team expected a permanent chief of staff to replace Choi and Salans a few months into the councilwoman's term.

"The plan was always that the two campaign co-chairs would move on from the chief of staff position," Syeed said. "They were there to help with that transition, but that was part of the plan. It wasn't part of a shakeup. It was that they were looking for a chief of staff who was going to stay for the duration of their term. I was brought in with the understanding."

Choi now serves as deputy chief of staff and director of organizing for Raman, while Salans left the 4th District office. In an email, Salans noted that she no longer lives in Los Angeles and deferred comment to Jesse Zwick, Raman's communications director.

"Sounds like the recall is like 12 people though and maybe not worth your readers' time given that the district has over 200,000 constituents? Just a thought :)," Salans added.

Cohen pointed out that Raman's office has relocated staffers to different parts of the district, such as the move of Field Manager Su In Lee from the Greater Wilshire area to a new assignment in the office earlier this month.

Syeed said she does not think job changes have been "often or even frequent" in Raman's office.

"Our goal is to have people build relationships with our communities. I think that also finding a good fit for our community is a consideration. Our goal is to find the right fit to help our constituents. Anyone who has concerns, I'm always available and responsive. That's really important for me to know as well. If people are feeling that they want to offer feedback, we're here to serve," she said.

In an email, Rana Ghadban, president and CEO of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, said the organization is "committed to working with all of our elected officials towards economic recovery and the betterment of our community."

"Councilmember Raman has engaged in these conversations with our team and we will continue to work with her office on key issues impacting Hollywood," Ghadban said.



rendering © DBOX for Alagem Capital Group

The public will be able to access 4.5 acres of botanical gardens at One Beverly Hills.

# Alagem attorney criticized for cease and desist letter

From page 3

the gardens to the public, which drew praise from the council members.

However, plans to implement fractional ownership – some units would be sold in one-twelfth portions – and how best to allow for multimodal transportation on Santa Monica Boulevard, among other topics, drew multiple questions that may indicate some concerns.

For instance, Mirisch asked if the fractional units would count toward the city's Regional Housing Needs Assessment numbers since they are technically homes, or if they would be treated more like hotels and thus do not count toward the state-mandated numbers.

"It does have more of the character of part-time vacation ownership, as opposed to full time," Mirisch said.

"To me, it's providing housing ... It would make no sense to me that it wouldn't count," Vice Mayor Lili Bosse said.

Ted Kahan, president of the One Beverly Hills project, affirmed that these units are different from hotels in that they have "permanence, even though [the units are] used only for a portion of the year." He did not have an answer to the RHNA question.

"These units are not hotel rooms.

They have full kitchens, they have dining rooms, they have residential-style bathrooms and closets. It's a living situation that's very different from staying in a hotel," he said.

Though some questions remain for the May 27 meeting, much of the questioning is done, and the council is likely to move into the council comments portion of the meeting tonight, the final step before a vote. That said, there is a chance the discussions will continue into the June 1 council meeting.

"This is the most impactful project perhaps in the history of the city," Mirisch said. "The old saying, 'where's the fire?' [applies here.] Let's do it right."

## Answers From Page 23



## L.A. Parks Foundation marks new forest planting

photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Parks Foundation

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation has partnered with Thomas Safran & Associates in launching the nonprofit's fourth Los Angeles Park Forest.

On May 24, LAPF planted 12 new trees and installed a park bench at the Ross Snyder Recreation Center. In attendance were Jordan Pynes, president of Thomas Safran & Associates; Carolyn Ramsay, executive director of the LAPF; Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin; Los Angeles City Councilman Curren Price Jr., 9th District; and Courtney DeBeikes, project manager of Thomas Safran & Associates.

"Planting trees is one of the most important things we can do to contribute to the health of the planet, beautify our community and improve the quality of our surroundings here in District 9," Price said. "We are so pleased with the newest addition of a park forest to Ross Snyder Recreation Center, where we look forward to watching it grow into a place where our families can enjoy the shade, have a picnic or watch their children play. We are especially grateful for the tremendous partnership with the L.A. Parks Foundation who helped bring this forest to fruition; their work is paramount to maintaining nature here in the city of L.A."

This event is part of the Los Angeles Park Foundation's Park Forest initiative, which works to reforest parks, especially in communities that have lost trees due to age, infestation, disease and other factors.

The initiative is both an environmental justice program and a climate action program. Planting trees in parks creates shade, draws more people to the park and better health outcomes for the neighborhood. The small forests also help offset carbon footprints, clean the air, cool surface temperatures and educate the public about climate change.

For information, visit [laparksfoundation.org](http://laparksfoundation.org).

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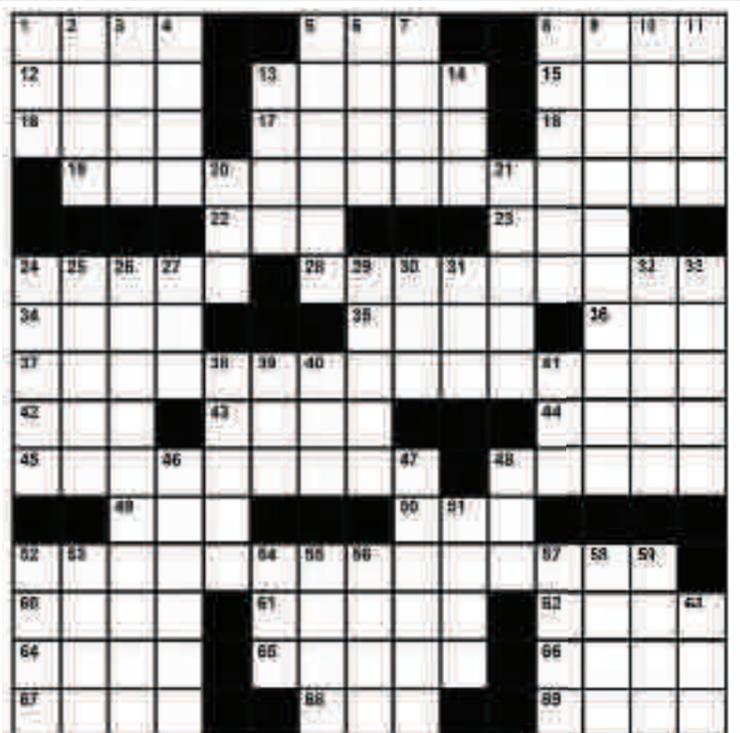
## Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

#### Across

- Pig of film
- Tennis maneuver
- More than a friend
- Political group
- Cager from Philly
- Prefix with byte
- Blackjack
- Actress Graff
- Like some profs.
- Olympic distance
- Sound magnifier
- Set (against)
- Brightened, in a way
- Avoids
- Cries at fireworks
- Brazo river city
- Attack
- Olympic event distance
- Oozy stuff
- Cad
- Art type
- Part of the Musketeers' credo
- Extra
- Clod
- Give a hand
- Olympic event distance
- Until
- States of feeling
- Naval yeses
- Milestone
- Everybody does it

#### Down

- UK TV organization
- Tons
- Gibberish
- Audio effect
- Fragrant flowers
- Big bovines
- Curve
- "Aha!"
- Proven workable
- Bavarian river
- Rover's view
- Answer to a señor
- Deep sleep
- Strike caller
- English horse racing locale
- Numbers game
- Des Moines native
- From then on
- Service arm, abbr.
- Song on the Beatles' "White Album"
- East Indian sauce
- Green
- Jigsaw puzzle part
- Atlantic haddock
- Pointer's word
- "\_\_\_ out!" (ump's call)



- Mauna \_\_\_ (Hawaiian volcano)
- Former "The Tonight Show" announcer Hall
- Lens settings
- Big name in cosmetics
- Put on
- N.Y.P.D. employee
- Trouble
- Like some airports, abbr.
- German resort
- "\_\_\_ contendere" (no contest plea)

- Weeder
- "The Sounds of India" musician, first name
- Watched
- "Are we agreed?"
- Wily

answers on page 22



## LACMA IS OPEN

LACMA meets—and exceeds—the most current health and safety guidelines for museums provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the City of Los Angeles.

LACMA is committed to providing a safe environment for all visitors and staff. Advance timed-entry online reservations are required.

## ON VIEW

### ALL NEW

Bill Viola: Slowly Turning Narrative

Cauleen Smith: Give It Or Leave It

NOT I: Throwing Voices (1500 BCE–2020 CE)

Yoshitomo Nara

Vera Lutter: Museum in the Camera

View From Here: Recent Acquisitions

### STILL ON VIEW

Barbara Kruger: Untitled (Shafted)

Chris Burden: Metropolis II

Do Ho Suh: 348 West 22nd Street

Mark Bradford: 150 Portrait Tone

Richard Serra: Band

Robert Irwin: Metropolis II

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**LACMA**

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