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Sunny, temps in the mid-80s

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INSIDE

• Frieze Beverly Hills? pg. 3

• BH teen sentenced pg. 4

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More profiling claims made

■ City says BHPD maintains 'dignity for all'

BY AARON BLEVINS

The group of attorneys who filed a class-action lawsuit against the Beverly Hills Police Department due to arrests made by its Rodeo Drive Task Force have filed a supplemental claim for two individuals who they believe were racially profiled by BHPD officers.

According to the attorneys, Joseph Nett and his girlfriend, Lakisha Swift, were detained by officers on Aug. 5, 2020, on their way to the beach after Nett stopped his vehicle "a few inches" over the stop line on Wilshire Boulevard.

"They [were] being followed," attorney Brad Gage said during a press conference in front of Beverly Hills City Hall on Oct. 27. "Why were they being followed? Because they were in Beverly Hills, driving while Black."

Officers never charged Nett with a crime, but he spent three days in jail, according to the claim. Swift was handcuffed and released, the claim states.

"That's why we, again, say no more," Gage said. "No more racial profiling. No more false arrests. No more detaining someone for three days in jail without ever charging them with a crime simply because of

See **Lawsuit** page **21**

photo by Brynn Mechem

Attorney Ben Crump speaks outside Beverly Hills City Hall on Oct. 27, when the supplemental claim filing was announced.

Hollywood's Pig 'N Whistle 'gutted'

■ Landmark's façade removed without proper permits

BY AARON BLEVINS

The city of Los Angeles has issued a stop-work order for unpermitted construction at the former Pig 'N Whistle restaurant on Hollywood Boulevard. The façade was allegedly illegally removed last weekend as workers repurposed the building for a Mr. Tempo cantina.

To preservationists, the illegal work was yet another slap in the face for organizations seeking to spare "Old Hollywood." Los Angeles historian Alison Martino was among the individuals who sounded the alarm after photographs surfaced of the construction.

"I feel that the building is important to Hollywood … because it represents what Hollywood was intended to be," she said.

Martino said the Pig 'N Whistle opened in 1927 but closed in 1955. After nearly 50 years, the restaurant "miraculously" reopened in 1999 with many of the original features after a full restoration, she said. It closed again last spring, and now, that work could be lost, Martino said.

photo by Brian Donnelly

Construction workers remove the Pig 'N Whistle sign in the 6700 block of Hollywood Boulevard last weekend.

"Imagine all that work it took to restore it and bring it back to its original glory – just to be gutted again," she added. "So, I guess I don't understand why they couldn't have just taken what they had and went from there, why they had to desecrate it and destroy it and take down the dancing pigs and put skulls up instead. To me, it doesn't look like a Hollywood destination anymore. I just feel like Hollywood's losing its character. It's losing its history, and that is a perfect example of not caring about history."

Hollywood resident and photographer Brian Donnelly initially discovered the work being done to the restaurant he once frequented. He walks the neighborhood regularly and "happened onto the scene" of the work at 11 a.m. on Oct. 23, he said.

Donnelly lamented the loss of the façade and the Pig 'N Whistle

See **Landmark** page **21**

West Hollywood continues 'moving forward together'

■ Sustainability, homeless outreach praised in address

BY BRYNN MECHEM

As the city of West Hollywood continues to recover from the pandemic, city leaders are optimistic about the city's future, citing several upcoming projects and programs during the inaugural state of the city address on Oct. 21.

The theme of the evening was "Moving Forward Together," and City Manager David Wilson said before the community does so, it should reflect on the successes of the last year.

Wilson, who has served as city manager since July, said that throughout the pandemic, the city has worked to keep its residents safe. Since March 2020, the city has allocated more than $2.5 million in direct support to residents for rental assistance and meal programs.

About $1.2 million was spent to help the city's business community with Outzone dining, mediation services with landlords and waived building fees. Because of the effort, the city was nominated as a finalist for the L.A. Economic Development Committee Eddy Awards, which annually recognize leadership in economic development in business, education and government.

And though those efforts gave relief to much of the community, Wilson said the city is now focused on how best to transition out of pandemic shutdowns.

"As we are all working towards recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, returning to some sense of normalcy is something that everyone in our community has in common, and it goes much farther than financial recovery," he said. "We want a holistic recovery for our community members."

Part of the recovery starts with

See **State** page **22**

Commission proposes dramatic changes

■ L.A. City Council will make final decision on redistricting map

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission approved a final map on Oct. 21 that it plans to submit to the council for review after compiling a report at its meeting on Oct. 28.

The map proposes major changes to districts in the community and puts in question the future of Councilwoman Nithya Raman's 4th District and Councilman Paul Krekorian's 2nd District. The redistricting commission created two new districts called "2 or 4" and "4 or 2," both of which are primarily in the San Fernando Valley, and left it up to the City Council to decide who will represent which district. The council is expected to consider the map at a date to be determined.

The commission's map draws the southern boundary of the 4th District along Franklin Avenue in Hollywood and its northern boundary along Sherman Way and Roscoe Boulevard in the San Fernando Valley. The eastern boundary is primarily Clybourn Avenue in the San Fernando Valley and the Golden State (5) Freeway along Griffith Park, with a small area extending south into Silver Lake where Raman lives at the southeastern portion of the district.

photo courtesy of the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission

The Los Angeles City Council will review the redistricting commission's final map.

The map removes the Miracle Mile, Hancock Park, Windsor Square and Larchmont Village from the 4th District and places them in the 5th District. Councilman Mitch O'Farrell's 13th District includes most of Hollywood on the new map. It expands west from its present boundary at La Brea Avenue to Fairfax and Laurel avenues, encompassing the neighborhoods north of Fountain Avenue to Hollywood Boulevard that are currently in the 4th District.

The 2nd District, which is currently centered in North Hollywood, could potentially be

See **Council** page **22**

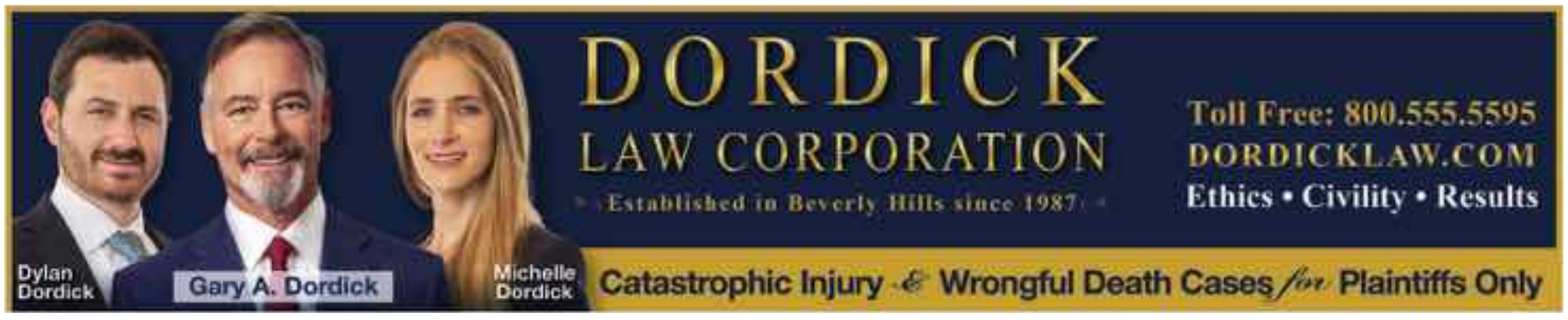

photo by Kate Jones/courtesy of the Rodeo Drive Committee

The Board of Directors of the Rodeo Drive Committee is comprised of, from left, Vice President Kiersten Dunn, Treasurer Mark Tronstein, President Kathy Gohari, Vice President Kay Stovall and Vice President Maor Batito.

Rodeo Drive Committee elects members to board of directors

The Board of Directors of the Rodeo Drive Committee has elected a diverse leadership team to continue the committee's legacy established in the 1970s to enable Rodeo Drive to thrive and advance as a leading, international luxury and fashion destination.

The RDC executive committee is led by President Kathy Gohari, whose appointment was announced earlier this year, with Maor Batito, Kiersten Dunn and Kay Stovall serving as vice presidents and Mark Tronstein serving as treasurer.

"My goal is to mentor and prepare new and dynamic leaders that will guide the street forward creatively, providing businesses with opportunities to network, share resources and explore innovative ways to expand in a safe, healthy and responsible way," Gohari said. "Maor, Kiersten, Kay and Mark bring a wealth of retail, hospitality and business acumen to respond to changes in retail, shape exciting new experiences and propel Rodeo Drive into the future."

The Rodeo Drive Committee was founded in 1977 by the "Godfather of Rodeo Drive" Fred Hayman, who at the time of the committee's founding was chairman of the association and president of Giorgio, the legendary Rodeo Drive boutique and fragrance.

Gohari has served as the committee's president previously in 2017-2018. She is a respected luxury expert and is president of KG Relations, a luxury advisory firm. She serves as liaison to the city of Beverly Hills and is a member of the board of the Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau.

A business leader in the luxury jewelry field, Batito is the market manager for Los Angeles for the American jewelry brand, David Yurman, and oversees the brand's Rodeo Drive flagship as its boutique director.

Dunn is the director of public relations and communications at the Beverly Wilshire hotel. She has worked at Beverly Wilshire collectively for seven years and with Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts for 10 years.

Stovall, of Auto Vault Storage in Beverly Hills, has refined the company's legacy of customer satisfaction through her professionalism and dedication to each individual client for nearly 10 years. A luxury automotive management company, Auto Vault has operated on Rodeo Drive for the last 40 years.

Tronstein is a managing director of Andell Inc., a Los Angeles-based private investment firm and family office with global business and investment interests, where he sits on the investment committee, leads the real estate team and is responsible for all real estate investments and transactions.

One of the committee's original goals was "to promote Rodeo Drive as America's answer to the glamour of Rome's Via Condotti, London's New Bond Street and Paris's Faubourg St-Honoré," and organized a major campaign to attract national and international attention to Rodeo Drive.

As the holidays approach and with international travel restrictions lifting next month, occupancy rates are already on the rise on Rodeo Drive, according to the committee. The holiday shopping season will kick off officially on Nov. 18 with the annual Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting celebration and an evening of variety performances for all along the length of the street.

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CALENDAR

Beverly Hills Chamber

Join the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce for "Empowering Your Business by Hiring Veterans," a webinar on Thursday, Oct. 28, from noon to 1:30 p.m., via Zoom. The chamber is hosting the webinar in partnership with the Small Business Development Center at El Camino College. Learn about hiring military veterans to help businesses thrive. Admission is free but registration is required. beverlyhillschamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/22755.

'All This Intimacy'

Theatre of Arts presents "All This Intimacy," a production by Rajiv Joseph running from Thursday, Oct. 28, through Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Flight Theatre at the Complex in Hollywood. "All This Intimacy" is the story of Ty Greene, a writing teacher who's suddenly dumbstruck to find himself an expectant father of three via three different women. As his lovers become aware of one another and converge to confront him, the sorry state of Greene's life comes into focus and he struggles to find a path forward. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 28-29, 3 p.m. on Oct. 30. Tickets are $25. 6476 Santa Monica Blvd. toa.edu/live.

Comedy and Cocktails

Enjoy an evening of side-splitting laughs with comedian Bill Devlin on Friday, Oct. 29, at 8 p.m., at the Wren Theatre in the Hollywood Irish Import Shop. The show is part of Devlin's Comedy and Cocktail series, which features top comedians and surprise special guests. Tickets are $10. 742 Vine St. (323)498-4445. billdevlin.com.

'A Perfect Ganesh'

Terrence McNally's new production "A Perfect Ganesh" runs from Friday, Oct. 29, through Sunday, Nov. 21, at The Pico. The play stars Kathleen Gray, Mary Allwright, Mueen Jahan, Cameron Gregg, Judd Yort, Sean Delaney, Pavia Sidhu, Svetlana Tulasi and Delio Eswar. A pilgrimage is turned on its head when two middle-aged women throw themselves into a rousing tour of India, each having her own secret dreams of what the fabled land will do for the suffering she hides within. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday; 3 and 8 p.m., Saturday; and 7 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are $35. 10508 W. Pico Blvd. onstage411.com/ganesh.

Salastina

Chamber music lovers won't want to miss a performance by Salastina on Saturday, Oct. 30, from 8-10 p.m. on the courtyard of UCLA's Fowler Museum. The program includes works by Frédéric Chopin and Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach. Costumes are encouraged. Tickets are $40; $10 for students. 308 Charles E. Young Drive North. salastina.org/concerts.

Family Sunday with LACMA

Join the Los Angeles County Museum of Art for an online installment of its Andell Family Sundays Anytime series on Sunday, Oct. 31, available for viewing from 12:30-9 p.m. Titled "Every Toddler Dance Now," the program will be led by choreographer and dancer Sarah Leddy, and is inspired by works in LACMA's collection. The free event will be available on LACMA's YouTube channel. youtube.com/channel/UCBrtMtJE5tqHLpCCqoPw-lg.

Louise Reichlin and Dancers

Louise Reichlin and Dancers will perform on Sunday, Oct. 31, from 1:45-2:45 p.m. at Fiesta La Ballona. The group will present excerpts from its signature work "The Tennis Dances" and a new work "Reboot." Admission is free. 4117 Overland Ave. fiestalaballona.org/events-directory/louise-reichlin.

'The Good Boss'

American Cinematheque presents "The Good Boss" on Thursday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m. at the Los Feliz 3. The film is Spain's 2022 Oscar submission for Best International Feature Film. 1822 N. Vermont Ave. americancinematheque.com.

City grants help struggling small businesses

Mayor Eric Garcetti on Oct. 26 launched the Comeback Checks Grants Program, which will provide 5,000 small businesses with a $5,000 grant to address economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our small businesses reflect our best values as Angelenos, courage, hard work and a commitment to serving our neighbors," Garcetti said. "With this investment, the city is doubling down on our work to help small businesses recover and thrive."

This $25 million is from American Rescue Plan funds. Awardees can use the grant for employee payroll, rent, utilities, insurance and other needs.

"The Comeback Checks grant program provides a much-needed boost for the city's mom-and-pop shops, local restaurants and small businesses to rebound. Angelenos are resilient, and these grants offer our small businesses financial support to fortify and propel their journey toward economic recovery," said Carolyn Hull, general manager of the Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department.

To be eligible, businesses must be located in Los Angeles and have an active business tax registration certificate. Applicants will be chosen through a randomized process and awarded funds after a review of all required materials. The Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department will administer three rounds of funding. The first application period runs through Nov. 2.

For information and to apply, visit comebackchecksla.com.

44 BLUE PRODUCTIONS LLC
10061 RIVERSIDE DRIVE UNIT 848
TOLUCA LAKE, CA 91602

NOTIFICATION FOR INTENDED FILMING IN THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has authorized the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (District) to enter into a license agreement between the District and 44 Blue Productions, LLC to produce a documentary television series.

The City of West Hollywood has issued a film permit to film scenes within the City for production embedded with LA County Fire Department with no additional lighting or special effects.

This includes use of roadway for filming citywide in commercial/residential areas within the City of West Hollywood jurisdiction on October 27, 2021 and October 30, 2021. All production activities will strive to minimize any possible impacts.

For questions regarding this production, please contact 44 Blue Productions at (818) 760-4442.

For questions related to filming in the City of West Hollywood, please contact Eddie Robinson, City of West Hollywood Film Office, (323) 848-6489 or erobinson@weho.org.

Beverly Hills may partner with Frieze in 2022

■ Request to rename international art show put on ice

BY AARON BLEVINS

Frieze Los Angeles, a contemporary international art fair held annually in London, New York and L.A., could be hosted in partnership with the city of Beverly Hills from Feb. 17 to 20 – especially if organizers consider renaming the event Frieze Beverly Hills.

At the Beverly Hills City Council meeting on Oct. 26, organizers and city staff presented Frieze Los Angeles' request for the city to waive more than $70,000 in fees for the art fair, which would utilize Greystone Park, Beverly Gardens Park and Rodeo Drive for its installations and performances.

"First of all, I am extremely excited by this," Vice Mayor Lili Bosse said. "I'm a huge fan of Frieze. I've attended Frieze before. [But] every time I hear [community service director] Jenny [Rogers] say Frieze L.A., I have this emotion, which I'm sure many people on this [council] felt, because we are thrilled that this [will be] Frieze Beverly Hills. This is not happening in Los Angeles."

She echoed the sentiments of the council, which voted to discuss the matter again at its Nov. 2 meeting.

"I think we would need to regroup internally and have a conversation with our CEO and the marketing team about what the possibilities here could be," said Romilly Stebbings, of Frieze Los Angeles.

photo courtesy of Frieze Los Angeles

Frieze Los Angeles plans to host its West Coast art show at the future site of One Beverly Hills on Wilshire Boulevard.

Councilmember John Mirisch likened the event name to the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Specifically, organizers were seeking fee waivers for special event permits, building permits, the use of Greystone, banners and a trolley charter. Frieze L.A. would pay the city more than $30,000, with more than $70,000 waived.

The staff proposal also calls for temporary sculpture displays at Beverly Gardens Park and on Rodeo Drive, site-specific dance performances at Greystone and a marketing partnership between the city and Frieze.

The art fair's website already lists the upcoming event location at 9900 Wilshire Blvd., the future site of the One Beverly Hills project. Previously, Frieze Los Angeles had been held at Paramount Studios in Hollywood.

According to a staff report, tickets will be sold to the general public, but free programming will be installed at Beverly Gardens Park and on Rodeo Drive if approved. The art fair would be the organization's first, post-pandemic.

The target demographic for public tickets are art collectors, professional curators, artists, art aficionados and students, the report states. The Frieze Art Fair will be a ticketed event, and some VIP guests will be invited.

According to a staff report, Frieze Los Angeles is expected to draw approximately 35,000 attendees, who would spend an estimated $15 million on accommodations.

"We're hoping that we'll be able to welcome more visitors," Stebbings said. "We were constrained on capacity in our previous home at Paramount Studios."

Council members wanted to ensure that Beverly Hills businesses would benefit from the event. Stebbings said Frieze has had conversations with hotels and restaurants in Beverly Hills, but the organization also has partnerships outside of the city.

"To that end, I think you need to be promoting our restaurants and our hotels," Councilman Julian Gold said. "Frankly, if you want to go look for sponsorships from somebody else, then maybe they can get in line too, and in some sort of proportional way, you can figure out what this looks like. But, it sounds like we're supporting this, and as much as I'm excited to have it here, I'm not sure that the way it's being presented really reflects the fact that these are our taxpayer dollars for the most part that are supporting it, and both in terms of the recognition and whatever considerations there are for our business, I don't see that yet."

Mirisch referred to the event's budget, which projected revenues of more than $8 million and a surplus of approximately $1.2 million.

"As much as I love arts and culture, as much as I think we need it in our city, as much as I actually, in many ways, try to take the lead and encourage it, this is a for-profit enterprise that I think we need to look at in a very different way," he added.

photo courtesy of Frieze Los Angeles

Frieze Los Angeles, or Frieze Beverly Hills, is expected bring in approximately 35,000 visitors to the city.

photo courtesy of the LAPD

Authorities hope security camera images of the alleged homicide suspect on the subway train will lead to his arrest.

Leads still sought in murder on subway in Hollywood

■ Police continue search for clues

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Nearly three weeks after a woman was shot and killed on a Red Line subway train in Hollywood, authorities are still searching for the gunman and are asking for the public's help.

Police have released security camera images of the alleged suspect on the train and have worked tirelessly to find clues, said Detective Sean Kinchla, with the Los Angeles Police Department's West Bureau Homicide Unit. Investigators hope someone will provide a tip that leads to the suspect's identity and arrest.

"There is nothing new, no suspect," Kinchla added. "The [detectives] have been out there for days looking for cameras. It's still an active case."

The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner identified the victim as Danielle Harlemon, 28. Kinchla said the victim and suspect did not appear to know each other and became involved in an argument on the subway train before the shooting occurred at approximately 5:10 a.m. The suspect was pacing and appeared agitated prior to the shooting. Kinchla added that there were other people nearby on the train and police determined what allegedly happened based on security cameras and witness accounts. However, none of the witnesses knew of the suspect's identity.

After the shooting, the train stopped at the Hollywood/Vine Red Line subway station and the suspect exited and fled on foot on Hollywood Boulevard. Police were called and the victim was located on the train and taken to a hospital, where she died.

Authorities have described the suspect as a Latino man in his mid 20s. He was wearing a blue jacket, shorts, white shoes, black baseball hat and blue surgical mask.

Anyone with information is urged to call detectives at (213)382-9470. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD's hotline at (877)LAPD247.

Proposal will limit new oil wells

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that the California Department of Conservation's Geologic Energy Management Division has released a proposal that would prohibit new oil and gas wells and facilities within a 3,200-foot exclusion area – or setback – from homes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes and other sensitive locations.

It would also require pollution controls for existing wells and facilities within the same 3,200-foot setback area.

Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) said the announcement was "very exciting" and referenced a 2018 report issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health that revealed there are 68 active oil fields in the L.A. Basin.

In some neighborhoods, homes are located as little as 60 feet away from an active oil well, and at least two neighborhood production facilities were found in a state of disrepair with environmental conditions impacting the health of neighborhood residents, Bloom said.

Mayor Eric Garcetti thanked the governor for his "bold action" to fight the climate crisis.

"Oil drilling has no place in Los Angeles, and as the world prepares to come together for [2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference] COP26, cities are leading the transition away from fossil fuels, protecting our communities and creating good-paying green jobs," he added.

In L.A., existing oil wells at the West Pico Drill Site have been under increased scrutiny as of late, as Neighbors for A Safe Environment appealed the city's approval of a categorial exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act to the Los Angeles City Council.

On Oct. 21, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council announced its support for the appeal in a letter to the council.

"Our position is not new," the letter states. "We have documented it in multiple submissions to the [zoning administrator] in 2020 and to the Area Planning Commission in 2021. We are repeating it now in reaction to the full travesty of the categorical exemption from CEQA, in the hope that the City Council, which is a named party to the 2001 Settlement Agreement (CF 00-1842), will stand up to insist on the proper fulfillment of CEQA's procedural and substantive requirements."

The council joins a chorus of individuals calling for the city to do a better job of regulating the site, which is located at Pico Boulevard and Doheny Drive. Several candidates in the race for L.A. City Controller and the council's 5th District have announced their support of the appeal.

Beverly Hills teen sentenced to juvenile camp

■ Defendant was responsible for fatal collision

BY BRYNN MECHEM

A Beverly Hills teenager will spend several months in a juvenile camp for causing a collision that killed another driver on Feb. 17.

Brendan Khuri, who was 17 at the time of the collision, was sentenced on Oct. 21 at the Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse. Nine months is the longest a juvenile can be sentenced to the county's camp system.

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office spokesman Greg Risling said Khuri will spend between seven and nine months in the camp, depending on behavior. Had he been tried as an adult, Khuri would have faced a maximum of six years in state prison.

In February, Khuri was driving a black Lamborghini SUV at speeds of more than 100 mph when he collided with a Lexus sedan driven by Monique Munoz, 32, near Olympic Boulevard and Overland Avenue. The force of the collision nearly split Munoz's car in half, and she died at the scene.

Khuri was booked for vehicular manslaughter on Feb. 23 in absentia due to being hospitalized. Because he was a juvenile, he was allowed to remain in the custody of his parents.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office filed charges against Khuri on April 12. Later that month, Khuri admitted to one count of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence in Inglewood Juvenile Court.

photo courtesy of the 5th District council office

A memorial was placed at Olympic Boulevard and Overland Avenue for Monique Munoz after she was killed in a collision in February.

Khuri is the son of James Khuri, a Beverly Hills businessman who developed and distributed Pokemon, Yu-Gi-Oh! And Magic the Gathering trading cards. The elder Khuri issued an apology on social media earlier this year.

"Knowing that this will never do justice for the family of Monique Munoz, I want to apologize to the Munoz family for the tragic loss of their daughter," James Khuri wrote on Instagram. "There are no words I can say to alleviate the pain that you are experiencing. And I realize none of my words or actions will be able to bring back your daughter. Still, I want to offer my support in any way you will allow me to. My family and I pray for the Munoz family."

Brendan Khuri's sentencing hearing drew demonstrations from Oct. 14-15 outside the Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse, and friends and family of Munoz posted on social media that the teen should receive the maximum punishment allowed under the law. Probation, which is what the defendant's attorneys requested, would be too light a punishment, the posts said.

"My cousin was killed by a rich kid who was racing," one post read. "She was just trying to drive home from work … her family still [doesn't] have the justice they deserve."

D.A. launches search for new victim services director

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced on Oct. 26 that a national search is being conducted for an expert to lead the office's Bureau of Victim Services.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors authorized the new position in September. The director will be responsible for leading, planning, organizing and evaluating the operations of the Bureau of Victim Services. Tiffiny Blacknell, special advisor to the district attorney, will serve as interim director of the bureau until the position is filled. For information, call (800)380-3811.

Candidates debate transportation ideas

■ Bus safety, bike lanes among most pressing CD5 forum topics

BY BRYNN MECHEM

Five of the candidates running for Los Angeles City Council's 5th District gathered again in a virtual forum on Oct. 25, this time debating mobility issues throughout the city.

Candidates Katy Young Yaroslavsky, Scott Epstein, Sam Yebri, Jimmy Biblarz and Molly Basler weighed in on issues such as bus safety, protected bike lanes and infrastructure with fewer cars during the forum, which was hosted by Streets For All. Kristina Irwin was not present at the forum due to a family emergency.

Candidates shared their ideas for improvements specific to the 5th District, such as adding safe bike lanes between the Expo Line and University of California Los Angeles, a parking analysis of the district and the creation of a pedestrian plaza at Broxton Avenue.

Epstein envisioned a linear park along Santa Monica Boulevard that would "rival the High Line in New York City."

"It is well past time that we think differently about transportation, and it's necessary. The health of our city depends on it, and the health of our world depends on it," he said. "… The opportunities are right before us if we care to grasp them."

Yaroslavsky said the city needs to quickly roll out Mobility Plan 2035, which was approved by City Council in 2015. The plan includes 200 miles of bus lanes, which she said could help encourage residents to get out of their cars.

"Bus ridership is declining because it's incredibly unappealing to take the bus," Yaroslavsky said. "There are huge delays. It's very unpleasant to wait, often in the sun, but sometimes in the rain. We need to have dignified bus shelters where we have real-time data and a place to sit."

Basler said the city needs to focus on maintaining its current bus fleet so they are clean and safe for riders. She also suggested the city make bus fares free for Angelenos.

"We need to make public transit truly public transit by making it free for all," Basler said. "This is feasible because fares make up a very small portion of Metro's revenue anyway, so why do we have them?"

photo by Edwin Folven

Los Angeles City Council 5th District candidates discussed dedicated bus lanes at length during the virtual forum on Oct. 25.

Aside from bus improvements, candidates said it is time to shift the city's priority from car infrastructure to an infrastructure that supports alternate modes of transportation, not just for climate benefits, but also to support more Angelenos.

Biblarz said the city should focus on building complete streets on major thoroughfares, such as Robertson and Westwood boulevards, to accommodate bus lanes and protected bike lanes. He said focusing transportation efforts solely on cars creates an equity issue within the city.

"The time has come for change in L.A," he said. " … Modes of transportation that aren't cars are predominately utilized by low-income people and people of color and to state that we're only a car city is just completely missing that transit experience."

Yebri, who hasn't commuted with a car for seven years, said a top priority for him is creating safe bike and pedestrian infrastructure. He suggested the addition of protected bike lanes, better signage and more lighted crosswalks throughout the district.

"I know how dangerous it is out there for walkers and cyclists. That's not OK," he said. "We should feel comfortable and safe walking down the street or riding a bike with our family."

The winner of the Nov. 8, 2022, election will succeed Councilman Paul Koretz, who will term out in 2022 and is running for City Controller.

A recording of the debate is available on Streets For All's YouTube page.

Encampment vets get VA support

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough has announced that the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center will provide permanent housing for all of the veterans currently living in the San Vicente encampment – known as Veterans Row – before the county clears the sidewalk on Nov. 1.

Additionally, the VA announced that it will work to get 500 additional L.A.-area homeless veterans into permanent housing by the end of the year.

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mark Takano, Rep. Karen Bass, Rep. Ted Lieu and Subcommittee on Health Chairwoman Julia Brownley (all D-Calif.) applauded the announcements.

"We've been calling for action to assist the unhoused veterans sleeping next to the VA in West Los Angeles," Bass said. "Finally, we have a White House willing to listen. Secretary McDonough was willing to answer our call — he was willing to have us show him the situation and then work with us as we follow through with action. When he toured the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System earlier this month, my colleagues and I urged him to take bold and swift action on the crisis on our hands here in Los Angeles. What the secretary is announcing is ambitious but the exact kind of leadership needed to get folks in homes. This crisis is not going to go away overnight, it's going to take concerted efforts at all levels of government in collaboration with outside groups to get this done. Addressing this crisis cannot wait."

When McDonough visited VA facilities and met with veterans, he received a tour of the San Vicente encampment and spoke with homeless veterans, advocates and VA staff.

"No one who has served our country in uniform should ever be without a roof over their heads," Lieu said.

Zoo faces opposition over change to native habitat

■ Idea for undeveloped areas is a sticking point in Vision Plan

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A $650-million expansion plan for the Los Angeles Zoo has received pushback for a proposal to create new attractions on land currently covered by native plants and trees.

The expansion plans are outlined in an environmental impact report that is currently under public review before being sent for consideration by the Los Angeles City Council. The zoo is proposing major changes to its 133-acre campus that administrators said will attract more visitors and allow it to better compete with other attractions such as theme parks.

Although the proposal calls for an expansion entirely within the zoo's property, it involves potentially creating new spaces on approximately 23 acres of undeveloped land that is currently covered with coastal sage scrub, chaparral, riparian and southern oak and walnut tree woodlands. Among the project's objectives are the creation of better environments for the animals and the modernization of exhibit spaces, according to a project description in the EIR. Zoo administrators hope to increase education and conservation programs and bring new amenities to enhance the visitor experience. The project is projected to increase annual visitation by approximately 1.2 million people.

The plan, which aims to have major components finished in time for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, would be implemented in phases that will require step-by-step approvals from the Los Angeles City Council. The proposal will first go before the council's Arts, Parks, Health, Education and Neighborhoods Committee at a date to be determined prior to review by the full City Council.

Initial phases include improvements to the zoo's entry plaza, parking lot and external roadways, as well as expansions of the California, Rainforest, Asia, Africa and Nature Play Park exhibitions. Longer-term goals include a world aviary space for bird show and animal programs and a 2,000-space parking structure on the northern portion of the zoo's parking lot.

A two-story 18,000-square-foot Yosemite lodge-style California Visitor Center would be stepped into the hillside where some of the undeveloped land currently exists and will feature full-service dining, classrooms and event rental spaces, according to the EIR. The proposal also includes plans for a Condor Canyon attraction that would be cut through an existing ridgeline to depths of up to 60 feet, the report states. A pathway through the canyon would be part of a continuous walking path to improve visitor circulation throughout the zoo. A new visitors center and an aerial tram and funicular to transport visitors would also be included, according to the report.

Los Angeles Zoo Director and CEO Denise Verret was not available for comment, but the zoo's Acting Communications Director Carl Myers provided information on the plan.

"In 2016, the Los Angeles Zoo started developing our Vision Plan as part of the process of bringing much-needed upgrades to our campus which includes many 1960s-era facilities," a statement from the zoo read. "A fundamental driver of the Vision Plan is to improve animal welfare and expand our conservation impact, while also ensuring a meaningful visitor experience that will result in a lifelong love of wildlife and the intergenerational stewardship capacity necessary to ensure species survival in the face of climate change and unprecedented biodiversity loss."

Friends of Griffith Park, an organization dedicated to preserving the native parkland around the zoo, supports expansion but believes it can be done without destroying native woodlands on zoo property. Members fear up to 227 trees may have to be removed from the undeveloped areas near the hillsides northwest and southwest of the zoo's current public spaces.

"They are eliminating or substantially altering native habitat," said Gerry Hans, president of Friends of Griffith Park. "We think they can do plenty without destroying the native habitat."

Hans stressed that the Friends of Griffith Park supports a plan called Alternative 1 in the EIR that reduces the scope of the project. The alternative removes the Condor Canyon portion of the project, the funicular and the California Visitors Center.

"We want to be on record that we really support the very top care for the zoo animals," Hans added. "The full plan does that and the alternative plan does that. The alternative meets the goal of becoming a world class facility. It does reduce the scope of the project."

Dozens of people have posted messages on the Friends of Griffith Park website regarding the zoo's proposal, with many opposing plans to expand into undeveloped parts of the property.

"[I] was outraged at the potential for less park area," said a post by Elena de la Cruz. "I just became a member thanks to seeing your efforts to stop this. Angelenos, including the non-human ones, need [Griffith] Park intact. We have enough entertainment activities as it is, we don't have enough park spaces."

"People understand the simple reality – this zoo resides in the largest urban wilderness in the country – not the other way around," read a post by Kathryn Louyse. "With that in mind, this zoo (and the city) should be cognizant of why it's important to protect this space – not destroy it."

The zoo opposes the alternative plan because it would reduce the number of new amenities to attract more visitors, according to the information provided by Myers. The statement said that steps will be taken to preserve trees and plants in the undeveloped areas under the full plan.

"While we support and encourage all public feedback as part of the environmental impact report process, we do not support Alternative 1 as it prohibits the zoo from increasing its developed acreage to expand animal spaces and increase welfare, as well as address accessibility issues," read a statement from the zoo. "The zoo has no intentions of simply destroying the undeveloped areas within the zoo, and in fact, will try and incorporate existing vegetation into the projects to the maximum extent feasible. The EIR contains a very detailed Biological Resource Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that specifically addresses mitigating the loss of native vegetation, habitat and special-status species from each phase. This program has to be developed in conjunction with the design of each phase and it must be approved by a city-approved biologist."

rendering courtesy of the Los Angeles Zoo

A map shows the configuration of new amenities proposed in the Los Angeles Zoo's expansion plan.

The zoo is located in the 4th District represented by Councilwoman Nithya Raman, who said she has concerns about the proposed expansion.

"We agree that the zoo requires investment and updating," Raman said in a statement. "We have questions about the scale of the impact on Griffith Park and the natural habitat which we are working with the zoo to address."

Dan Halden, a spokesman for Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District, said it is too early for O'Farrell to comment on the proposal because it is not in his district, but added that the councilman is looking forward to reviewing plans once they get to the full City Council.

The Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association, which supports the zoo through fundraising and programs, is also closely monitoring the proposal and will be involved in raising the funding necessary to complete the plan.

"As the Vision Plan evolves, and partnering closely with the Los Angeles Zoo, GLAZA will continue to embrace the public process, engaging in a constructive dialog with our members, donors, partners and the greater Los Angeles community to support the development of a place where we can all explore, learn and grow in nature together," GLAZA President Tom Jacobson said in a statement. "GLAZA looks forward to raising private and public funding for the zoo's Vision Plan in order to modernize the zoo's half-century-old infrastructure. These improvements underscore the zoo's commitment to its mission to ensure the highest standards of animal welfare by upgrading animal habitats, facilitating guest accessibility and expanding the zoo's ability to deliver on the Conservation Strategic Plan."

For information about the zoo's Vision Plan and to comment on the EIR, visit lazoo.org/about/vision-planeir.

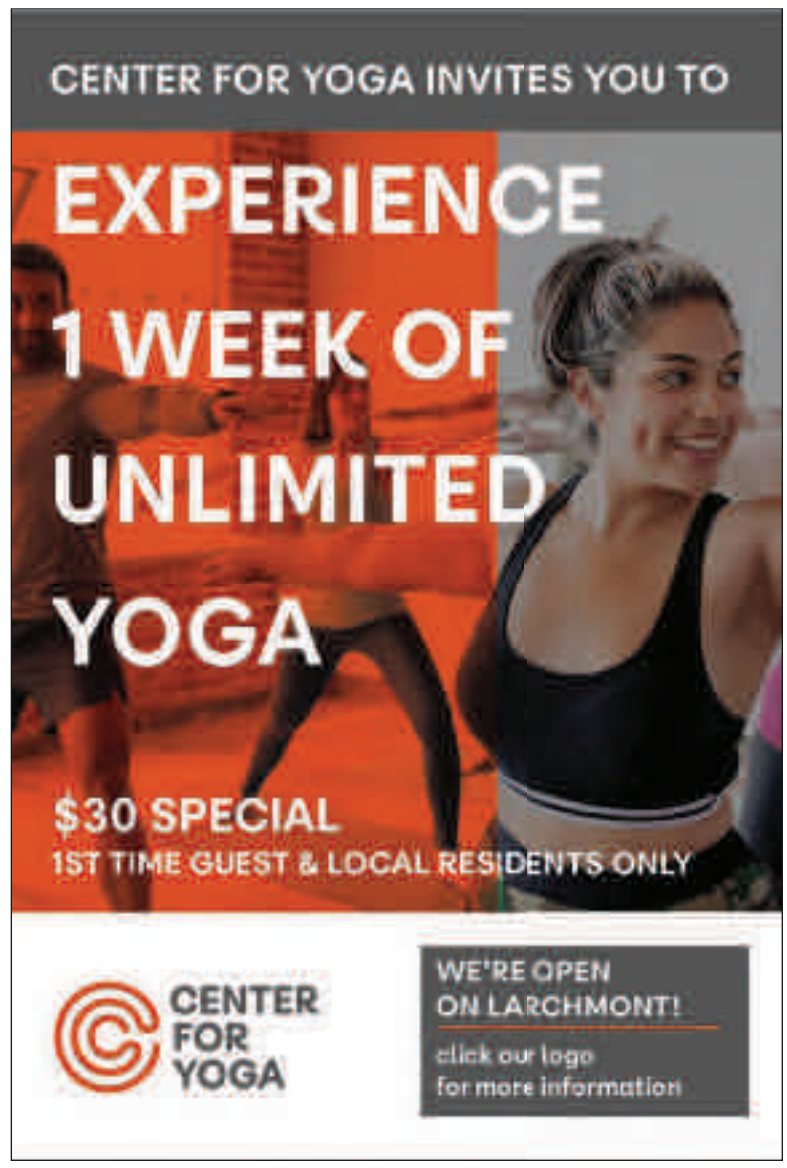
Plan for more trash cans at encampments approved

The Los Angeles City Council adopted a motion on Oct. 26 by Councilwoman Nithya Raman, 4th District, to place more trash receptacles at homeless encampments.

Raman introduced the motion to address often inaccessible or insufficient sanitation services for people experiencing homelessness.

"The sanitation crisis that has unfolded in public spaces across our city has been created in part due to insufficient sanitation options available to unhoused Angelenos," Raman said. "As we continue to develop and implement sustainable housing solutions, scaling up the sanitation options dedicated to individuals experiencing homelessness can significantly and immediately make public spaces healthier, safer and cleaner for all."

The Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation has funds to place 1,000 trash receptacles throughout Los Angeles, but it has not indicated how many will be located near encampments beyond the estimated 400 that currently exist. Raman's motion directs the Bureau of Sanitation to initiate a pilot program to place new trash receptacles at select homeless encampments and report within 90 days on the performance of the program, with the goal of placing more receptacles citywide. For information, visit councildistrict4.lacity.org and lacitysan.org.



WeHo looks to increase safety on east side

■ Block by Block kiosk considered at Santa Monica and La Brea

BY BRYNN MECHEM

Residents and business owners on the east side of West Hollywood could soon see increased security measures as the city looks to expand its Block by Block partnership.

At its Oct. 18 meeting, City Council set forth the process to amend a city agreement with Block by Block to add a security ambassador kiosk and additional staffing near the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and La Brea Avenue.

The city provides public safety through a contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, a contract with PacWest for security guards at the city's public facilities and a contract with Block by Block to provide supplemental security ambassador patrols in the community.

Over the past several years, Block by Block ambassadors have provided visible uniformed presence on streets throughout West Hollywood. Security ambassadors are deployed on bicycles along major streets, alleys, parking lots and in residential neighborhoods as they work in collaboration with the sheriff's department on quality of life issues.

"Over the years, the addition of Block by Block security ambassadors have been an effective and financially sound way to increase security on the city's main commercial corridors and in residential neighborhoods," a staff report read.

Due to the program's success, its budget has gradually expanded from $700,000 in 2016 to $2.1 million this year, according to a staff report. Now, many residents on the east side of the city would like the Block by Block presence to be expanded yet again.

Staff will prepare an amendment to the city's current agreement to add a security ambassador kiosk at a to-be-determined location near Santa Monica and La Brea, similar to those at Plummer Park and West Hollywood Park prior to COVID-19 restrictions.

Resident Emilio Castellanos said a new Block by Block kiosk could help improve safety at Santa Monica and La Brea, and he saw the success of the kiosk in Plummer Park near his home.

"The park was once a magnet for drifters and drugs and is now a thriving centerpiece to our neighborhood with children laughing, birthdays, picnics and other activities," he said. "The east side is a natural corridor to access Hollywood Boulevard, and drifters will remain in the area if security ambassadors are not present, so expanding Block by Block to other areas of the east side will have a dramatic effect [in] the long run, hopefully as much as it has had on our park."

In recent years, the city has increased car and foot patrols in the area, but some residents said it is still not enough because the intersection attracts a high number of individuals experiencing homelessness or those with substance abuse disorders. Residents requested a prominent, physical presence such as a public safety kiosk to decrease dangerous activity and offer services to those in need.

"I think a security kiosk at this location would not only help local residents feel safer and help the next businesses that move in on this corner to succeed, but the security officers can also be a great asset to offer help to the homeless people willing to take it," resident Jeff Palkevich said.

The addition of the kiosk and associated staffing would cost about $100,000 to $140,000 per year, depending on how many days a week the kiosk would be staffed. Staff would be stationed at the kiosk from morning until sunset.

The higher cost represents staffing seven days a week while the lower represents five-day staffing with no workers present on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Council members were supportive of the increased safety in the area, but cautioned that the additional kiosk should be used for providing services, not for surveillance of residents.

"I want to make sure that this east side kiosk is engaged in helping people, not merely recording people's actions and reporting them," Councilman John D'Amico said. " … We need to be clear that this is about helping people, not about surveillance."

City staff will bring an amendment, which will include allocation of additional funding, before the council within 30 days.

photo courtesy of Block by Block

Block by Block ambassadors can serve in a variety of capacities, such as hospitality and safety services, street cleaning and homeless out-

WeHo closes roads for marathon

Runners in the 2021 Los Angeles Marathon will make their way through West Hollywood on Nov. 7 as part of the 26.2-mile "Stadium to the Stars" course.

Although the Los Angeles Marathon is usually held in the spring, it was delayed several months this year due to COVID-19. The 2022 event is scheduled to take place as usual in March 2022.

Celebrating its 36th anniversary, the Los Angeles Marathon course will begin at Dodger Stadium, and will now conclude at Century Park in Century City, rather than in the city of Santa Monica as in previous years. The portion of the route through the city of West Hollywood remains unchanged.

The Los Angeles Marathon route for 2021 will guide runners westbound into West Hollywood along Sunset Boulevard at Marmont Lane, just west of Crescent Heights Boulevard. From the Sunset Strip, runners will turn left onto San Vicente Boulevard, then right onto Santa Monica Boulevard, then left onto Doheny Drive, where they will enter the city of Beverly Hills at Beverly Boulevard. The marathon will run through West Hollywood between miles 14 and 15 of the course.

To ensure the safety of the large numbers of Los Angeles Marathon runners, there will be several street closures in the city from 4 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 7. Closures will be at Sunset Boulevard between Marmont Lane and Clark Street; San Vicente Boulevard between Sunset Boulevard and Melrose Avenue; and Doheny Drive between Santa Monica Boulevard and Beverly Boulevard.

Crews will work to reopen roads to vehicle traffic as quickly as possible as the marathon moves through the city.

Parking will be strictly prohibited along the Los Angeles Marathon route. "No Parking" signs will be posted prior to the event. Vehicles in violation will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

Spectators are encouraged to carpool and use public transportation or ridesharing options. Those looking for alternative parking solutions can visit weho.org/parkinglots.

For information, visit lamarathon.com, email solutions@mccourtfoundation.org or call (213)542-3000.

Overcoming a traumatic injury

■ 12-year-old Hollywood resident learns to walk again after a year of rehab

BY BRYNN MECHEM

Lalia Susini, a 12-year-old student at Paul Revere Charter Middle School, is an active girl who enjoys soccer, BMX riding and hanging out with friends.

Like most students during the pandemic, she attended school virtually, and found herself needing a break from the computer screen.

She went outside where her grandfather pushed her on a swing set. Suddenly, the swing broke, sending a piece of metal into Susini's skull.

"I don't remember falling," Susini said. "I just remember waking up and lying on the floor while my grandpa and mom kept saying, 'You're going to be OK.'"

Susini was rushed to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center's Ruth and Harry Roman Emergency Department, where she was met by a team of doctors. As one of four Level I adult trauma centers in Los Angeles County, Cedars-Sinai receives the most severely injured trauma patients from throughout the county, according to hospital data.

"The bracket essentially flew into Lalia's head like a bullet," said Nicolas Melo, an acute care surgeon and associate professor in the Department of Surgery. "When she arrived at the medical center, her skull was severely fractured, and her brain was exposed. It was a devastating injury, especially for a young child."

After several blood transfusions and a thorough evaluation, it was clear Susini needed emergency neurosurgery. Within minutes of the decision, Moise Danielpour, director of the Pediatric Neurosurgery program, was performing surgery.

"I remember waking up after and I was confused and more in shock than I was scared," Susini said. "Everything was a blur, but I just remember how nice and comforting all the nurses and doctors were."

The traumatic brain injury caused a stroke and complete paralysis on the left side of her body. For the active Hollywood Hills resident, who loves running track and chasing her three brothers around, the prognosis could have been bleak. However, she kept a positive outlook.

"It's just really exciting to get back to my life because there's so many things I thought I'd never get to do again. So getting to do them makes me so excited, and I'm just really proud of myself."

-Lalia Susini

"I just knew I had to get better," she said. "My friends and family motivated me. The staff motivated me to get better."

For 61 days, Susini remained at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, where she underwent physical and occupational therapy. A little more than a week after the accident, she began showing the first signs of recovered mobility.

Susini continued healing with inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation for nine months after her discharge. Stacey Susini said her daughter's focus was always on the things she could accomplish rather than those she could not.

Once Susini had recovered from her initial surgery, Danielpour performed a second surgery to replace the skull defect from her initial injury to better protect her brain during future athletic endeavors.

"We quickly learned from her parents that Lalia was extremely active, often riding BMX bikes, skateboarding, playing competitive soccer and chasing around her three brothers," he said. "While the initial goal of her surgery was to save her life, our subsequent care was focused on preserving her physical and mental function."

While again recovering for nearly a month in the hospital, staff went out of their way to play games or paint designs on Susini's nails.

"I think she preferred some of the nurses over my husband and I," Stacey Susini said with a chuckle. "It was almost sad to leave Cedars because they became such a part of the family while we were there."

In November, 13 months after her injury, Susini will receive the green light to return to normal activities, including school, track and her role as young Andy on ABC's "Station 19."

"It's just really exciting to get back to my life because there's so many things I thought I'd never get to do again," she said. "So getting to do them makes me so excited, and I'm just really proud of myself."

photo courtesy of Stacey Susini

Lalia Susini underwent emergency neurosurgery after a swing set broke, sending a metal bracket into her skull.

Susini hopes to soon begin playing soccer again, something Stacey Susini said she was looking forward to as well.

"I think I'm just now coming out of my shock stage because for so long, all I thought was, 'That's my little girl hurting,'" she said. "If that was going to be her reality that she was paralyzed, we would've dealt with it, but now that she's OK, I want to do backflips down Sunset Boulevard, and she's so much stronger because of this."

Although returning to school in person is a large feat, Susini is not stopping there. She recently launched her own children's clothing line called LATE Clothing. She and a friend came up with the idea before she was admitted to the hospital, but while there, Susini made some adjustments to the line.

"When I was in the hospital, I met people who needed clothing to work around a G-tube or a cast or an IV, and there isn't really that many options," she said. "So, I decided to add that into my line."

The first launch of the line completely sold out and Susini has since collaborated with other therapy patients to make adaptable clothing. Susini is donating a portion of sales to Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and several items in the line are named after the first responders who helped her.

"It's just really fun thinking up clothes," Susini said. "And I wanted to give back to the people who helped me so much."

Susini's clothing line is available online by visiting lateclothingla.com.

Larchmont Village celebrates 100 years

City officials and community members came together on Oct. 24 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Larchmont Village. The celebration included California Sen. Ben Allen and Assemblyman Richard Bloom (both D-Santa Monica), as well as Councilwoman Nithya Raman and former City Councilman and County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. An African fern pine tree was planted at 141 N. Larchmont Blvd. honoring the Larchmont Boulevard Association and the district's 100-year history as a small business community. Participants were also served cake provided by the LBA.

photo by Bill Devlin

The celebration of Larchmont Village's anniversary included Capt. Sonia Monico, left, of the LAPD's Wilshire Division; Larchmont Boulevard Association president John Winther; LAFD Battalion Chief Robert Takeshita; Councilwoman Nithya Raman, 4th District; state Sen. Ben Allen; state Assemblyman Richard Bloom and former City Councilman and County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

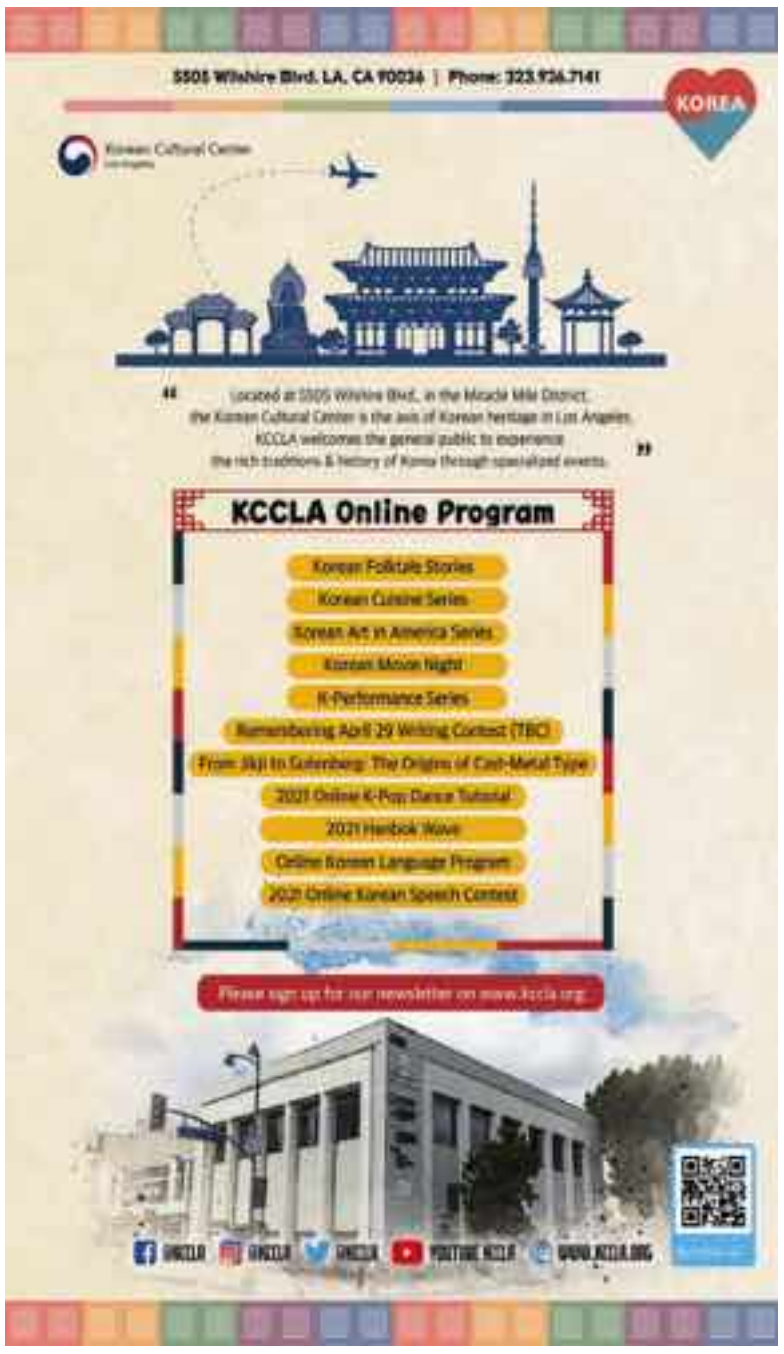
Larchmont Village traces its roots to the late 1800s and became a thriving suburb by 1920. Midwest transplant and ironworker Julius La Bonte developed the area known as Larchmont Village beginning in 1921 after seeing the benefits of a business district in the emerging community.

"My father always had a very clear idea of what Larchmont Boulevard should be," La Bonte's daughter Charlotte La Bonte Lipson said. "It was the first neighborhood shopping center in Los Angeles."

La Bonte built a district that included 30 stores, including a movie theater, gas station, dry cleaner, hair salon and multiple clothing boutiques. It was later used in films featuring some of Hollywood's biggest stars of the period such as the Three Stooges and Buster Keaton.

The heritage of Larchmont is still visible today, thanks to beloved small businesses like Chevalier's Books, which opened in Larchmont in 1940, making it the oldest independent bookstore in Los Angeles. Larchmont is also home to restaurants and eateries such as family-owned establishments like Larchmont Wine and Cheese, as well as a thriving farmers' market.

For information, visit larchmont.com.



Road closure in Beverly Hills

A portion of Loma Vista Drive will be reduced to one lane of traffic as it is paved and striped through Nov. 19.

Loma Vista Drive from Doheny Road to Evelyn Place will be open for one lane traffic Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Local access will be maintained, but motorists are asked to use alternate routes when possible. For questions, contact Beverly Hills Public Works at (310)285-2467.

Sen. Allen walks the Mile

■ State senator gets up close look at Miracle Mile

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

California Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) joined members of the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 21 to walk the district, meet local merchants and get a first-hand look at the neighborhood.

The event, organized by the chamber of commerce, allows constituents to get better acquainted with local leaders. The walk was held near Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue, which Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce president Steve Kramer said is a neighborhood undergoing a positive transformation.

Allen, Kramer and approximately 20 chamber members and guests visited Candela, Met Her At A Bar and the new All Season Brewing Company located in the renovated former Firestone auto service center at Eighth Street and La Brea Avenue. All three are gathering places that are energizing the community, Kramer said. Other stops on the walk included the Nirvana Studios Hollywood, a photography studio near Eighth Street and La Brea Avenue, and the Luxe Nail and Beauty Spa, near Wilshire Boulevard and Cloverdale Avenue.

"I think it's important to let people know that elected officials care about the community that elected them, and a really good way of showing that is setting foot on the ground in those neighborhoods," Kramer said. "I wanted him to see the positive things that are happening."

Allen said the walk provided an opportunity to learn about places in the district that he has never previously visited. Allen's 26th California Senate District stretches along the coast from Palos Verdes to the Santa Monica Mountains, and east into Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and the Miracle Mile. He said it is the only state senatorial district in the country that is larger than the corresponding U.S. congressional district for the area, and includes approximately 1 million residents.

"For me, it's an opportunity to get to see an important part of my district with the folks who make the local economy run," Allen said. "[I want] a window into what the state of affairs is right now, what sort of challenges they have with government and what we can do to be helpful. For me, it's about fact finding and information gathering."

Allen and the group started with a visit to Candela, a Latin-themed bar, restaurant and nightclub at 831 S. La Brea Ave., and Met Her At A Bar, a neighborhood café at 759 S. La Brea Ave. Vincent Kinne and his wife Mindy met with Allen and explained how they struggled during the pandemic, but said business has picked up considerably since indoor dining regulations have been lifted.

"Things were tough, but we were fortunate, and now we are rolling again," said Kinne, who also owns Met Him At A Bar Pasta restaurant at the southwest corner of Eighth Street and La Brea Avenue. "It's really cool to meet legislators like him because they are really in tune with what the community wants. I told my wife this is a big deal that a senator came in and talked to us – we're just the little engine that could. It shows he really cares about the neighborhood and it was great to meet him."

At All Season Brewing Company, Allen met bartender Chris Mehra, where he enjoyed one of the brews and learned about the historic Streamline Moderne building's transformation into a brewery.

"It's cool to know that our senator cares and that he is part of our community," Mehra added. "We are a part of the community too, so it's good to meet our representative and know that our interests mean something to him."

Allen also said he is concerned about larger issues affecting the Miracle Mile, and many other parts of Los Angeles, including homelessness and housing. He said the state Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom have allocated more than $12 billion over the last three years to address homelessness, and many projects are currently under construction to provide housing and comprehensive services.

"The state is making unprecedented levels of investment to address the homelessness problem," Allen added. "It requires money, but it also requires a lot of thoughtful strategic spending. The state is playing its role with a big budget allocation."

Kramer also pointed out the positive work that has been done to clean up the Miracle Mile and said many agencies are working to make a difference. The city of Los Angeles recently re-implemented its Comprehensive Cleaning and Rapid Engagement program to clean sidewalks and public spaces, and people can call 311 or visit lacitysan.org for information about scheduling a clean-up.

photo by Edwin Folven

State Sen. Ben Allen, right, met Vincent and Mindy Kinne, owners of Met Her At A Bar café and Met Him At A Bar Pasta, during the neighborhood walk organized by the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce.

"A lot of positive things have been happening and it's looking better," Kramer added.

Allen, who resides in Santa Monica, added that he can't wait to return during his personal time with family and friends.

"What a great area. I have got to tell you, I am a tourist at heart, and this is an area that has so much to offer. It's fun to come and visit, come to the restaurants and do a little shopping and just enjoy the area. I encourage everyone to do the same," Allen added.

The state senator also told the business owners about state grants and programs that provide support for businesses, and encouraged people to contact his district office to see if there are ways he can help.

"A lot of times, it is just seeing what people need and connecting them to the right programs or organizations," Allen said. "I want people to know our office is here to help people. Any challenge involving state government, don't hesitate to contact us. We have a really devoted team here in L.A. to make sure we are responsive."

Allen's district office is located at 2512 Artesia Blvd., Ste. 320, in Redondo Beach. For information, call (310)318-6994, or visit sd26.senate.ca.gov.

State funds awarded for museum expansion

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

photo by Edwin Folven

Survivor Eva Nathanson stressed the importance of educating future generations about the Holocaust during a ceremony that was also attended by state Assemblyman Richard Bloom, left, Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel, center, and state Sen. Ben Allen, right, as well as members of the Holocaust Museum L.A.'s board.

The Holocaust Museum L.A. received a significant boost in its capital campaign when California Sen. Ben Allen and Assemblymen Richard Bloom and Jesse Gabriel awarded $2.5 million in state funding for the museum's upcoming expansion project on Oct. 21.

Holocaust Museum L.A. is planning a transformational project that will create the Jona Goldrich Campus in Pan Pacific Park, at the site of the current museum. The new campus will feature outdoor reflective spaces; large galleries and classrooms; a theater for survivor talks, film screenings, concerts, conferences and public programs; a new pavilion that will house an authentic World War II-era train boxcar; and a dedicated theater for USC Shoah Foundation's "Dimensions in Testimony" exhibit, which allows visitors to have a virtual conversation with a Holocaust survivor using holographic and voice recognition software.

The $2.5 million will be added to $6 million in state funding already committed for the project. Holocaust Museum L.A. has launched a $45-million capital campaign to fund the expansion, and has already raised $22 million, Holocaust Museum L.A. CEO Beth Kean said.

"Holocaust Museum L.A. is the only museum in California that focuses solely on the enormity of the Holocaust and provides free admittance for all students and California residents. For the last 60 years, we have remained steadfast in our mission to commemorate those who perished, honor those who survived, educate about the Holocaust and inspire a more dignified and humane world," Kean added. "With a shrinking community of Holocaust survivors, it remains more vital than ever to keep their memories alive and to teach next generations to think critically about the lessons of the Holocaust and its social relevance."

Kean said the number of visitors has increased 400% since the museum first opened in 2010 in Pan Pacific Park, and it currently welcomes 60,000 people per year, including 20,000 students. The museum's education programs are key to ensuring the lessons of the Holocaust are not forgotten so that something similar never happens again, Kean said. The new Jona Goldrich Campus will enable the museum to increase capacity to 500,000 annual visitors by 2030, including 150,000 students.

Allen (D-Santa Monica) said it is imperative that students and young people learn the stories of the Holocaust, adding that once they become informed, they are less likely to engage in anti-Semitic behavior. The museum establishes an understanding that young people carry with them long after they visit, he added.

"That's what this museum does, it opens hearts," Allen said. "And that's why we have worked so hard at the Jewish [Legislative] Caucus, together, to prioritize this place, to get the resources here so that we can continue to educate the next generation, not with a closed heart, but with an incredibly open heart."

Gabriel (D-Woodland Hills), chair of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus, also stressed the importance of Holocaust education.

"The Jewish Caucus is proud that the state budget includes funding to expand and enhance the critical work done by Holocaust Museum L.A.," Gabriel said. "In too many places, and especially for too many young people, the Holocaust is fading from view. At the same time, acts of anti-Semitism, and other forms of hatred and bigotry, are rising at an alarming rate. Education is a powerful tool, and one of the strongest antidotes to anti-Semitism, hatred and bigotry of all forms."

Bloom (D-Santa Monica) said Holocaust Museum L.A. has a special meaning for the local Jewish community. Having been started by Holocaust survivors in the early 1960s, it symbolizes connectivity among generations.

"This museum is not just special in the way all museums are special, this museum is personal," Bloom said. "Personal to me, personal to tens of thousands of people, probably hundreds of thousands of people who live in this district because there are so many people who were affected by the Holocaust. This is a place that is hallowed, is a place of importance, and it's a great pleasure and indeed a privilege for me to help make this museum an even better place."

The new campus is named after the late Goldrich, a Holocaust survivor who settled in Los Angeles and became a successful real estate developer and home builder. Goldrich was instrumental in supporting the museum over the years, and funded the Los Angeles Holocaust Monument adjacent to the museum in Pan Pacific Park. His daughters Andrea Goldrich Cayton and Melinda Goldrich are lead donors in the museum project along with the Stanley and Joyce Black Family Foundation.

Holocaust survivor Eva Nathanson, 80, who lost most of her family at a young age in Hungary, said the museum is irreplaceable. Nathanson frequently speaks to visiting students, and said she hopes the new campus sustains the museum's mission in perpetuity.

"The reason I tell my story is because there is so much hatred all over, not just against us, there is so much genocide all over," Nathanson said. "When I speak, I always let people know that I am not only speaking as a Jew and a Holocaust survivor, I am also speaking for all the other minorities who are being persecuted. It's important that we do everything in our power to guard against hatred and bigotry. We must say never again."

photo courtesy of the 13th District council office

New mural painted in Hollywood

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District, joined community members and artist Alexandra Nechita to paint a mural on Oct. 24 behind a building housing Souvenirs of Hollywood at the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue. The building is located at the southwest corner of the intersection and the mural faces its parking lot.

The mural is primarily visible to people traveling north on Highland Avenue, O'Farrell's spokesman Dan Halden said. It was funded by the Hollywood Partnership, which operates the Hollywood Business Improvement District and Hollywood Entertainment District, and was created in partnership with the nonprofit Art Bridging the Gap. For information, visit artsbridgingthegap.org and cd13.lacity.org.

photo by Edwin Folven

The Academy Museum received the Los Angeles Business Council's Chairman's Award for its innovative design and restoration of the former May Company department store.

Awards honor architectural design

The Los Angeles Business Council announced the winners of the 51st Architectural Awards on Oct. 26, recognizing projects that drew inspiration from Southern California's unique landscape and history to create designs that capture the imagination and reenergize public spaces.

The projects were recognized during a ceremony at the Beverly Hilton featuring remarks from architect Frank Gehry, who received the new L.A. Community Legacy Award. Together, the winners represent a new movement toward design ingenuity that rethinks how people engage with buildings and urban spaces, according to the council.

"Los Angeles welcomes dreamchasers and fearless innovators who harness our region's boundless creative energy to build something new," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, 2nd District. "From Inglewood's SoFi Stadium to the new Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, these forward-looking architectural designs will captivate locals, attract new visitors and inspire the next generation of visionaries."

LABC received hundreds of submissions in the categories of health care, education and housing. The jury panel included industry experts in architecture, design, engineering and building development, as well as building owners.

The grand prize was awarded to the SoFi Stadium and Entertainment District at Hollywood Park in Inglewood – site of the Super Bowl LVI next February – for its dramatic curves reflecting the sweeping Southern California coastline and its connectivity to the outdoors. Designed by Dallas-based international firm HKS Architects, the 298-acre venue features a translucent roof, seating, concourses and landscape designed to create the feel of an outdoor venue with a domed stadium's flexibility

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures received the LABC Chairman's Award. Located at the northeast corner of Fairfax Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard in the Miracle Mile, the museum restored and reinvigorated the historic May Company department store building and added 50,000 square feet of exhibition galleries in addition to the 1,000-seat spherical David Geffen Theater.

LABC awarded the Community Impact Award to the city of Los Angeles' Al Fresco Dining Program, which expanded dining areas in streets, parking lots and sidewalks. Additional award winners in West Hollywood and Beverly Hills included the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center, the West Hollywood EDITION boutique hotel, The Sphere on Sunset, The Harland, Pendry West Hollywood Hotel and Residences, and the BE29 Gallery in Beverly Hills.

"This year's winners break the mold for how creative, elegant design can build a better future for our city," LABC president Mary Leslie said. "Visionaries like the great Frank Gehry show us how architecture and development can help celebrate and reinvent L.A.'s rich legacy, while inspiring the next generation to do the same."

For information, visit labusinesscouncil.org.

Notable quotes

"The cure for the ills of Democracy is more Democracy."

Jane Addams
1860-1935
"Democracy and Social Justice," 1902

Jane Addams was the first American female to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. She established herself as a leader in social reform, women's suffrage, and was a war opponent. Addams believed that benevolent change based on peace and justice made it possible to improve American society and the state of the world.

(source: "Bartlett's Familiar Quotations")

photo courtesy of IRA Capital

"The Post," an office building on Maple Drive in Beverly Hills, was bought by IRA Capital.

Office building sold in BH

IRA Capital on Oct. 14 acquired "The Post," a 102,500-square-foot office building in Beverly Hills that is 92% leased to live entertainment promotion and ticketing company Live Nation Entertainment Inc.

The four-story building at 325 N. Maple Drive serves as Live Nation's concerts division headquarters, a segment of its operations that accounts for 80% of its consolidated revenue. The remaining 8% of the building is leased to the U.S. Postal Service.

"The Post" underwent a $44 million redevelopment in 2019, which incorporates active design elements such as a light-filled open plan featuring 22-foot ceilings, a large-scale open stairway and outdoor patios.

IRA recently sold a 29-property healthcare real estate portfolio to Nuveen Real Estate for $620.4 million. IRA has also been active in the entertainment and media business through its partnership with Lantern Entertainment as a major investor in Spyglass Media Group.

"The property's irreplaceable location and thriving tenant align with IRA's investment thesis of pursuing best-in-class properties," IRA Capital co-founder Samir Patel said. "Despite the impact of COVID-19 on the live entertainment sector, the industry is now experiencing record-setting volumes."

IRA continues to expand its real estate portfolio in various sectors with plans to exceed $1 billion of acquisitions by year-end 2021.

IRA Capital is a Southern-California-based private equity firm founded in 2010 that invests capital for its own account and on behalf of its co-investment partners, which include pension funds, institutions and family offices. IRA invests in commercial real estate assets throughout the country and has a private equity and venture capital platform that invests in operating companies. Headquartered in Irvine, IRA has acquired more than 6 million square feet of property in 30 states, valued in excess of $2.5 billion.

Webinar outlines progress on subway project

Learn about work on the Purple Line Extension subway project during the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's next lunchtime webinar on Wednesday, Nov. 3, from noon to 1 p.m., via Zoom. To join the webinar, visit zoom.us/j/96626476708 and use the ID 966 2647 6708. To participate by phone, call (669)900-9128.

Metro is working on the Purple Line Extension project at many locations between the Wilshire/Western and Westwood/VA Hospital stations and is providing updates. In Century City, work is ongoing underground at the future Century City/Constellation subway station. Crews are also relocating sewers and storm drains in the area around the station through early 2022. Partial traffic lane closures will be required overnight on Avenue of the Stars. Vehicle access on Constellation Boulevard will be maintained between Century Park West and Century Park East.

In Beverly Hills, crews are continuing work on the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/La Cienega stations. Geotechnical instruments atop poles will be temporarily installed on public sidewalks along Wilshire Boulevard to monitor construction. Each instrument will be in place for approximately one month before being removed and relocated.

Metro is also advising about lane reductions over the next three weekends on Wilshire Boulevard between Carson Road and La Cienega Boulevard for subsurface investigation. The work is necessary to determine if additional jet grouting and soil improvement is required within the subway tunnels.

At Wilshire/La Cienega, crews are building underground structures and passageways for the future subway station. Work is ongoing in staging yards at Wilshire/La Cienega and Wilshire/Gale, where workers on Oct. 20 removed the final pieces of a machine that tunneled from Wilshire/Western to Wilshire/La Cienega.

photo courtesy of Metro

Metro removed the final pieces of a tunneling machine from a construction staging yard near Wilshire/Gale on Oct. 20.

Crews are also working at the Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Brea subway stations, where appendage structures housing vital subway systems are being built underground. Intermittent lane closures are anticipated on Wilshire Boulevard and side streets near the Wilshire/La Brea station.

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

Letters to the Editor

CD5 candidate has wrong view of homelessness

Re "Candidates face off in forum," Oct. 14 issue

Thank you for your coverage of the candidates who seek to fill the termed-out seat of City Councilman Paul Koretz. However, I'm still undecided, as most voters likely are at this point, [although] one candidate is definitely a "no" vote for me.

Kristina Irwin was quoted as saying, "My oldest [child] is going to be in high school taking the bus next year. I certainly don't want him sitting next to a homeless that is mentally not all there." Turning an adjective into a noun is a pejorative action, sub-conscience and lacking purpose. But, Irwin shows her true colors and attitude with her statement repeating "homeless" as a person, rather than an adjective that describes a person.

Minor? Nitpicky? That's for the voters to decide. For this voter, the ballot is down to five worthy candidates.

David Reid
Vista Street

LaBonge was a pioneer

Re "Celebrating the life and legacy of Tom LaBonge," Oct. 21 issue

I met Tom LaBonge when he first ran for public office. There was a gathering of local citizens at a private home in the Miracle Mile to which I was invited.

The purpose was to get voters familiar with LaBonge, who was about to announce his candidacy for City Council. Needless to say, I was impressed, so much so that I volunteered to help his campaign. I followed his career over the years.

Unlike so many others in politics, he was interested in service to people and our community, not self-aggrandizement. He was always a positive soul, anxious to help resolve problems and improve our city.

During his career, he received many awards and honors that were well deserved. No wonder he was dubbed "Mr. Los Angeles." He retired from public service in 2015, after serving as a city employee and city councilman for almost 40 years.

So I was pleased to read in the Beverly Press/Park Labrea News that a festive celebration of his life and legacy was held on Oct. 18 at Travel Town in Griffith Park, one of his favorite places.

George Epstein
Detroit Street

Luxury resort doesn't have support

Re "Luxury resort comes to Beverly Hills," Oct. 21 issue

Your announcement that the new Bulgari Luxury Resort is scheduled to open in 2025 needs to be amended, as that is the exact year hell is scheduled to freeze over. Mark your calendars for both events.

This developer has not even approached an opening date, as he has not secured even the most basic permissions for such a project in a residential neighborhood. Namely, changing the usage from residential to commercial and changing the general plan would be a requirement for this project.

That is highly unlikely given the unanimous objection to this project by every homeowner and environmental group active in the Santa Monica Mountains, as well as objection by 5th District Councilman Paul Koretz. This project is laughable.

Rodney Kemerer
Beverly Hills

Bicycle safety is an important consideration

Re "Hitch a two-wheeled ride in Hollywood," Oct. 21 issue

Kudos to Councilman Mitch O'Farrell for promoting the reduction of automobile traffic and healthy exercise through the use of bicycles. Un-kudos for showing a dangerous way of wearing a helmet (in the accompanying photograph).

If the helmet isn't pulled down to cover the forehead, it doesn't protect against injuries to the front of the head, the most serious and potentially fatal kind of cycling injury.

Excellent information on the use of cycling helmets is found at my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/4374-bicycle-helmet-safety. Ride safely folks.

Lawrence W. Chamblee
West Hollywood

Whom Should I Name As My Executor or Trustee?

The executor of your will and the trustee of your revocable (aka living trust) serve almost identical functions after your death, in the short run. Although your executor is generally subject to direct court supervision, both the executor and the trustee have similar fiduciary responsibilities. The trustee may assume responsibilities under your trust while you are living. Although you may act as initial trustee if you become incapacitated, the designated successor trustee may then step in to manage your assets for your benefit.

An executor or trustee may be a spouse or other relative, family friend, business associate or a professional fiduciary such as a bank. There are a number of issues to consider in determining who to name as an executor or trustee.

While both are responsible for ensuring that your wishes are implemented, when your will or trust establishes provisions for the long term management of funds, your choice for executor or trustee should also be based on a similarity, or at a minimum, an understanding of your lifestyle choices as there may be many "discretionary" decisions that your executor or trustee will make. Other issues to be considered would be whether or not the appointment of one of your adult children could cause undue stress in his or her relations with siblings. What conflicts of interest are created if a business associate or partner is named as your executor or trustee? Will the person named as executor or successor trustee have the time, organizational ability and experience to do the job effectively?

You should discuss your choice with your estate planning lawyer, your accountant and other financial advisors.

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RESTAURANT NEWS

by Jill Weinlein

Coolhaus special new flavor

In honor of Filipino American History Month, Coolhaus collaborated with Spread The Love, a family-owned and operated small business, to create a new ice cream flavor called "Turon-osaurus Almond Butter." Val Fishbain, a Filipina immigrant and president of Spread The Love, worked with Coolhaus co-founder Freya Estreller to create the new flavor, which mimics a traditional Filipino deep-fried banana roll when served with Spread The Love's rich and creamy almond butter. Stop by the Culver City Scoop Shop today, Oct. 28, from 5:30-8 p.m. for a taste. There will be music by a guest DJ, a giveaway raffle and free gifts. Guests can sip on Future Gin and other Filipino-founded beverage brands. 8588 Washington Blvd., (310)838-5559.

Hotel June's Día de los Muertos

On Oct. 29, Hotel June will host an evening of cocktails, dancing and DJ sets by Jason Bentley and Kyle Woods. Complimentary festivities begin at the pool deck at 6 p.m., and are open to the public and hotel guests. Listen to music while dining at the two-level poolside restaurant Caravan Swim Club. Reservations are available on OpenTable. 8639 Lincoln Blvd., (310)645-0400.

Halloween at Sofitel Los Angeles

Kick off the Halloween weekend on Oct. 29, with the Friday Garden Groove Halloween Party starting at 8 p.m. at Riviera 31 patio. On Oct. 30, dance from 4-10 p.m. at the "Kiss n Grind" special Halloween masquerade celebration. A haunted boozy tea party on the Le Jardin at Riviera 31 outdoor patio will be held for daytime fun on Halloween. Doors open for brunch at noon, which will be followed with drag performances and an outdoor dance floor. Return in costume at 9 p.m. for the A-game at Affinity Nightlife's annual Halloween Costume Ball. Sip on "The Ghost Rider" or make a selection from a Dia de los Muertos drink menu. 8555 Beverly Blvd., (310)278-5444.

Halloween at STK Steakhouse

Celebrate on both Oct. 30 and Oct. 31 as STK Steakhouse presents a "Boos and Booze" brunch. Sample a Green Goblin specialty cocktail made with Grey Goose, jalapeño, basil leaves, lime juice and simple syrup. Be sure to order the Junk Chalice dessert, an ice cream sundae with candy, brownies, popcorn, chocolate, caramel ice cream and vanilla ice cream, topped with whipped cream and cotton candy. There will be a costume contests for guests and staff, and DJs spinning tunes. 930 Hilgard Ave., (310)659-3535.

Messhall Kitchen Halloween dining

The elevated gastropub Messhall Kitchen is conjuring spirits this month with its seasonal Teeling Single Grain Smoked Old-Fashioned Cocktail for $16. It's smoked with wood chips straight from the whiskey barrel. Pair this spooky, smoky cocktail with grilled oysters, a flat iron steak and a warm fudge brownie. 4500 Los Feliz Blvd., (323)660-6377.

Halloween at The Cat and Fiddle

On Halloween, show up in costume and receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a $50 Cat & Fiddle gift card. Bring the kids before trick-or-treating for a chance to win a Halloween activity basket made by Kitchen Mouse. All weekend long, the restaurant is offering a pre-fixe menu for takeaway, dine-in or delivery. Start with the Cat's Meow Scotch or Black & Tan cocktail. Choose between a butternut squash soup or house salad before selecting an entree, such as pumpkin fish and sweet potato chips or beef Wellington.End with a sweet treat. The Cat's Happy Hour features $6 draft beer, house wine, well drinks and a $9 specialty cocktail. Pre-fixe ranges from $28 to $39 per person. 742 N. Highland Ave., (323)468-3800.

Spooky AF Halloween Tacos

Tacos AF in DTLA's Jewelry District is preparing exclusive "Spooky AF" Halloween tacos made with black stone-ground handmade tortillas for $3 each. Topped with house-made orange habanero salsa, diners can choose carne asada, Al Pastor, chipotle-marinated chicken or vegan-friendly mushrooms. Each taco is topped with chopped onion, cilantro and a squeeze of lime. Tacos AF's "Spooky AF" tacos are available through Saturday and can be ordered for dine-in, pick-up or delivery through Uber Eats. Open

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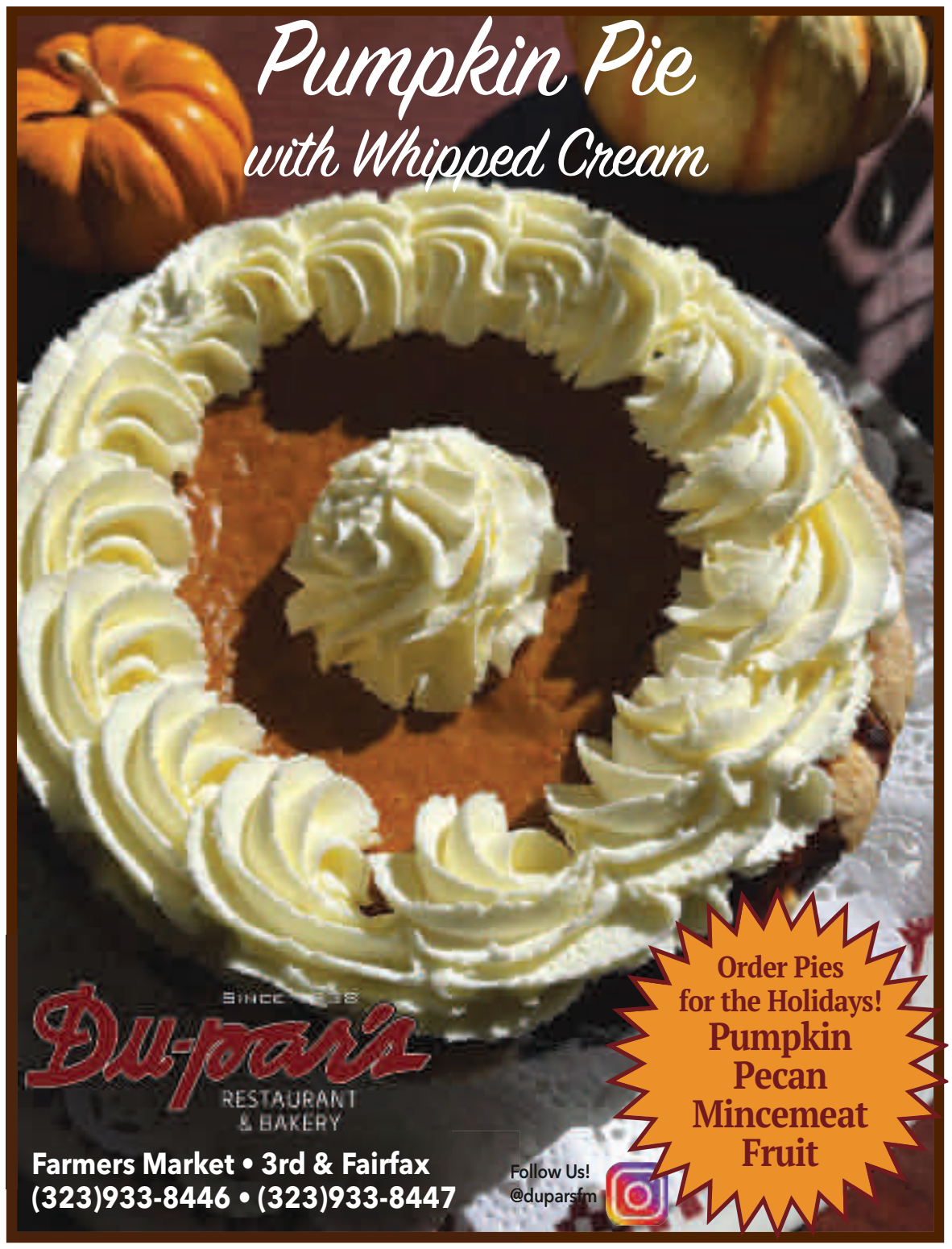

Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. 312 W. 7th St., (213)221-7231.

The Wayfarer Spooky Tea Halloween

Dress in costume at Lilly Rose on Halloween for devilish treats and ghoulish cocktails. Each ticket includes a haunting tea menu, two sachets of tea and one cocktail to pair with tea, such as the signature caramel Oolong tea infused with Maker's Mark Old Fashioned or the Goût Russe tea infused Courvoisier with a Russian sidecar. Post-tea service includes a burlesque dance show. Tickets are $75 each. 813 Flower St., (213)285-4443.

DIY Halloween Bar Crawl

On Oct. 31, dress in costume and start a bar crawl along the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Doheny Drive before walking toward La Cienega Boulevard. Along the way, sample some wickedly-refreshing beverages. At PUMP, bartenders will serve a Pump-kin Spiced Old-Fashioned, while at Beaches, bartenders will mix a Sangre de Cuba Sangria. Visit Rocco's WeHo for a Bloody Maria and Fiesta Cantina for a Diablo Margarita. Finish at Riviera 31 for a Ghost Rider and festive ball. 8948 Santa Monica Blvd., (310)657-7867; 8928 Santa Monica Blvd., (310)360-0395; 8900 Santa Monica Blvd., (424) 343-0123; 8865 Santa Monica Blvd., (310)652-8865 and 8555 Beverly Blvd., (310)770-1654.

Gracias Madre Costume Contest

Ring in the Halloween fun by entering a costume contest for all to enjoy. Guests in costume will have their photos taken in the Halloween photo booth from 6-10 p.m. Guests can then enter their photo into a drawing for prizes. Three winners will be chosen the following day and will receive a $200 Gracias Madre Gift Card and a full-size bottle of Mezcal for first place, a $100 gift card and full-size bottle of Mezcal for second place, or a full-size bottle of Mezcal for third place. 8905 Melrose Ave., (323)978-2170.

Costume contest at Cafe Gratitude

On Sunday, enter Café Gratitude's Halloween costume contest. Three wickedly-creative best-dressed winners will receive either a $100, $50 or $25 Café Gratitude gift card. Enjoy Café Gratitude favorites and tricks and treats in the Halloween photo booth. 639 N. Larchmont Blvd., (323)580-6383.

Kids eat free at Ike's Love & Sandwiches

Kids receive a free sandwich on Oct. 31 with the purchase of any regular sandwich. Choices include turkey, salami, grilled cheese, chicken strips, peanut butter and jelly, and vegan chick'n nuggets. Also, guests will receive a free lollipop. 3895 Overland Ave., (310)204-7090.

photo courtesy of Tacos AF

Tacos AF will serve up a "Spooky AF" taco over the Halloween weekend, featuring a black tortilla and habanero salsa.

Full Proof Pizza Halloween party

For those hosting a spooky get-together, Full Proof pizzas are made with naturally leavened New York-style crust and fresh, seasonal ingredients. Standouts include the goat cheese and chicories, barbecue chicken, and Margherita, prosciutto and shaved parmesan pizzas. Full Proof is open from 5-10 p.m. on Wednesday through Sunday and is available for takeout or delivery. 11918 W. Washington Blvd., (424)384-5097.

Police Blotter

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Oct. 15 and Oct. 23. 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

Oct. 15

At 12:10 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of N. Canon.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 9800 block of Wilshire at 12:50 p.m.

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of Rexford.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of S. Linden at 3:30 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Doheny.

Oct. 16

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Canon at 2 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 200 block of S. Lasky.

Oct. 17

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 9400 block of Santa Monica at 1:42 a.m.

At 2:42 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 400 block of N. Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft near the corner of Beverly and Santa Monica at 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 18

At 3:10 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 700 block of N. Alpine.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9500 block of Brighton at 2 p.m.

At 5:15 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Spalding.

Oct. 19

At 2:45 a.m., an unknown suspect stole auto parts in the 300 block of Doheny at 2:45 a.m.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Canon at 8:45 a.m.

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9900 block of Durant.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 9600 block of Santa Monica at 4:36 p.m.

At 5:19 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

Oct. 20

At 2:30 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near the corner of Beverly and Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Canon at 6:40 a.m.

At 5:47 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Foothill.

An unknown suspect stole auto parts in the 9800 block of Sunset at 10:30 p.m.

Oct. 21

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of N. Trenton.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 4:47 p.m.

Oct. 22

At 12:05 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9500 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of Walden at 8 p.m.

Oct. 23

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9900 block of Santa Monica.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

Oct. 15

At 12:17 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident near the corner of Gardner and Hampton at 2 a.m.

At 4:27 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8300 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 7:38 p.m.

Oct. 16

At 1:47 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8700 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 1:56 a.m.

At 2:15 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 2:20 a.m.

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near Palm and Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of N. Sweetzer at 11 a.m.

At 1:48 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 2100 block of N. Fuller.

Oct. 17

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 12:30 a.m.

At 8:45 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Vista Grande at 9:42 p.m.

Oct. 18

At 8:13 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of Westbourne.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of N. Olive at noon.

Oct. 19

At 11:19 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of La Jolla and Santa Monica.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 800 block of Kings at 10:30 p.m.

Oct. 20

At 6:57 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

Oct. 21

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of N. Sierra Bonita.

Oct. 22

At 4:40 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Crescent Heights.

Oct. 23

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8900 block of Keith.

Los Angeles Police Department

Oct. 15

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim near the corner of Selma and Sunset at 1:30 a.m.

At 2:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1500 block of Vine.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of N. Highland at 6 a.m.

At 9:57 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 700 block of S. Mansfield.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 600 block of N. Bronson at 11 a.m.

At 11:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6100 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8000 block of Sunset at 11:45 a.m.

At noon, an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5400 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Mansfield at 12:30 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Waring and Vista.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 6000 block of Santa Monica at 2 p.m.

At 4:35 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Spaulding and Melrose.

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

At 7:10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8500 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of Argyle at 9:25 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Olympic and Wooster.

Oct. 16

At 12:20 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1300 block of N. Cahuenga.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of McCadden and Selma at 2 a.m.

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of El Centro and Hollywood.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1700 block of N. La Brea at 4:20 a.m.

At 2:58 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7800 block of Sunset.

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

At 8:15 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Third and La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6300 block of Third at 9:40 p.m.

Oct. 17

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1600 block of Vine.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of Cole at 6:30 a.m.

At 9:58 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. La Palmas.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7600 block of Sunset at 10:28 p.m.

At 11:40 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 6700 block of Hollywood.

Oct. 18

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Santa Monica and Highland.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Wilshire and Wilton at 4:40 a.m.

At 6:25 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1200 block of Beverwil.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of S. Cloverdale at 8 a.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1600 block of N. El Centro.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8200 block of Melrose at 4:24 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6100 block of Sunset at 5:45 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7600 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Yucca and Cherokee at 6:30 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5600 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Manhattan and Melrose at 9:30 p.m.

Oct. 19

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1600 block of Cherokee at 12:01 a.m.

At noon, an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7600 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 700 block of N. Citrus at 3:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1000 block of N. Mansfield.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6400 block of Yucca at 9:45 p.m.

Oct. 20

At 6:16 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 6300 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft near the corner of Orange and Franklin at 11:50 a.m.

At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 200 block of N. Manhattan.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8300 block of Beverly at 5 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of N. Robertson

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N Croft at 10 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. Highland.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of S. Clark at 11 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Gower and Carlos.

Oct. 21

An unknown suspect committed a theft in the 5900 block of Sunset at 10 a.m.

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of N. Martel at 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 22

At 1:20 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 800 block of S. Curson.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Hollywood and Whitely at 1:20 a.m.

At 2:42 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1100 block of N. Sycamore.

Ghostly good times in WeHo

■ Carnaval is canceled, but there's still fun to be had

BY BRYNN MECHEM

The city of West Hollywood again canceled its Halloween Carnaval, which annually draws hundreds of thousands to Santa Monica Boulevard, but that doesn't mean the spine-tingling celebrations have to stop.

Normally held on Oct. 31, the event draws costume-clad residents to what the city describes as the largest Halloween gathering in the world.

In 2020, the City Council approved the cancellation of all major special events. Due to the continued spread of COVID-19 and the rise in Delta variant transmission, the city continued the cancellation of many large-scale events into 2021, public information officer Sheri Lunn said.

Although residents can't join the throng in West Hollywood, there are still opportunities throughout the city to have a hauntingly good time. Businesses will require proof of vaccination and masks at all indoor public spaces. And no, Halloween masks do not count.

Stroll around witchy houses

Those looking for daytime fun can take a self-guided tour of witch-tastic homes spread out between West Hollywood and Los Feliz. Friends of Residential Treasures: Los Angeles is presenting a map curated by Amber Benson, who is best known for her role as the witch Tara Maclay in "Buffy the Vampire Slayer." The map guides Angelenos to five castles and cottages that are sure to create bewitching photo opportunities. The map is free at fort.la.org/sign-up.

Catch a scary movie

The Melrose Rooftop Theatre, located at 603 La Cienega Blvd., has a Halloween-themed lineup sure to give a sinister start to any celebration. Check out a view of the Hollywood Hills and sample the dinner menu before catching a scary flick. On Oct. 29, watch "Candyman," or view "IT" on Oct. 30. On Oct. 31, dress in costume and watch as the Sanderson sisters take over Salem, Massachusetts, in "Hocus Pocus." Tickets are available at melroserooftoptheatre.com.

Stick around each night of the Hallo-weekend for four nights of debauchery, dress-up and décor. The rooftop and restaurant will be transformed into a night club with DJs, costumes and bottle service. For the first time, entry will be general admission on a first come, first served basis.

Visit the House of Horrors

Amazon Prime Video is hosting a pop-up at the intersection at Melrose Avenue and Westmount Drive that is inspired by Amazon's "now screaming" Prime video content. Ahead of the event, viewers can stream titles such as "Midsommar," "The House on Haunted Hill" and "Children of the Corn." The pop-up will include show-inspired costume displays and several photo opportunities where fans can create their own shareable horror movie stills. A candy kiosk offering totes filled with sweet treats welcomes patrons. The pop-up is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. For information, call (206)858-2420.

Check into La Fear Hotel

West Hollywood's La Peer Hotel rooftop will be transformed into a haunted haven on Oct. 30 where guests are encouraged to wear their most heart-stopping costume for a chance to win $3,000. The evening will feature adult trick-or-treating, performances by Boujis Group DJs and an open bar from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Those who dare to stay the night can get special rates by emailing vip@lapeerhotel.com.

Costume and cosplay at Hugo's

Hugo's Restaurant is getting in on the holiday fun with a two-day Halloween cosplay and costume contest. Miss Tiffany Skye Vogùe will host the contest on Oct. 30-31, which asks diners to dress in their best cosplay or costume for a chance to win a $1,000 value in prizes. The competitions are held on Saturday and Sunday at 6 and 8 p.m. Guests can vote among the top 10 favorites on Instagram each night. Enter at the door, or make advance reservations by emailing tiffanyvoguebookings@gmail.com.

Family Fun with Jack Skellington

Those looking for some family-friendly fun can venture outside of West Hollywood to Banc of California Stadium for a live-to-film concert of Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas." Reigning Pumpkin King Danny Elfman will welcome special guest Billie Eilish to sing "Sally's Song" during the concert.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to have Billie joining up with the Nightmare crew," Elfman, who performed the singing voice of Jack Skellington in the film, said. "This will be a real treat, not a trick."

Shows will be held at 8 p.m. on Oct. 29 and at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 31. Tickets range from $40 to $180. Tickets are available by visiting ticketmaster.com.

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Trick-or-treat at Boo at the LA Zoo

The Los Angeles Zoo is dialing up the fun for the weekend to cap off its monthlong Halloween celebration.

Trick-or-treat stations will be located through the zoo on Oct. 30-31 while supplies last. Sponsor the 99 Cents Only Store will provide children with wildlife-friendly candy and free treat bags. Kids are encouraged to wear their costumes as they collect their sweet treats.

Halloween décor and an extinct animal graveyard will honor departed species and teach patrons how to help save at-risk animals.

A boo-tiful pumpkin patch will offer fun family photo opportunities. Families may also take a "spooky stroll" through a themed area and learn weird, wacky facts throughout the zoo.

The final October weekend includes special animal feedings and creepy spider web kits at the Craft Station. In The Lair, come face to face with rare snakes, poisonous frogs and venomous lizards.

photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Zoo

Children are encouraged to wear their costumes to the zoo over the Halloween weekend to collect some sweet treats while learning about animals.

For more hair-raising fun, check out live shows in Adventure Theater. "AbracaZoo! Magic," presented by magician Brandon Scott, will bring audience members to the funny side of the twilight zone at 11:30 a.m. At 2:30 p.m., catch "Spooktacular Science," where a mad scientist conjures up spine-tingling experiments, bubbling potions and other fun surprises in his spirited lab.

Stop by an education station to learn about native California critters, the sharp teeth of carnivores and the wacky adaptations animals have made throughout history.

On Oct. 30, peccaries will receive their Halloween snack at 11:30 a.m. and the jaguars will devour their pumpkins at 1:30 p.m. On Halloween, the snow leopards will get a treat at 11:30 a.m., and the elephants chow down at 1:30 p.m.

The special events are free to all patrons with the price of admission or those with a GLAZA membership.

To learn more about the spooktacular event, visit lazoo.org/boo.

Winner at Beverly Hills Farmers Market

The Beverly Press hosted a booth last Sunday at the Beverly Hills Farmers Market. Luisa Lizoain of Century City was the lucky winner of a beautiful floral arrangement from Blooms by Emily that the Beverly Press raffled off during the event. Publishers Michael and Karen Villalpando enjoyed meeting many avid readers and welcomed their comments and suggestions. If you would like to subscribe to the Beverly Press, please visit beverlypress.com and click on "2 Ways to Subscribe."

KCCLA celebrates diversity with LAFC

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles and Los Angeles Football Club collaborated on to celebrate diversity and culture at the LAFC vs. Seattle Sounders match on Oct. 26.

"Korean Culture Night at LAFC" was highlighted by a free pregame concert featuring the K-pop breakout band P1Harmony in the group's first-ever U.S. performance. There were more than 8,000 fans on Christmas Tree Lane who watched the concert and participated in a calligraphy event provided by KCCLA.

To add to the excitement of the game, director KCCLA Wijin Park made a special appearance as the honorary falconer. One of the team's four falcons was released for a pregame flight at the center of the field, hunting a lure of the opponent's crest. Keeoho from P1Harmony sang the national Korean anthem, "Aegukga."

"It's amazing to see so many K-pop fans showing support for this long-awaited K-pop performance," Park said. "KCCLA will continue to build bridges between Korea and the U.S. through diverse cultural programs."

photo courtesy of KCCLA

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles and Los Angeles Football Club hosted a pregame concert performed by the K-pop band P1Harmony.

Dia de los Muertos Celebration!

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‘Dune’ is the epic journey promised

■ If only the casting matched the tone

photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Timothée Chalamet stars as Paul Atreides and Rebecca Ferguson as Lady Jessica in the first installment of the epic sci-fi saga “Dune,” which features eye-popping visuals.

ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

For a sci-fi opera set some 20,000 years in the future, “Dune’s” complex, intergalactic story is a unique multigenerational product, dating back to the first novel’s debut in 1965. Over the next couple decades, several sequels would arrive, along with the first big-screen adaptation.

Even after original author Frank Herbert passed, his son would continue the “Dune” saga, whilst a couple Syfy channel miniseries would expand on what the former film attempted. “Dune” is for diehard fans, requiring readers and viewers to track a lotta exposition that doesn’t rollout easy for the uninitiated.

That might seem like a death sentence for a blockbuster film, but the “Game of Thrones” generation knows this challenge well. Perhaps that helped “Dune: Part 1,” the audacious film name to appear at the film’s start, finally earn a sequel, officially announced on Tuesday. Thank the stars too because this one is a slow burn that barely covers half of Herbert’s novel.

David Lynch’s “Dune,” featuring Sting as a central villain, is ostracizing, a one-two punch of weird and campy in all the Lynchian ways imaginable. This “Dune” does everything possible to erase the past.

With a $165 million budget, sand planet Arrakis, called Dune too, comes to life, especially when House Atreides arrives as its new ruler, bringing all those incredible spaceships and sci-fi gizmos that make the genre so enticing. In this futuristic setting, great houses rule planets at the pleasure of the emperor. Previously, House Harkonnen, longtime enemies of Atreides, ruled the planet and oversaw production of indigenous spice, which makes space travel much faster.

For unknown reasons, the emperor ousts the Harkonnens, but their plotting, led by the villainous Baron Vladimir (Stellan Skarsgård), is already underway by the time Duke Leto I (Oscar Isaac) of House Atreides reaches the planet, family in tow, attempting to get spice production back on track.

Are you tracking thus far? That’s the bulk of the premise, but the central protagonist Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) undergoes his own transformation as both the son of royalty on dad’s side and Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson), a member of the mystic female order the Bene Gesserit. Jessica took a huge chance having a boy and teaching him her people’s special abilities, including a unique fighting style called the Weirding Way, and the Voice, which allows him to control the actions of others.

“Dune” is a cocktail of interstellar politics and pluralism, directly addressing the horrors of colonialism. Part 1 spends most of its time on the political, as well as sand, landscape, hinting more on cultural dynamics ready to kick in for the second installment when Paul encounters Arrakis’ indigenous population, the Fremen.

And with that comes a warning: While major actors like Javier Bardem, leader of the Fremen, and Zendaya, a Fremen named Chani who narrates the film’s opening and often appears in Paul’s dreams, play heavily into the film’s marketing, their screen time amounts to less than 10 minutes. That’ll change moving forward, but it does make for deceptive expectations.

All that to say “Dune” is heavy, but it’s also remarkable, gorgeously told with eye-popping set pieces. This isn’t a shock considering the director, Denis Villeneuve, who has leveled up quite a bit in the past eight years, from thrilling dramas (“Prisoners,” “Sicario”) to mesmerizing science fiction films, including best pic nom “Arrival” and “Blade Runner 2049.”

Not every choice makes for riveting cinema. Top among them is a casting blind spot. Herbert’s “Dune” series appropriates Arab aesthetics, and this film doubles down on that – especially through the film score by Hans Zimmer – but it does so without any Arab inclusion. The film is certainly more diverse than the first film adaptation and miniseries, but it settles for a more colorblind approach.

To a degree, this galaxy is multicultural, subtly implied when characters use sign language or speak Mandarin. But on Dune, one particular cultural experience dominates in tone without a single leading or supporting cast member to match.

Instead, Earth apparently traversed the galaxy over the millenniums, freed from racial boundaries to a degree. Science fiction has often been guilty of this sin, more willing to create green or purpose characters than cast those beyond commonly represented groups.

It’s troubling to enjoy a film this much – it is one of the best sci-fi flicks in ages – but be haunted by something that should be such an easy choice. The story calls for it. Hopefully this week’s green light for a sequel means the filmmakers will take note of the many online resources calling for a story with more representation of cultural appropriation.

What’s this? ‘Nightmare’ returns to El Capitan

photo courtesy of ©2021 Disney. All Rights Reserved

El Capitan Theatre will show the Halloween classic “The Nightmare Before Christmas.”

The El Capitan Theatre will once again present Tim Burton’s “The Nightmare Before Christmas” during the Halloween season.

From Oct. 29-31, guests can see the 1993 film in 3D. A special Oogie Boogie photo opportunity will be offered before and after the show.

“The Nightmare Before Christmas” is a stop-motion feature length film that follows the misadventures of Jack Skellington, Halloweentown’s beloved pumpkin king.

Skellington has become bored with the annual ritual of frightening people in the “real world.” When he accidentally stumbles on Christmastown, full of bright colors and warm spirits, Skellington gets a new lease on life. He plots to bring Christmas under his control by kidnapping Santa Claus and taking over the role.

However, Skellington soon discovers even the best-laid plans of mice and skeleton men can go seriously awry. The film is rated PG for thematic elements.

Showtimes are at 9:55 p.m. on each date and are subject to change.

All seats are reserved and tickets are $12 regardless of age. Tickets are on sale now at elcapitantickets.com.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

Halloween safety stressed at celebrations

Costumed characters from “The Wizard of Oz” were among an estimated 300,000 revelers at West Hollywood’s annual Halloween Carnaval in this photograph from the Nov. 4, 1999, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. The city of West Hollywood has canceled its Halloween Carnaval this year due to the pandemic and is urging people to stay safe. However, there are many other ways to safely celebrate Halloween throughout the local area. For information, see page 15.

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Immaculate Heart's WALK gives boost to school programs

More than 700 Immaculate Heart High School and Middle School students, parents, faculty and staff formed a blue ribbon on Oct. 22 as they traveled through Los Feliz in teal-colored T-shirts during the 48th annual WALK fundraiser.

The event culminated a month of student-led fundraising, which has raised more than $300,000 for Immaculate Heart's financial aid program, as well as funds for projects to enhance student experiences.

"On behalf of Immaculate Heart, I extend a big thank you to everyone who donated to support our students' efforts," Immaculate Heart President Maureen Diekmann said. "More importantly, the energy and enthusiasm that students, faculty and parents experienced being together and having fun was invigorating and heartwarming."

On the morning of the walk, students gathered on the field for stretching before setting out on a nearly 5-mile journey along the hilly streets surrounding Griffith Park. Some participants ran the course, but most walked in a procession that drew support from passing drivers.

photo courtesy of Immaculate Heart

Students from Immaculate Heart High School and Middle School donned teal-colored T-shirts and walked to raise money for campus programs.

Within a couple of hours, the Immaculate Heart walkers returned to campus where they were greeted by festive music, balloons and banners. Lunch was provided by Pink's Hot Dogs.

Founded in 1906, Immaculate Heart High School and Middle School educates and empowers young women in sixth through 12th grades on its campus at 5515 Franklin Ave. For information, call (323)461-3651, or visit immaculateheart.org.

Criteria outlined for superintendent search

The Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District has entered a new phase of its search for a permanent superintendent with the release of its community engagement report.

The report reflects robust engagement over the last two months with students, parents, staff and community members on the selection of a permanent superintendent.

Collaborate, Inc., the firm hired to compile the report, shared initial toplines with the board's Community and Family Engagement Committee, and the full report was released on Oct. 21.

Nearly 30,000 members of the LA Unified community participated in the online survey, which was available in eight languages. Of the more than 28,500 respondents, 47% self-identified as parents, 10% as students and 23% as LA Unified employees.

Respondents had clear preferences for experiences they want to see in the next superintendent, including experience as a teacher and/or administrator (90% of those surveyed), experience working in and with diverse communities (90%) and experience managing a very large organization (89%).

Asked to prioritize among a variety of qualities and characteristics, respondents most frequently selected: listens to the community, teaching/administrative experience, problem solver, promotes transparency and effective communicator.

The outreach also included eight focus groups, 14 virtual community listen sessions and direct engagement with nearly 1,000 community members.

From the listening sessions and focus groups, Collaborate identified the following additional feedback themes: someone who will fight for more funding for LA Unified, someone who is a "bridge-builder" and support all schools to increase performance, someone who ensures special education students receive adequate resources, someone who prepares students to be a part of the future workforce and someone who recognizes the importance of equity and representation.

The board will integrate the results of the community input into the subsequent phases of the selection process, such as developing the job description and selection criteria for the superintendent position.

The full Community Engagement Report can be viewed at achieve.lausd.net/suptsearch2021.

Academy honors students

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has nominated 17 students as winners of the 48th Student Academy Awards competition.

The Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal awards in the seven award categories were presented by Oscar-winning filmmaker and 1992 Student Academy Award winner Pete Docter, Oscar-nominated filmmaker Asghar Farhadi and filmmakers Marielle Heller and Nanfu Wang in a virtual program highlighting the winners and their films on Oct. 21.

The 2021 Student Academy Award gold honorees are Hao Zhou, University of Iowa; Sujin Kim, California Institute of the Arts; Théo Jamin, Kayu Leung and Marion Philippe, MoPA (France); Kristen Hwang, University of California, Berkeley; Milou Gevers, Nederlandse Filmacademie (The Netherlands); Phumi Morare, Chapman University; and Murad Abu Eisheh, Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg (Germany).

The silver honorees are Alexander Tullo, Ringling College of Art & Design; Bohao Liu, New York University; Akanksha Cruczynski, Columbia College Chicago; and Simon Denda, Hochschule für Fernsehen und Film München (Germany).

The bronze honorees are Teagan Barrone, Cleveland Institute of Art; De'Onna Young-Stephens, University of Southern California; Kristi Hoi, University of California, Los Angeles; and Salar Pashtoonyar, York University (Canada).

All Student Academy Award-winning films are eligible to compete for 2021 Oscars in the Animated Short Film, Live Action Short Film or Documentary Short Subject category. Past winners have gone on to receive 65 Oscar nominations and have won or shared 14 awards.

This year, the Student Academy Awards competition received a total of 1,404 submissions from 210 domestic and 126 international colleges and universities.

The 2021 winners join the ranks of such past Student Academy Award winners as Patricia Cardoso, Cary Fukunaga, Spike Lee, Patricia Riggen and Robert Zemeckis.

Hosted by Amandla Stenberg, the 2021 ceremony is now available to view at youtube.com/watch?v=t-GGrPHfz7K.

photo courtesy of COLCOA

The COLCOA French Film & Series Festival will welcome students across Southern California to see a free screening.

COLCOA French Film and Series Festival will host 3,000 students

For the 14th straight year, COLCOA French Film & Series Festival will host its annual COLCOA High School Screenings program at the DGA Theater Complex.

Beginning on Nov. 2, 3,000 students from 60 schools will participate in the four-day program, which is sponsored by European Languages & Movies in America.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and protocols, this year's screenings will be a hybrid event, welcoming half the usual amount of students to the theaters while making the program available online. Students attending in person will be required to be vaccinated.

This year's COLCOA High School Screenings featured selection is "Owning It (Les Héritières)," directed by Nolwenn Lemesle and starring Tracy Gotoas, Fanta Kebe, Lucie Fagedet and Déborah François.

The film follows Sanou, a 15-year-old girl from the projects who is about to begin 10th grade at a prestigious Henry IV High School in Paris. Thanks to an equal opportunity program, the promising student has been offered a golden opportunity to attain her dream of one day becoming a renewable energy engineer.

But as courageous as she is, Sanou has her work cut out for her. Not only is she far behind her highly competitive, upper-crust classmates academically, she is from another world. The only Black girl in the entire school, the cultural chasm she must cross is immense. This is a tough-love portrait of a teenage girl struggling to evolve with only hard work and her wits to rely on.

The screenings of "Owning It (Les Héritières)" will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the film's director and star. The film experience also comes with a curriculum developed by the American Association of Teachers of French for all the students.

"COLCOA's high school program was designed to bring new audiences to French cinema. Over 14 years, we've seen incredible enthusiasm from a wide swath of students from all backgrounds," said Anouchka van Riel, deputy director. "The high school program is free and will be very meaningful this year as it will be the first time for many students to intermingle with other students from across Southern California since the beginning of the pandemic.

For information, visit colcoa.org.

Academy Museum exhibit features work of Jewish film community

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures will feature "Vienna in Hollywood," six weeks of programming that explores the large community of predominately Jewish, Austrian-born film artists and professionals who helped shape the films and industry of classical era Hollywood.

The initiative launches on Dec. 10 with "Vienna in Hollywood: The Influence and Impact of Austrians on the Hollywood Film Industry, 1920s-2020s," a two-day symposium. Panels will be held at USC on Dec. 10 and at the museum on Dec. 11, and feature a lineup of international scholars, filmmakers, artists and programmers.

On Dec. 11, the museum will launch a six-week film series called "Vienna in Hollywood: Émigrés and Exiles in the Studio System," which will run until Jan. 31. Presented films include "Casablanca," "Grand Hotel," "The Garden of Allah" and "Hotel Berlin."

The series is presented in collaboration with the University of Southern California Libraries and the USC Max Kade Institute, with support from the Austrian Consulate General in Los Angeles.

In the early 20th century, the nascent film industry in Hollywood was largely built by Jewish immigrants from Eastern and Central Europe, including many Austrians from regions of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. In the 1920s, Austrian artists, including actor-director Erich von Stroheim and composer Max Steiner, came to the U.S. seeking better opportunities in the American film industry.

"During the classical Hollywood era, so many beloved films and so many components of the movie industry were developed and shaped by Austrian émigrés, including Erich von Stroheim, Max Steiner, Vicki Baum, Fritz Lang and many others," Bill Kramer, director and president of the Academy Museum, said. "The Academy Museum is deeply committed to scholarly and dynamic explorations of film history. We are thrilled to be presenting the work and vision of these groundbreaking film artists and professionals who are a core part of our cinematic history."

photo courtesy of the Margaret Herrick Library, Core Collection, Production Files, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

Hedy Lamarr in the 1941 film "Ziegfeld Girl," is one of the actresses featured in the exhibit.

A much larger wave of mostly Jewish émigrés arrived in Hollywood in the 1930s and 1940s, largely due to Nazi persecution in Germany and the Anschluss in Austria. These Austrian émigrés included directors Billy Wilder, Fritz Lang, Fred Zinnemann and Otto Preminger; actors Hedy Lamarr, Peter Lorre and Paul Henreid; producers Eric Pleskow and Sam Spiegel; screenwriters Vicki Baum, Gina Kaus and Salka Viertel; and composers Erich Wolfgang Korngold and Ernest Gold.

These artists, along with many other émigrés who worked as writers, composers, actors, producers, cinematographers, talent agents, costume designers, and production designers had a profound impact on Hollywood. The Academy Museum's six-week "Vienna in Hollywood" series presents and contextualizes the work of these groundbreaking artists.

"The Max Kade Institute is thrilled to partner with the museum and USC Libraries for this wonderful series of events on the unique Austrian contributions to Hollywood cinema and Austrian and American cross-cultural cinematic currents," Paul Lerner, professor of history at USC and director of USC's Max Kade Institute for Austrian-German-Swiss Studies, said. 'Vienna in Hollywood' perfectly embodies the Institute's founding mission of documenting the lives and work of German-speaking émigrés and exiles in Southern California, those predominately Jewish refugees from Nazi-controlled Central Europe who shaped the landscapes and cultures of Los Angeles in the 1940s and beyond."

For information and to view the whole program, visit academymuseum.org.

Celebrate Day of the Dead virtually

Building upon the success of last year's virtual event, Forest Lawn will once again bring the tradition of a Día de los Muertos to the community.

From noon to 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 31, Forest Lawn's authentic celebration will activate a virtual altar of remembrance in community member's home spaces. Viewers of all ages can delight in folkloric dance performances by Ballet Folclorico Internacional, Mariachi music and a brightly-colored ofrenda (altar), featuring alebrijes (spirit guides) and colorful marigolds.

This year's event will include a mixture of live performance and recorded performances. It also marks the third appearance of six-foot-tall Catrina sculptures, or floral creations depicting skeletal women who symbolize the return of departed loved ones.

Each of Forest Lawn's Catrina sculptures has its own personality, with distinct costumes and accessories inspired by the early twentieth century, the period when Catrinas were first popularized by Jose Guadalupe Posada and Diego Rivera.

photo courtesy of Forest Lawn

Forest Lawn will create an ofrenda with colorful marigolds to honor the tradition of Día de los Muertos.

"Virtual events have allowed Forest Lawn to continue the community connection that is at the core of what we do," Rodolfo Saenz, Forest Lawn's senior vice president of marketing said. "The virtual Día de los Muertos event will bring us together, even when we can't be together in person, which is, in some ways, fitting for a holiday that celebrates remembering loved ones we cannot be with."

Streaming of the event is available via Forest Lawn's Facebook page.

photo courtesy of GO Campaign

Robert Pattinson and Lily Collins hosted a portion of GO Campaign's gala to help raise funds for the nonprofit.

GO Campaign raises funds through gala

GO Campaign held its 15th annual GO Gala on Oct. 23, hosted by the nonprofit's global ambassadors Lily Collins, Ewan McGregor and Robert Pattinson.

Founded in 2006, GO Campaign seeks to improve the lives of children around the world through the provision of grants. Since its inception, GO Campaign has helped more than 188,000 children by funding 520 projects in 37 countries.

All funds from this year's gala will go toward GO Campaign's efforts for global COVID-19 relief and efforts to achieve racial justice youth in the U.S., as well as education for at-risk children in Africa and Latin America, and girls in Afghanistan.

The gala featured special performances by SIA, Jewel and MILCK, along with appearances by Kaitlin Olson and Glenn Howerton.

For information, visit gocampaign.org.

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Coming to market after nearly 50 years is a traditional 3-bed, 1.75-bath home hidden behind tall hedges and exotic trees in the prime Beverly Grove neighborhood. The home features a garage that has been converted into a bonus room, a large, lush backyard, and a peaceful rear patio to enjoy the serene setting. Minutes to Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Trader Joe's, and great restaurants on 3rd street. This property is ideal for a remodel or rebuild, a great opportunity to create your dream home.

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KCCLA will host ADG7 concert

photo courtesy of KCCLA

ADG7 is an award-winning musical group that is inspired by Korea's sacred ritual music and folk songs.

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles and SORI Artists will host an ADG7 concert at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 3 at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre.

With one foot in tradition and another in glitzy upbeat pop, Ak Dan Gwang Chil is a multi-award-winning group featuring three powerhouse female folk singers and a rich repertoire inspired by Korea's sacred, shamanic ritual music and beloved folk songs of Hwanghae Province in the northern reaches of the peninsula. Their powerful performances present the spiritual blessings and positive energy of traditional music in a modern and often comical style.

ADG7 made their U.S. debut in January 2020, followed by their California debut virtually at Summer at Skirball Stages, an online concert series at the Skirball Cultural Center.

After several postponements due to COVID-19, the upcoming concert will be the group's first return to the U.S. since the pandemic, performing in-person live on stage.

At the free concert, ADG7 will perform new songs from their latest album "Such is Life" and hits from their first album, including "Young Jeong Geo Ri," "Eulssa," "Whatever," "Hello, Lonely" and "Hee Hee."

Admission is free, but reservations and proof of vaccination are required. Reservations can be made online by visiting kccla.org or over the phone by calling (323)936-7141.

Science Center exhibit teaches dangers of fire risks

photo courtesy of the California Science Center

Staff members will give live demonstrations on the dangers of fire.

"Fire! Science & Safety," a new exhibition at the California Science Center, is designed to help guests understand the fire risks that are present in most homes.

The exhibit, which opens on Oct. 29, was created in partnership with Children's Burn Foundation. It will teach participants how simple changes can help avoid fire dangers, and how to respond if a fire ignites.

"Fire! Science & Safety" is set in a typical Los Angeles home presented as a training site for young "fire danger detectives." Guests will find themselves at the Casa del Fuego Apartments, #911, where they can explore an immersive environment and engage in hands-on activities to learn about the science of fire, discover fire hazards and practice fire-safe behaviors.

"'Fire! Science & Safety' is a fresh approach to understanding the science of fire," said California Science Center president and CEO Jeffrey Rudolph. "Guests, especially children, can safely experience real-life fire hazards and learn preventive measures that can potentially save lives."

Going from one living space to another, visitors will have the opportunity to create a virtual fire from different ingredients in a fire pit, practice firefighting skills using a fire extinguisher and figure out which appliances might blow a circuit when used together.

A section of "Fire! Science & Safety" addresses the increasingly important issue of wildfires in California. One wall features a dramatic wildfire scene – a touch screen allows guests to view up to five different videos that answers questions such as "Why do we have wildfires in California?" and "What can we do to reduce catastrophic wildfires?"

"We have found the perfect partner in the California Science Center to expand our prevention and education programs," said Sharon Townsend, executive director at Children's Burn Foundation. "This world-class science center will utilize experiential activities, using cutting-edge technology and multimedia displays with the potential to reach millions of children and families. This life-saving exhibit will help change the footprint of prevention education in the greater Los Angeles area with potential for growth into other markets. It will save lives."

"Fire! Science & Safety" is located in the Science Center's Creative World Gallery on the third floor.

For information, visit californiasciencecenter.org.

Glimpse the Renaissance at the Getty

The Getty will present an exhibition featuring the works of Hans Holbein through Jan. 9.

When Holbein emerged on the competitive European artistic scene in 1515, portraiture had only recently become fashionable among wealthy patrons outside royal and aristocratic circles. A versatile artist with exceptional skills as a draftsman and painter, Holbein rendered the physical appearance of a variety of sitters with great precision, while his compositions conveyed their values and ideals.

Holbein was born in the German city of Augsburg in late 1497 or early 1498, the second son of the respected painter Hans Holbein the Elder. He launched his career in Switzerland, working primarily in the vibrant and cultured city of Basel.

He was appointed court painter to King Henry VIII by 1536, and he found patrons among prominent men and women at court as well as the community of German merchants then living in London. Holbein died in 1543, probably of the plague, at about 45.

The 16th century German created portraits for a wide range of patrons, including scholars, statesmen and courtiers in Switzerland and England.

Holbein's drawings and paintings, enriched by inscriptions and evocative objects, offer richly-detailed visual statements of personal identity. Guests can explore the Renaissance culture of scholarship, self-definition, luxury and wit in the first major presentation of Holbein's art in the United States.

The exhibition features Holbein's most sophisticated drawn and painted portraits, enlivened by inscriptions, letters, books, animals and jewels chosen in collaboration with his sitters. These likenesses, along with his designs for emblems, ornaments and woodcuts, illuminate Holbein's visual and intellectual contributions to the practice of constructing an enduring personal identity.

This exhibition is presented in English and Spanish. For information, visit getty.edu.

photo courtesy of The Getty

"Simon George of Cornwall" is one of Hans Holbein's works that will be on display.

WeSPARK Cancer Support Center honors philanthropist

The WeSPARK Cancer Support Center celebrated its 20th Anniversary this month with an evening of comedy at its sold-out signature benefit "May Contain Nuts! A Night of COMEDY" held at the Skirball Cultural Center on Oct. 12.

In addition to the in-person event, supporters were also able to attend virtually via a private livestream. The evening began with a VIP red carpet followed by a silent auction, dinner and live comedy performances featuring headliners Kevin Nealon, Wendy Liebman, Tom Papa and host Alonzo Bodden.

WeSPARK board president Scott Williams and writer and producer Bob Gale presented The Heart of WeSPARK Award to WeSPARK executive director Nancy Allen for her 20 years of service and leadership to the organization. A special congratulatory retrospective film, produced by Gale, featured many luminaries including Allen's Blow Out co-star John Travolta, Tim Matheson and Jason Alexander thanking Allen for her visionary leadership and dedication to WeSPARK over the past two decades.

"It's an honor to be awarded The Heart of WeSPARK Award," Allen said. "I'm so grateful that WeSPARK's mission became my personal mission."

Additional celebrity and VIP guests included WeSPARK board member Mark L. Walberg, Ed Begley, Jr., Rachelle-Carson Begley, DeAnn Heline and Marcus Miller.

For information, visit wespark.org.

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Landmark marred by unpermitted work

From page 1

in general. He said it had the second-best chicken pot pie in Hollywood – with Musso & Frank Grill being the best – and a chicken and rice soup that was "to die for."

"It was just nice to sit in history," Donnelly said.

The Hollywood Historic Site signage at the location states that Sidney Hoedemaker opened the Pig 'N Whistle, the first family-style restaurant in Hollywood, in 1927. It featured "rich, hand-carved wood décor," and played popular music from a pipe organ. The Hollywood Glee Club performed on Friday nights.

The signage mentions several notable regulars: Loretta Young, Barbara Stanwyck, Spencer Tracy, Howard Hughes, Buddy Rogers and Shirley Temple. According to the restaurant's Facebook page, the Pig 'N Whistle hosted the first Oscar after-party, as well as Judy Garland's 15th birthday celebration. Pig 'N Whistle's website has been shut down.

However, the Pig 'N Whistle is part of the Hollywood Boulevard Commercial and Entertainment District, which is recognized by the National Register of Historic Places.

According to the district's nomination form from 1985, which lists the building address as 6718 Hollywood Blvd., the Pig 'N Whistle was located in a one-story commercial building with three storefronts.

The most eastern storefront retained a "fanciful Churrigueresque detailing and marquee from 1927," according to the form.

It was a companion soda fountain for the Egyptian Theater, and the interior of the store had an intact, although hidden, ceiling.

"Some wrought iron remains, as well as the stone medallions and ornament on the stucco façade," the nomination form states. "The other two storefronts have been repeatedly altered and retain no historical integrity."

L.A. historians Richard Schave and Kim Cooper, the co-founders of Esotouric tours and webinars, said the district's designation further protects the Pig 'N Whistle.

"There's more scrutiny," Cooper said of potential projects.

According to Los Angeles City Planning's Office of Historic Resources, the historic status requires that "all permits for alterations of the building be reviewed for potential adverse impacts to the historic resource."

photo by Brian Donnelly

The Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety determined that unpermitted work had been done to the interior and exterior.

The city's Department of Building and Safety generally would add a permit clearance for the office of historic resources, but that did not occur, as the owner/applicant did not apply for permits. Typically, office representatives would work with the applicant to evaluate project options that would not negatively impact historical resources.

"We have not yet heard from the applicant or owner to begin such a discussion," a representative said.

The stop order issued by the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety on Oct. 25 called for all unpermitted work to cease and for the developers to apply for permits and conduct all required inspections, including electrical, plumbing and mechanical.

LADBS representatives said they received a referral about the Pig 'N Whistle construction from the office of Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District.

"Building and Safety received a complaint on [Oct. 22] that construction work was taking place at this location without permits," LADBS representatives said. "An inspection of the site on the same day revealed that there was construction in progress to both the interior and exterior of the building, without the required permits and approvals. A stop-work order has been issued, and the Code Enforcement Bureau has an active case to monitor compliance."

O'Farrell's office confirmed the stop-work order and issued a statement from the councilman.

"Occurrences like these are why I introduced a motion to penalize those who proceed with unpermitted construction work in the city," he said. "I look forward to the final ordinance being brought to the City Council for approval."

Schave and Cooper said the city has the discretion to hold the developers accountable for the unpermitted work.

"I think it would be a really interesting exercise to see the city come back and say, 'OK, you guys obviously want to open your new venue here, and here's what we need to see as a gesture of good faith [to undo] the damage that was done in order to move forward,'" Cooper said.

Schave said historians and preservationists have been alerting LADBS, the city's Office of Historic Resources and city officials about the construction at the Pig 'N Whistle since they noticed work being done on its interior in August.

"Everybody's just been screaming for months that this slow-motion train wreck is happening," he added.

Attempts to reach representatives of Mr. Tempo by deadline were unsuccessful.

Lawsuit alleges police profiling

From page 1

the color of their skin – for something that a white person would never be put in jail for. At most, you see a white person questioned and released. So, we're here for justice."

According to a statement issued by the city, Nett was a passenger in the vehicle, not the driver. The vehicle had been stopped for a traffic violation, and officers determined Nett was in violation of a restraining order obtained by a female driver, presumably Swift.

Although the driver did not want to press charges against Nett, officers took him into custody "for her safety and according to the law," the statement reads.

"The members of the Beverly Hills Police Department take an oath to protect human life. The department's practice is to contact and question individuals when it is believed they may be involved in criminal activity or another violation of the law. … BHPD remains committed to keeping our community safe while enforcing the law with respect and dignity for all."

At the beginning of September, Gage and attorneys Ben Crump and Mark Harris held a similar press conference outside City Hall, announcing the class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of Philadelphia residents Khalil White and Jasmine Williams, who were arrested for riding scooters on Rodeo Drive.

The attorneys said White and Williams were arrested and charged, but the charges were eventually dropped. Crump said the couple's only crime was operating a "scooter while Black." However, the department issued a release stating that the couple had been stopped earlier that day for riding scooters on the sidewalk and provided false information to officers.

In the class-action lawsuit, the attorneys took aim at the department's Rodeo Drive Task Force, which Crump referred to as Operation Safe Streets. While the claim states that Nett and Swift were detained two weeks before the formation of the task force, Crump said it's indicative of the department's history of targeting Black individuals.

"This is Racial Profiling 101," he added.

Gage has filed numerous lawsuits against the department over the last few years. Many of the lawsuits have come on behalf of department employees, who have alleged discrimination and retaliation by department leaders.

In November 2018, the city of Beverly Hills announced a $2.3 million settlement with former BHPD Capt. Mark Rosen, who claimed that he had been subjected to anti-Semitic remarks and denied promotions.

"If you tolerate, within a police department, discrimination against someone because they're Black or brown or female or gay, that gets put out on the streets," Gage said.

L.A. County filming stats released

FilmLA, the partner film office for the city and county of Los Angeles and other local jurisdictions, on Oct. 20 issued a promising and optimistic update regarding regional filming activity.

"The biggest takeaway from this report is that the pace of local production continues to increase," FilmLA President Paul Audley said. "The late-pandemic recovery is uneven in some ways, but community receptiveness to filming is steady, and the work opportunities are undeniably there."

Broadcast TV series that filmed locally this past quarter include "SEAL Team" (CBS), "NCIS: Los Angeles" (CBS), "Mr. Mayor" (NBC), "This is Us" (NBC) and ABC's "The Rookie and Home Economics." Cable series include two of Showtime's new series – "SuperPumped" and an untitled LA Lakers project – as well as "Better Things" (FX) and "Chad" (TBS).

Streaming series that shot during the third quarter were HBO Max's "The Flight Attendant" and "Made for Love," "Pen15" (Hulu) and Netflix's forthcoming series – "Monster." Recent feature films include Paramount Pictures' "Wild Chickens," New Line Features' "House Party 2," an untitled Jonah Hill project, "Me Time" and "Purple Hearts" for Netflix, as well as a forthcoming independent film, "892."

On-location filming in the greater Los Angeles region continued its late-pandemic momentum into the third quarter, which ran from July 1 through Sept. 30. FilmLA analysts noted that it was the third strongest quarter seen in 26, with a total of 10,127 shoot days. The last time the region saw filming levels that high was in Q4 2018 (with 10,359 SD) and Q4 2016 (with 10,170 SD).

Compared against the quarter immediately preceding, Q3 shoot days experienced a slight increase of 3.4% (from 9,791 SD). Compared against the same period in the prior year – one still heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and related shutdowns – total production rose 141.2% (from 4,199 SD). Looking at the major production categories tracked by FilmLA, the pace of feature film production quickened the most in Q3 of 2021, growing 33.5% over Q2. By the same measure, activity for commercials and television was mostly flat, with less than a 1% difference quarter over quarter.

Last year's unusual circumstances continue to require FilmLA analysts to look for new ways to understand present-day filming levels. Accordingly, for the first time, FilmLA is reporting a new "pre-COVID" average, consisting of a rolling quarterly analysis spanning the years 2016-2019.

Measured against that standard, the television category is in historically good shape, posting the strongest Q3 gains 22.1% above the Q3 pre-COVID average. The trend in also seen in commercials, tracking 15.5% above past figures. Both the feature film and other categories, however, fell short of their pre-COVID average, highlighting the still-uneven nature of the industry's local recovery.

Closing with a look at the sub-categories of television, the reality TV bested its pre-COVID average by 146.3% last quarter (with 2,825 SD), as did TV pilots (growing 56.7% to 132 SD) and TV dramas (growing 8.9% to 1,356 SD). On the other hand, web-based TV declined by 17.3% (to 400 SD), and TV comedies fell by 44.9% (to 338 SD).

Fairfax celebrates historic designation with block party

Residents roamed throughout the Beverly Fairfax historic district on Oct. 23 as part of Save Beverly Fairfax's annual block party, which is hosted each year to commemorate the October 2018 designation of the Beverly Fairfax historic district to the National Register of Historic Places.

The neighborhood features examples of 1920s and 1930s historic architecture. It also won the Governor's Award for Preservation State of California and the Los Angeles Conservancy Preservation Award in 2019.

Over the weekend, neighbors and other Angelenos were invited to stroll through the neighborhood. A donut truck and special coffee mugs marked the occasion.

The Art Deco Society was awarded in recognition of its dedication to helping preserve the architectural heritage of Los Angeles. Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th District, also awarded a 3D map of the Beverly Fairfax Historic District.

"This community, and especially my friends Steven Luftman, Nora Wyman and Dale Kendall, have worked hard to preserve their historic neighborhood," Koretz said. "The Beverly Fairfax area holds a tremendous amount of cultural significance for our ethnic Jewish community and I was proud to gather with residents today to honor the history of this area."

photo courtesy of the 5th District council office

Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th District, awarded a 3D map to Nora Wyman, Steven Luftman, Margot Gerber and Dale Kendall for their work preserving the Beverly Fairfax historic district.

Council will consider proposed map

From page 1

moved farther west in the San Fernando Valley to include the communities of Canoga Park, Winnetka and Reseda.

Raman was represented on the redistricting commission by former City Councilwoman and current Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Jackie Goldberg, who said the redistricting process was unfair to people living in the 4th and 2nd Districts. She said it was unprecedented to make such dramatic changes to Raman's district, particularly because she was elected less than a year ago.

"There is no precedent for stripping a first-term council member from 100% of their constituents, and demographic changes in this city have not necessitated the drastic action this map represents," Goldberg said.

Not identifying which district would be the 2nd or 4th led to further disenfranchisement of residents, she added.

"I think that probably the biggest problem for me about this whole process was the refusal to label CD 2 and CD 4," Goldberg said. "It put these district commissioners and constituents at an inherent disadvantage. There was literally nobody advocating unequivocally for these district interests throughout the entire process."

Raman also criticized the commission's final map.

"City Council has an opportunity to restore the community's faith in the redistricting process when the map comes before us," Raman said in a statement. "I'm gratified that so many Angelenos were activated to speak up to defend their neighborhoods and their rights as voters. The public record is clear, this map has unacceptable inequities and needs to be changed."

Krekorian said the redistricting commission's final map is flawed.

"I am confident that the council will respect the will of the people instead of the deal-making of political insiders and reject this unnecessarily divisive and controversial proposal," Krekorian said in a statement. "The job of the redistricting commission was simply to propose new district maps that balance population based on new census data, and to ensure those districts comply with the law. It could have done so with minor adjustments of existing district lines."

O'Farrell also said he plans to scrutinize the map when it is sent to the City Council.

"I appreciate the commission's time and dedication, but the draft map needs work," O'Farrell said. "I am committed to ensuring that no voters are disenfranchised."

Others in the local community were pleased with the commission's final map and the placement of neighborhoods currently in the 4th District into the 5th District.

"We think the map is great," said Cindy Chvatal-Keane, president of the Hancock Park Homeowners Association. "It connects us with communities of interest to the west, and they based it on hours of public testimony, census data and other information. The redistricting commission meetings were independent and transparent."

Other community representatives wanted their neighborhoods to stay in one district, including Peter Nichols, co-founder of the Melrose Action Neighborhood Watch. The new map keeps the Melrose District in the 5th District.

"A lot of people and neighbors were advocating for them to make us whole," Nichols said. "It's good news, but [we are waiting] until it is settled. I'm cautiously optimistic, because the council has the final say and could throw the whole thing out."

Michael Schneider, first vice chair of the Mid City West Neighborhood Council, said members are pleased the final map keeps the council in the 5th District. Previous iterations of the map during commission deliberations placed a northern portion of Mid City West in the 13th District.

"As of right now, we are really happy. We feel like the redistricting commission listened to us," Schneider said. "There are probably going to be changes at council, so we are keeping an eye on it."

Conrad Starr, president of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council, also said the final map takes into account the wishes of the council to primarily be in one or two districts. Currently, the GWNC is in the 4th and 5th Districts, and the final map places it primarily in the 5th District except for a small portion between Melrose and Willoughby avenues and La Brea Avenue and Wilton Place, which would be in the 13th District.

"Overall, the map they gave us was largely satisfactory. I wouldn't say it would be a dramatic change," Starr said. "We have long-standing relations in [the 5th District]. The fewer people we have to work with to make changes in our neighborhood, the easier it is for us."

State of the city addressed

From page 1

the reopening of city facilities, Wilson said, which will be done with vaccination and mask requirements in place. Although the city is still taking safety precautions, Wilson said there's much to look forward to in the year to come, including new sustainability projects, the opening of West Hollywood Park and continued partnerships to address homelessness.

As the city plans for future growth, leaders are enacting policies that ensure the growth is sustainable, Wilson said. The city recently enacted a ban on single-use plastics in restaurants, and a program to ensure the city's tree canopy becomes part of future growth is working its way through the Planning Commission.

The City Council is also considering a proposal that would help West Hollywood Achieve Carbon neutrality by 2045.

"I've been here for just over 10 years and what's most exciting, I think, about the pivot our city is taking is that we are becoming a truly sustainable place," Councilman John D'Amico said. "We are making sure we can sustain a level of existence in our city that is important and can be counted on for generations to come."

Additionally, Ric Abramson, the manager of the Urban Design + Architecture Studio, is expected to launch the city's first electric vehicle fast-charging station in December. The WeHo Plus Tesla Supercharger Station will house eight Tesla chargers and four universal chargers, in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Residents can also look forward to the opening of West Hollywood Park, said Steve Campbell, director of facilities and recreation services. Construction began on the park in January 2017 to add an aquatic and recreation center, dog parks, green spaces, picnic areas, updated playgrounds and an AIDS memorial.

The 75,000-square-foot park is the largest capital project undertaken by the city, Campbell said. A soft opening for the aquatic and recreation center will be held at the end of the year and will make way for new adult and youth leagues, sports clinics, indoor and outdoor fitness classes and the Junior Lifeguard Program.

As the city prepares to open a new amenity, public safety director Kristin Cook said city leaders want to ensure residents are safe. A key concern of residents and business owners is the impact of homelessness, Cook said.

She said the city has recurring and new public safety partnerships and contracted social service partners to help address homelessness within the city.

One such effort is the Mental Evaluation Team, which includes a specialized deputy and a civilian mental health clinician. Several MET teams are located throughout the county, but one is specifically assigned to and funded by West Hollywood.

The MET team forges partnerships with city contracted social service providers to create a safety net for community members who are experiencing mental health challenges or homelessness, or those who are at risk of homelessness. MET provides community members with mental health support, crisis intervention and psychiatric placement when needed.

"West Hollywood has a long history of utilizing creative solutions and funding robust social services to support the safety of our residents, and we want to continue that," Cook said.

A recording of the city address is available at youtube.com/wehotv.

Cedars-Sinai expands role of stroke expert Dr. Song

Dr. Shlee Song will assume a new role as vice chair in Cedars-Sinai's Department of Neurology for System Integration, having been tapped to spearhead the expansion of neurological care to affiliated regional hospitals and their communities.

"Dr. Song has been working since 2011 to enhance stroke care at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and since 2015-2016 with Torrance Memorial Medical Center and Cedars-Sinai Marina del Rey Hospital," said Dr. Nancy Sicotte, professor and chair of neurology at Cedars-Sinai and the Women's Guild Distinguished chair in neurology. "Cedars-Sinai and Torrance Memorial are Comprehensive Stroke Centers, and all three hospitals have received Gold Plus Quality Awards from the American Heart Association."

Sicotte said that the hospitals' multidisciplinary teams and stroke nurse champions – Laurie Paletz, Marco Pech and Maya Lewis – share credit for the accomplishments, and that in Song's new role, she will build on the teams' previous achievements to bring the full scope of neurology services to patients throughout the region.

Working closely with Sicotte, as well as newly-recruited outreach neurologists Dr. Rachel Carlin and Dr. Jeffrey Quinn and Dr. Michele Tagliati, vice chair of the Department of Neurology and professor of neurology, Song will help expand neurology subspecialty expertise.

photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

Dr. Shlee Song, Cedars-Sinai's new vice chair for Neurology System Integration, examines a stroke patient.

The goal is to continue to increase availability of emergency stroke care and care for Parkinson's disease, movement disorders, Alzheimer's disease and dementia – for patients served by Torrance Memorial and Marina del Rey, and others in the community.

"If you need neurologic care, especially in an emergency, I think access to that care needs to be available in each region," Song said. "It shouldn't matter whether you are on the west side or the east side of L.A., in the South Bay or the Valley. We're improving access within the health system."

Bringing procedures and processes developed at the main medical campus to regional hospitals will also give more patients the chance to participate in clinical trials. Some collaborative trials are already underway.

"For example, the magnetic resonance imaging physicist who helped set up our whole brain vessel wall imaging protocol at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center was able to set up the same imaging protocol at Torrance Memorial Medical Center, so we can enroll subjects there," Song said. "Now patients from Torrance Memorial can contribute their results and records to help us understand the disease process, and we can tailor their therapies, working with regional physicians."

City releases food insecurity map

To mark World Food Day on Oct. 16, an international day dedicated to raising awareness about issues of poverty and hunger, Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin released an online story map analyzing food insecurity in Los Angeles County and calling for urgent solutions to the growing crisis.

"Hunger for Solutions to Food Insecurity" maps poverty, income and unemployment levels across Los Angeles, along with ease of access to grocery stores, using socioeconomic data to illustrate visually where people are most at risk of being food insecure. The story map also details the dramatic negative impact COVID-19 has had on local area hunger.

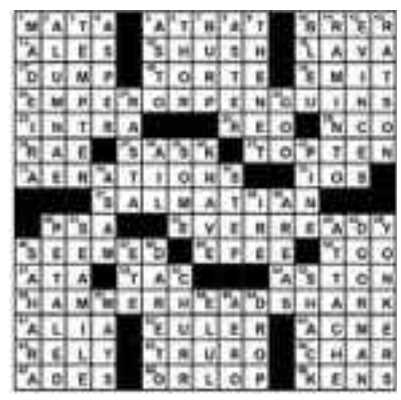
Food insecurity has been a significant problem in Los Angeles for years, but during the pandemic, the situation became markedly worse for vulnerable residents, he said. Food banks reported serving 10 times more working and low-income families, and nearly one million L.A. County households reported being food insecure.

Galperin said the most impacted residents were unemployed individuals and single parents. Now, 19 months into the pandemic, food insecurity remains higher than pre-COVID levels, making it an urgent public health matter, he said.

To connect people in need to resources they can use, Galperin's food insecurity map also includes a statewide map of 1,800 food banks and distribution centers. Users can hover over a particular county or city or search by address to find a location near them. Also included are links to resources for government aid programs, food delivery programs, community fridges and groups focused on providing food assistance for specific segments of the population, including seniors and undocumented immigrants.

For information, visit lacontroller.org/food-insecurity.

Answers From Page 23



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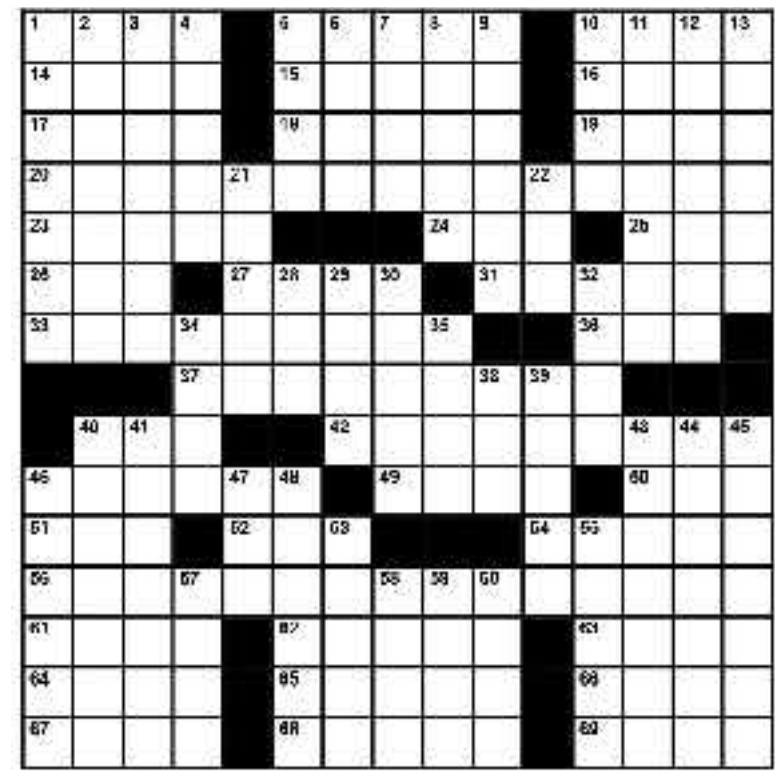
Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor



Across

1. First name in spying
5. Up, in baseball
10. ___ Fox
14. Inn inventory
15. "Pipe down!"
16. Volcanic flow
17. Jettison
18. Rich cake
19. Give out
20. Antarctic denizens
23. Prefix with coastal
24. Music's ___ Speedwagon
25. Officer, abbr.
26. "Another rainy day" singer from the UK
27. Mont. neighbor
31. Hit list
33. Oxygenations
36. Large Hawaiian hawks
37. One of 101
40. Good works ad
42. Battery
46. Came across as
49. Fencing piece
50. Excessively
51. ___ minimum
52. Middle X or O
54. First name in British sports cars
56. Ocean predator
61. Word after inter or et
62. Noted Swiss mathematician
63. Zenith
64. Bank
65. Cape Cod resort
66. Arctic fish
67. Summer quaffs
68. Lowest deck of a ship
69. Barbie buddies

Down

1. Portuguese island
2. Old students
3. Satan, e.g.
4. According to
5. Phrase found in memos
6. Norse thunder god
7. After dinner no-no
8. Flower
9. Surfing arena
10. Cordon ___
11. Rear-end, say
12. Proves
13. Fingers
21. Music category
22. Sticky material
28. Be bedridden
29. A bit
30. Scoundrel
32. Durable wood
34. Classic Rodin sculpture
35. Stride
38. Belligerence
39. Regions
40. Like most flowers
41. Nautical measure
43. Briefcase
44. Hotel entrance attendant
45. New York city
46. "The English Patient" setting
47. Berlioz's "Les nuits d'___"
48. Have the nerve
53. Partridge sound
55. Castaway's residence
57. Baseball great for the Giants
58. 12th month of the Jewish calendar
59. Beginning for dynamic or space
60. Go down

answers on page 22

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