Astronauts touch base with WeHo students

School connects with International Space Station

BY AARON BLEVINS

Students at The Center for Early Education in West Hollywood had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity on Jan. 21, when the students connect-ed with NASA astronauts currently aboard the International Space Station.

Astronauts Kayla Barron and Mark Vande Hei fielded an array of questions in zero gravity from stu-dents at the independent day school after being patched through with students aboard the International Space Station. The astronauts and students even collaborated in a guitar jam session.

"Every single day, we’re doing things that can benefit humanity back on Earth and also prepare us to explore even further into the solar system," Barron said. "We’re doing experiments on ourselves, learning from development that are further protected from development.

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Residents in the Carthay Circle, Carthay Square and South Carthay neighborhoods are celebrating their communities’ inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The California State Historical Resources Commission, which evaluates regional proposals for designation to the national registry, unanimously voted on Jan. 21 to include the three Carthay neighbor-hoods. Approximately 50 residents were present at the vigil and have asked for privacy, said Alex Segal, co-founder and director of business development for Croft House, who spoke briefly to the crowd.

"[Brianna] was the brightest part of anyone’s day who got to interact with her. She was smart and capable, intelligent, kind and friendly, just an incredibly driven person," Segal said. "It’s unthink-able. The question just screams, ‘Why?’ I don’t know that there will ever be a sufficient answer to that question, but when you look around at all the people that have shown up for her, you can see the semblance of how we start to put things back together.”

The vigil was held a week after Kupfer was found dead inside the Croft House furniture store where she worked on La Brea Avenue. Moourners hugged each other and cried as flowers and candles were placed on the sidewalk in front of the store at 356 N. La Brea Ave. where she was killed on Jan. 13. Many people held up signs with photographs of Kupfer and vowed that she would never be for-gotten. Others signed cards affixed to Croft House’s façade and lit candles in Kupfer’s memory.

To have her life taken away so senselessly … there are really no words to describe how terrible it is,” said Pamela Taylor, a neigh-bor of the Kupfer family in Pacific Palisades. “This has been so dev-stating. It’s horrific. The family is absolutely broken.”

Members of the Kupfer family were not present at the vigil and have asked for privacy, said Alex Segal, co-founder and director of business development for Croft House, who spoke briefly to the crowd.

A status of a miner representing the California Gold Rush is located in Carthay Circle Park, a centerpiece for the Carthay neighborhoods.

Astronauts Mark Vande Hei and Kayla Barron shared their experiences on the space station with students.
BHUSD re-implements virtual learning due to pandemic

Two Beverly Hills Unified School District classrooms have gone to remote learning due to COVID-19, per the direction of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

BHUSD Superintendent of Schools Michael Bregy said on Jan. 25 that two Horace Mann Elementary School classrooms have gone virtual due to three epidemiologically linked cases two weeks ago.

“That decision didn’t come easy,” he said. “We’ve been doing this for two years, and it’s wearing on us.”

Bregy referenced the Culver City School District’s decision to cancel classes for a week, when COVID-19 cases “were out of control.”

“We have to make our best judgment,” he added.

Last week, the district entered the possibility of hosting a study session to combat the increase in COVID-19 cases. As of Jan. 26, the district had 54 students test positive for COVID-19, as well as 12 staff members.

The majority of cases were at Beverly Hills High School.

Deadline nears for Beverly Hills Community Assistance Grant Funding

The city of Beverly Hills is reminding prospective applicants that the deadline for Community Assistance Grant Funding is Feb. 1. The funding is available to organizations and providers of services that provide benefits to the health and welfare of the local and regional community.

Applications must be e-mailed no later than 5 p.m. on Feb. 1 to humanresources@beverlyhills.org.

Survivor talk

Holocaust Museum Los Angeles is holding a Survivor Talk with David Lenga on Thursday, Jan. 27, at 11 a.m. Lenga was born in 1927 in Lodz, Poland. His family was confined to a ghetto in the suburb of Stykow, where they spent the first two years of the war. Lenga was later separated from his family and sent to Auschwitz, and then to a labor camp in Biebrza. He and other prisoners escaped and hid throughout southern Germany until they were liberated by American troops in May 1945. Suggested donation is $10. holocaustmuseum.org

Classical concert

The LA Phil presents a concert of works by Beethoven and Mendelssohn on Thursday, Jan. 27, at 8 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Igor Levit will perform Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 5, “The Moonlight.” Former Daminel Fellow Elinor Chan will lead the orchestra in performing Mendelssohn’s Italian Symphony, as well as a U.S. premiere of “Cloudill” by Elizabeth Oaporan. Tickets start at $55. 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.com.

‘How to Clone a Mammoth’

The Broad Stage welcomes evolutionary biologist Beth Shapiro for “How to Clone a Mammoth” Thursday, Jan. 27, and Friday, Jan. 28, at 7:30 p.m. The program is part of the National Geographic Live series. An evolutionary biologist and pioneer in ancient DNA research, Shapiro travels extensively through the Arctic regions of Siberia and North America to collect bones, teeth and other remains of Ice Age mammals. She extracts DNA from the remains and uses the information to understand how changing climates and increasing human activity have shaped the distribution of species. Her goal is to use the information to save living species. Tickets start at $50. 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. thebroadstage.org.

Art exhibits

TAG Gallery presents the exhibits “Karen Hochman: Brown Digital Playground” and “Gianna Vargas: Desiccated” running Thursday, Jan. 27, through Saturday, Feb. 12. Brown’s exhibit features digital work in a variety of physical forms, including large-format tapestries printed with state-of-the-art technology, animated pieces in digital picture frames, archival pigment prints and a jigsaw puzzle. Vargas’ artistic practice is informed by aspects of the natural world and inspired by the opportunity to create a new body of work outside of painting. For “Desiccated,” the artist captures images of drying leaves and flowers in winter. 5458 Wilshire Blvd. (323)297-3061, taggallery.net.

Ren and Stimpy

Cinewest Sunset is holding a special engagement of “Happy, Happy Joy Joy: The Ren and Stimpy Story” running Friday, Jan. 28, through Thursday, Feb. 2. Directed by Ron Cates and Kevin Eastwood, “Happy, Happy Joy Joy” is a feature documentary exploring one of the most influential animated series in the history of television. It tells the story of a group of artists whose work brought Ren and Stimpy to life. The film is also a cautionary tale of artistic genius gone awry, as the controversial creator of the show, John Kricfalusi, caused and experienced trauma that deeply affected his work and relationships. Showtimes vary, see schedule. Tickets are $13. 6464 Sunset Blvd. cinewestcineplex.com.

Art Deco Society

The Art Deco Society of Los Angeles is holding its annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 29, at 3 p.m., via Zoom. The meeting is an opportunity to share information about the Art Deco Society and plans for 2022. Following a 30-minute discussion with ADSLA’s board of directors, author Christopher Long will discuss his new book, “Jocko Pettit, Architecture and Design: The Varities of Modernism,” with a focus on Pettet’s art deco work in Los Angeles including the Bullock’s Wilshire department store. General admission is $12. artdeco- la.org/events/calendar/jockopettit-symposium.

Beverly Hills Chamber

Join the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce for the February “Get to Know Your Chamber” event on Tuesday, Feb. 1, from 9-10:30 a.m. New, current and future Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce members are invited to learn about the organization. The meeting will outline benefits and opportunities for businesses. 9400 S. Santa Monica Blvd. memb.bervhchamber.com.

Salastina

Salastina welcomes Grammy Award-winning composer and conductor Eric Whitacre for a performance on Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m., via Zoom. Whitacre’s works are featured in programs worldwide and his “Virtual Choirs” have united singers from more than 145 countries during the last decade. A graduate of Juilliard School of Music, Whitacre completed his second term as artist in residence with the Los Angeles Master Chorale in 2020. salastina.org.zoonium.us.

The Beverly Press and Park Labrea News are weekly newspapers, published on Thursdays. Mail subscriptions are $120 annually. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising, Fed. 15, 1906 by Superior Court Order No 736637. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising in the City of Beverly Hills and the County of Los Angeles. Dec. 22, 2003 by Superior Court Order Number 10327819, General Code 808.
City cracks down on home-sharing violations

Councilman wants to put more teeth in regulations

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Council has put more teeth into an ordinance regulating house parties at rented homes. The motion amends the city’s home-sharing ordinance prohibiting property owners from renting residences that are under investigation for illegal house parties.

In 2018, the city enacted regulations to revoke permits at properties where repeat problems occur. However, property owners were still able to re-rent properties while investigations were ongoing or under appeal.

“For far too long, residents have been frustrated by a subset of operators that repeatedly host wild, intrusive and unsafe parties,” said Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th District, who authored the motion. “This motion seeks to add more teeth to the city’s home-sharing enforcement.”

The motion was seconded by Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, and Nithya Raman, 4th District. The city’s 2018 home-sharing ordinance was spearheaded by then-4th District Councilman David Ryu, who sought penalties for property owners and people who rent homes to host parties, many of which were causing disruptions at the time in the Hollywood Hills. In the years since the law was enacted, numerous incidents have occurred at short-term rentals citywide including robberies, shootings and homicides. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the problem, as people began renting homes to host parties when businesses were closed.

Councilmember David Ryu, who spearheaded the 2018 home-sharing ordinance, said, “For far too long, residents have complained about parties in their neighborhoods, causing robberies, shootings and homi-cides. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the problem, as people began renting homes to host parties when businesses were closed.”

Koretz said. “As an example of the kinds of serious cases we would have liked to have used this for, in August 2020, we had a shooting at a short-term rental on San Ysidro Road (in the Beverly Park community in the Santa Monica Mountains). Also in August 2020 at a short-term rental on Mulholland Drive, we had a shooting that resulted in one fatality and multiple injuries. On Feb. 26 of last year, there was another shooting on Colgate Avenue in the Beverly Grove area.” Koretz added. “These parties have been a magnet for illegal activity. So this adds more teeth to our home-sharing ordinance so that bad actors are not profiting off illegal activity and inviting criminal behavior into otherwise quiet neighborhoods.”

The motion was referred to the City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management Committee and the City Attorney’s Office for a report back on the feasibility of enacting the new rules. The council has not scheduled a date for further consideration of amendments to the home-sharing ordinance.

Police have been summoned to the Melrose District numerous times for violations at short-term rentals.

State commemorates decision in pivotal abortion case

Gov. Gavin Newsom and First Lady Jennifer Siebel Newsom on Jan. 21 commemorated the anniversary of Roe v. Wade and highlighted California’s commitment to ensuring access to reproductive health care services in the face of national threats to reproductive rights.

“We commemorate the 49th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court case establishing a woman’s Constitutional right to a safe and private reproductive choice,” Newsom said. “Almost half a century later, we know without a doubt that limiting access to reproductive health care, including abortion, is a fundamental violation of individual liberty and freedom. The simple fact remains—America can’t achieve true equality if women do not have control over their own bodies.”

“At a time when some across our nation are purposefully and deliberately choosing to attack women’s reproductive rights, California will continue to be a beacon of light and lead the way,” Newsom said. “In 2018, the city enacted regulations to revoke permits at properties where repeat problems occur. However, property owners were still able to re-rent properties while investigations were ongoing or under appeal.”

“I think this will be very helpful. These parties cause nuisance issues and they are flaunting the law,” Nichols added. “It turns these areas upside down. Some of it has led to violent activities such as murders and robberies. From the neighbors’ standpoint, this is an important step in the right direction.”

City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management Committee and the City Attorney’s Office for a report back on the feasibility of enacting the new rules. The council has not scheduled a date for further consideration of amendments to the home-sharing ordinance. Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer supports the changes and vowed to continue cracking down on property owners and party hosts who disrupt neighborhoods.

“Almost half a century later, we know without a doubt that limiting access to reproductive health care, including abortion, is a fundamental violation of individual liberty and freedom. The simple fact remains—America can’t achieve true equality if women do not have control over their own bodies.”

“We commemorate the 49th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court case establishing a woman’s Constitutional right to a safe and private reproductive choice,” Newsom said. “Almost half a century later, we know without a doubt that limiting access to reproductive health care services in the face of national threats to reproductive rights.”

“Almost half a century later, we know without a doubt that limiting access to reproductive health care, including abortion, is a fundamental violation of individual liberty and freedom. The simple fact remains—America can’t achieve true equality if women do not have control over their own bodies.”

“We commemorate the 49th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court case establishing a woman’s Constitutional right to a safe and private reproductive choice,” Newsom said. “Almost half a century later, we know without a doubt that limiting access to reproductive health care services in the face of national threats to reproductive rights.”
WeHo examines protocols for sexual assault

Victims are directed to rape treatment center in Santa Monica

BY CARLOS DE LOERA

The West Hollywood City Council held a discussion recently with members of the medical community and law enforcement on Jan. 18 and considered an item regarding reporting and response procedures the city has on sexual assault. The conversation mostly centered on reviewing the current methods and constraints that come from the justice system. Sam Torbati, head of the department of emergency medicine at Cedars-Sinai, made a presentation by explaining that, while the hospital will provide health services to anyone that comes in as a result of sexual assault, doctors and nurses cannot administer rape kits or any other forensic evaluations. “This is not a doctor counseling a patient around antibiotics and things like that,” Torbati said. “The rape kit involves a very careful and cautious, two-hour exam where specimens are obtained, photos are obtained and the forensic information is gathered in a very meticulous manner.” He explained to the council about the authorities who then take it to the crime lab, process the information, and has a participant of the D.A.’s office and prosecute the assault.

Torbati added that, in the past, Cedars-Sinai had a procedure for collecting forensic evidence, but that they no longer do so because of the risk of compromising materials. “A test collection that we do at the bedside actually ruins the forensic,” Torbati said. “Police officers have told us, ‘This is a crime scene, you cannot do this incorrectly because if you don’t collect this information in the correct fashion, we’re not going to have the information that we need to make a criminal case.’”

Instead, Cedars-Sinai staff directs victims to the Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center, where the proper tools for proper specimen collection are available. The victims can either drive themselves to the center or the hospital can provide them with a police escort. The center conducts the initial assessment and the rape kit,” Torbati said. “What’s even more important is that victims of sexual assault, these patients require a tremendous amount of ongoing support and the rape treatment center helps with that.”

Councilman John D’Amico, who has previously worked with the rape treatment center, said the facility “doesn’t have a lack of capacity for serving the county.” It was a sentiment that was confirmed by Torbati, who added that sexual assault injuries make up less than 0.5% of all emergency room patients yearly.

Councilwoman Lindsay Horvath had questions for West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station’s Lt. Bill Moulder, who was in attendance, regarding the intricacies of providing female victims of sexual assault with a female deputy.

“Are there any protocols for determining whether someone is trans or gender-nonconforming?” Horvath asked. “I just want to make sure we are being inclusive of what that policy is intended to achieve.”

“’No matter the gender of the victim, if we have a male deputy respond we’ll ask if they prefer a female deputy,” Moulder said. “Our objective is to make sure the victim feels as comfortable as possible telling their story to a deputy.”

Councilman John Erickson said an emphasis should be placed on educating the public about resources for victims.

“I’d be great if the city came back with a victims’ advocate resource group for our residents that works with and through the multiple bureaucracies we have here,” Erickson said. “I would like to see if direction could be given to explore the option [of creating a victims’ advocate resource group] because I think it’s another great resource we could provide to our businesses and to our community to make sure they feel safe and know we’re taking these claims very seriously.”

Given the many components of the reporting procedures, D’Amico wanted to reemphasize the main objectives.

“Victims need to be believed and we need to work as hard as possible so they can find resolution,” D’Amico said.

At the discussion’s end, the council decided to return to the item at a later date with more reporting provided by city staff.

County expands access to firefighting programs

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion on Jan. 25 authored by Supervisors Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District, and Hilda Solis, 1st District, to expand training opportunities in firefighting to formerly incarcerated people 18–25.

The changes will prioritize young people who have been in the prison justice system and involved with the justice system. The pilot program will launch after additional planning is complete.

More than any other state in the country, California relies on former prison labor to battle increasingly frequent wildfires. Eligible individuals within the state’s incarcerated population take on a dangerous public service job and are paid very little, the supervisors said. Upon release, even with the experience, many are barred from working in the fire service because of their prior criminal record.

In recent years, firefighting and related jobs for individuals with prior justice involvement are slowly opening, provided the individuals complete the appropriate training and certification. A state law passed in 2020 allows parolees, people who worked in a fire camp to apply to have their record expunged. A pending federal 9th Circuit Court ruling may further open employment opportunities by eliminating barriers to EMT certification, Kuehl said.

“Most people who are sentenced for a crime are eventually released, but without training and job opportunities, they face enormous, sometimes insurmountable barriers to establishing a stable adult life,” Kuehl added. “This pilot program will provide a new option for young people who are eager exiting the system. Our care system or have been justice involved, so that they can get training unlike any other disallowed employment that pays a living wage, cementing the foundation for a stable and fulfilling adulthood. By creating job training and employment opportunities, we can reduce recidivism and advance the board’s ‘Care First, Jails Last’ priority.”

The county’s Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative will lead the effort.

“Creating pathways and pipelines to good paying union jobs with benefits are ways to reduce recidivism and a way to make sure that there is a sustainable pool of qualified and experienced people who can fight fires,” Solis said. “I am happy to serve as co-author to this motion with colleagues in the Legislature to ensure that the effort.

Given the many components of the reporting procedures, D’Amico wanted to reemphasize the main objectives.

“Victims need to be believed and we need to work as hard as possible so they can find resolution,” D’Amico said.

At the discussion’s end, the council decided to return to the item at a later date with more reporting provided by city staff.

Bill would ban single-use vapes and cigarette filters

Assemblywoman Luz Rivas (D-San Fernando Valley), chair of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, introduced a bill on Jan. 25 that will prohibit the sale of single-use vapes and tobacco filters found in tobacco products.

Assembly Bill 1690, which is sponsored by the National Environmental Justice Action Network, is intended to protect the public health and environment from the hazards and destructive impacts of the products.

“For more than half a century, tobacco filters have caused a public and environmental health crisis that found renewed vigor in recent years as the tobacco industry began to sell electronic vape products,” Rivas said. “My colleagues and I have introduced critical legislation that keeps Californians healthy and protects the environment by banning the sale of tobacco filters and nicotine pouches under the guise that they are smokeless when used in a ‘nicotine-free’ manner. The planet is at a critical tipping point – cigarette filters destroy our environment unlike any other discarded waste, and the toxic chemicals found in electronic vapes seep into our fragile ecosystems, all while damaging individuals’ health with hazardous smoke. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Legislature to ensure we keep California healthy and clean.”

In 1964, the Surgeon General of the United States declared that tobacco filters used in cigarettes and cigars are useless in reducing harm to the average smoker. Rivas said. However, their destructive impact on the environment has been significant. Plastic cigarette filters found in tobacco products break down the microplastics over time and leach toxic chemicals into the ecosystem, she added.

Of the 6 trillion cigarettes consumed globally each year, approximately 1.5 trillion cigarette filters littered into the environment. Coastal ecosystems face significant perils from cigarette and vape waste, Rivas said.

WeHo expands access to firefighting programs

Assemblywoman Luz Rivas (D-San Fernando Valley), chair of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, introduced a bill on Jan. 25 that will prohibit the sale of single-use vapes and tobacco filters found in tobacco products.

Assembly Bill 1690, which is sponsored by the National Environmental Justice Action Network, is intended to protect the public health and environment from the hazards and destructive impacts of the products.

“For more than half a century, tobacco filters have caused a public and environmental health crisis that found renewed vigor in recent years as the tobacco industry began to sell electronic vape products,” Rivas said. “My colleagues and I have introduced critical legislation that keeps Californians healthy and protects the environment by banning the sale of tobacco filters and nicotine pouches under the guise that they are smokeless when used in a ‘nicotine-free’ manner. The planet is at a critical tipping point – cigarette filters destroy our environment unlike any other discarded waste, and the toxic chemicals found in electronic vapes seep into our fragile ecosystems, all while damaging individuals’ health with hazardous smoke. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Legislature to ensure we keep California healthy and clean.”

In 1964, the Surgeon General of the United States declared that tobacco filters used in cigarettes and cigars are useless in reducing harm to the average smoker. Rivas said. However, their destructive impact on the environment has been significant. Plastic cigarette filters found in tobacco products break down the microplastics over time and leach toxic chemicals into the ecosystem, she added.

Of the 6 trillion cigarettes consumed globally each year, approximately 1.5 trillion cigarette filters littered into the environment. Coastal ecosystems face significant perils from cigarette and vape waste, Rivas said.

Bill would ban single-use vapes and cigarette filters

Assemblywoman Luz Rivas (D-San Fernando Valley), chair of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, introduced a bill on Jan. 25 that will prohibit the sale of single-use vapes and tobacco filters found in tobacco products.

Assembly Bill 1690, which is sponsored by the National Environmental Justice Action Network, is intended to protect the public health and environment from the hazards and destructive impacts of the products.

“For more than half a century, tobacco filters have caused a public and environmental health crisis that found renewed vigor in recent years as the tobacco industry began to sell electronic vape products,” Rivas said. “My colleagues and I have introduced critical legislation that keeps Californians healthy and protects the environment by banning the sale of tobacco filters and nicotine pouches under the guise that they are smokeless when used in a ‘nicotine-free’ manner. The planet is at a critical tipping point – cigarette filters destroy our environment unlike any other discarded waste, and the toxic chemicals found in electronic vapes seep into our fragile ecosystems, all while damaging individuals’ health with hazardous smoke. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Legislature to ensure we keep California healthy and clean.”

In 1964, the Surgeon General of the United States declared that tobacco filters used in cigarettes and cigars are useless in reducing harm to the average smoker. Rivas said. However, their destructive impact on the environment has been significant. Plastic cigarette filters found in tobacco products break down the microplastics over time and leach toxic chemicals into the ecosystem, she added.

Of the 6 trillion cigarettes consumed globally each year, approximately 1.5 trillion cigarette filters littered into the environment. Coastal ecosystems face significant perils from cigarette and vape waste, Rivas said.
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted on Jan. 25 to begin phasing out renter protections introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic while retaining protections still regarded as essential.

The three-step plan was developed using current epidemiological, housing, health and programmatic data by a working group comprised of staff from the County Department of Public Health, the County Health Officer, Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, Department of Public Health, L.A. Community Development Authority and County Counsel. The board adopted the first two phases on Jan. 25 and has expect ed to adopt a third and final phase of the plan later this year.

The first phase will run from Feb. 1 through June 1 and will continue all existing residential protections that prevent evictions on the basis of non-payment (or unauthorized pets/occupants), as well as extending the rent increase freeze for rent regulated rental units un ited L.A. County. The first phase also preserves anti-harassment and eviction protections for very low -income households, and requires the landlord to provide a notice of non-payment of rent. The second phase will go into effect on June 1 and extend through Dec. 31.

“Although the declines are a positive sign, residents should not take them as an indication to forgo common sense hygiene practices that will allow the declines to continue,” said Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District.

Utilizing public health safety me asures will drive down cases, which will ultimately end staffing shortages, reduce workplace and school outbreaks, and most importantly, keep residents from getting serious ly ill and dying.

On Jan. 25, L.A. County reported 34,827 new cases, two days after seeing the highest number of new cases since the pandemic began. The health department reported 18,822 new cases on Jan. 25. While it is a decline compared to the day before, it still represents a 46% drop in new cases in two weeks. Over the same time period, the daily rate of cases per 100,000 residents also decreased by 20%, and the daily positivity rate decreased by 44%.

Additionally, the number of resi dents getting seriously ill and need ing hospitalization has also declined. The number of people hospitalized peaked on Jan. 20 at 4,619. The hospitalization rate decreased by 35%.

On Jan. 25, the health depart ment confirmed 25,754 new cases of COVID-19. Of the 27 new deaths reported, one person was between the ages of 18 and 29, three were between the ages of 30 and 39, four were between the ages of 50 and 64, eight were between the ages of 65-79, and 15 were over the age of 80 years old. Of the 36 newly reported deaths, 25 had underlying conditions. To date, the total number of deaths in L.A. County is 28,540.

“Throughout this pandemic, we have come together to address the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 con tinues to have on millions of Californians and the economy at work. By extending sick leave to frontline workers with COVID and providing support for California businesses and our economy are able to thrive. We will continue to work at the local level, our businesses to the budget – they are the backbone of our communities and continue to be impacted by COVID-19.”

Early budget actions also include restoring business tax credits, including research and development credits and net operating losses, that were limited during the COVID-19 recession; tax relief for recipients of federal relief grants for restaurants and shuttered venues; and additional funding for the Small Business Covid-19 Relief Grant Program.

The framework includes significant funding to bolster testing capacity, accelerate vaccination and booster efforts, support frontline workers, strengthen the health care system and battle misinformation.

The Los Angeles County and City Council, in coordination with the Los Angeles Unified School District, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, and the LAUSD Board of Education, have developed a plan to address the upcoming school year. The plan includes options for hybrid learning, distance learning, or a combination of the two. The final decision will be made by the end of the year, and the plan will be implemented in January 2022.

The Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved a budget proposal that includes new funding for small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposal allocates $50 million in federal funds to support small businesses, with a focus on those in the hospitality and tourism industries. The funds will be used to provide grants for rent relief, payroll assistance, and other expenses.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced a new plan to support small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan includes $100 million in federal funds to provide grants for rent relief, payroll assistance, and other expenses. The funds will be used to support businesses in the hospitality, tourism, and retail industries.

The Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved a budget proposal that includes new funding for small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposal allocates $50 million in federal funds to support small businesses, with a focus on those in the hospitality and tourism industries. The funds will be used to provide grants for rent relief, payroll assistance, and other expenses.

Los Angeles City Council Councilman Mitch O’Farrell came together with members of the Greater Wilshire community on Jan. 15 at Robert Burns Park. O’Farrell welcomed new constituents. Los Angeles City Council Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, held his 71st Councilmember in Your Corner event on Jan. 15 at Robert Burns Park at the corner of Beverly Boulevard and Vun Ness Avenue. The park is located in the Greater Wilshire area, one of the many new communities that were moved into the 13th District during the redistricting process. The group removed litter, palm fronds and debris from the park. The event was a way to bring commu nity members together to meet their new City Council representa tive and to discuss concerns in the community.

“Thank you to everyone who made the morning such a success,” O’Farrell said. “We can’t wait to see you in the neighborhood!”

For information, visit cd13.lac y.org.
State to receive federal wildfire assistance

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) on Jan. 21 praised Vice President Kamala Harris’ announcement that California will receive $600 million for wildfire recovery and prevention efforts.

“Wildfires have always been part of our reality in California,” Schiff said. “But, the infernos we have battled over the past few years – including the two largest wildfires in our state’s history – are a dire warning that we must take every available resource to protect our people, lands and communities. This federal disaster relief will be crucial for building up California’s resilience to the worsening impacts of the climate crisis, especially when paired with the funding still to come from the historic bipartisan infrastructure package. I applaud the administration’s focus on helping our families and communities combat wildfires.”

He said all residents must do everything they can to address the impacts and to reverse the course of climate change.

“We need nothing less than an Apollo Project-level investment in clean energy development that will slow the warming of our planet, protect hundreds of thousands of people to work in green jobs and leave a safer, healthier planet for our children and grandchildren,” he added. “Otherwise, the next generation will inherit a very different Golden State.”

Harris and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack were in Southern California on Jan. 21 to make the announcement. It is part of $1.3 billion in federal disaster aid to help communities to clear hazardous vegetation, restore forests and repair infrastructure damaged by wildfires.

California is also expected to receive a share of $5 billion for wildfire prevention and preparation efforts in the bipartisan infrastructure package Congress passed last November.

Jewish Caucus applauds funds to protect vulnerable institutions

The California Legislative Jewish Caucus recently announced that the California Office of Emergency Services has awarded nearly $50 million to nonprofit organizations through the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel, (D- Woodland Hills), chair of the Jewish Caucus, and Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), vice chair of the caucus, applauded the allocation.

The Jewish Caucus is proud to have secured nearly $50 million in last year’s state budget to help protect communities targeted by hate-motivated violence.” Gabriel and Wiener said in a joint statement. “The recent hostage situation at Congregation Beth Shalom (in Colleyville, Texas) was a sad and shameful example of the very real threats facing our communities, and a further reminder of how security training and enhancements can mean the difference between life and death. We are hopeful that the funding announced will make a real difference in protecting vulnerable communities across California, and we are committed to working with our legislative colleagues and community advocates to expand and strengthen the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.”

The California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program was established in 2019 through legislation authored by members of the Jewish Caucus following the deadly shooting at the Poway Chabad synagogue in 2019 in San Diego County. The Nonprofit Security Grant Program has funded security enhancements at religious institutions, LGBTQ community centers, reproductive health facilities and other nonprofits determined to be at risk from violent extremism. The state budget allocation of nearly $50 million was a historic increase for continues to be a top priority for the Jewish Caucus, particularly following the hostage situation in Texas earlier this month, Gabriel said.

For information, visit jewishcaucus.legislature.ca.gov and caloes.ca.gov

Notable Notes

What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the winntertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.

-Crowfoot

1821 - 1890

Last Words

1890

*source: Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations
The Los Angeles County Transportation Authority is holding the next online webinar on the Purple Line Extension subway project on Wednesday, Feb. 2, from noon to 1 p.m., via Zoom. The webinar will provide information about all three sections of the subway line, which is under construction between Wilshire/ Western and the VA Hospital campus at Westchester Boulevard. The meeting can be viewed on Facebook Live by visiting facebook.com/purpleline- ext. To join the Zoom meeting, visit zoom.us/j/96626476708 and use the webinar ID: 966 2647 6708.

Work is ongoing at many locations along the tunnel alignment under Wilshire Boulevard in Westwood. In Crews are relocating underground infrastructure in preparation of subsurface construction on the VA Hospital campus. Preliminary construction is also occurring near Wilshire/Glallery for the future Westwood/UCLA subway station.

Another subway station on the line will be located in Century City near the Wilshire Boulevard station. The station will be located in the Wilshire Boulevard station and will be temporarily closed between La Cienega and Wilshire Boulevard.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between the Wilshire and La Cienega stations.

Another subway station on the line will be located in Century City near the Wilshire Boulevard station. The station will be located in the Wilshire Boulevard station and will be temporarily closed between La Cienega and Wilshire Boulevard.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between the Wilshire and La Cienega stations.

Another subway station on the line will be located in Century City near the Wilshire Boulevard station. The station will be located in the Wilshire Boulevard station and will be temporarily closed between La Cienega and Wilshire Boulevard.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Construction is also ongoing in Beverly Hills for the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/Cienega subway stations. Work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.

Further east at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work will also be ongoing in the future Wilshire/La Cienega station. Work on the Wilshire/La Cienega station will be ongoing through 2024. Construction in the area will require lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard between El Camino and Crescent drives.
LGBT center seeks men for blood donation study

The Los Angeles LGBT Center is working to change rules on blood donation by helping to recruit gay and bisexual men between the ages of 18 and 39 for a pilot study evaluating the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s blood donor deferral policy. Compensation is up to $85 for those who complete the study.

Under current federal policy, gay and bisexual men who have had sex with other men in the last three months are not allowed to donate blood. The study seeks to evaluate alternatives to the FDA’s current blood donor policy that, while less stringent than the 1985 complete ban on gay and bisexual men donating blood, is still discriminatory, according to center executive director Joe Hollendoner.

“The only way that the policy is going to change is through participation in this research study which will demonstrate that there’s another option,” Flynn added.

“Participating is really an opportunity for people to feel empowered, to be able to know that they are in the long run contributing to the crisis of the blood shortage in this country,”

“There’s a huge blood shortage right now,” added the center’s director of research Risa Flynn. “If you’re a gay or bi man who is confronted by that, how frustrating it is to be told on the one hand, ‘This is a dire situation,’ and to be told at the same time, ‘Sorry, you can’t help.’”

The center is one of eight LGBT centers nationwide recruiting gay and bisexual men for the ADVANCE (Assessing Donor Variability and New Concepts in Eligibility) study, funded through a contract with the FDA. The study was launched by three of the nation’s largest blood centers -- Vitalant, OneBlood and the American Red Cross.

“We’re hopeful the FDA will reverse its homophobia policies and allow gay and bisexual men to donate blood in the same way they allow heterosexual individuals to donate blood, irrespective of the number of sexual partners or the frequency in which they’ve had sex,” added Hollendoner, former CEO of San Francisco AIDS Foundation. “We know that blood donations can be properly screened for any diseases and that should continue to be a consistent practice. But gay men and bisexual men should not be excluded because they are perceived as being at increased risk.”

Nearly four decades ago when the ban was put into place, there was little science on the mechanisms of HIV transmission, and the AIDS epidemic was concentrated in the gay community. The complete ban was lifted in December 2015, but in April 2020, the policy was revised to require that gay and bisexual men abstain from sex for one year prior to donating blood. The one-year of abstinence from sex has since been reduced to three months.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, all donated blood products are tested for HIV and other pathogens such as the hepatitis C virus to ensure they do not enter the blood supply. The ADVANCE study is looking at eliminating the three-month-time period in favor of having an extended questionnaire for potential donors to assess risk behavior.

“The current policy continues to perpetuate the stigma and shame as it relates to gay and bisexual men and certainly doesn’t take into consideration the significant evolution of HIV prevention and care over the last 40 years,” Hollendoner said.

Participants in the study will have a blood sample drawn for HIV testing and will answer questions to determine individual HIV risk factors. The study will assess if the questions related to behavior are effective in distinguishing gay and bisexual men who have recently tested positive for HIV from those who have not. Its findings will help determine the next steps needed to modify the donor history questionnaire. Data from the ADVANCE study will then be submitted to the FDA, which will review and decide next steps.

The study has been extended by the FDA through July 2022 in order to meet enrollment goals of 2,000 men nationwide, with 250–300 from the Los Angeles area. For information and to enroll, visit advancestudy.org.

Volunteers help beautify Hollywood

Volunteers from the World Mission Society Church of God in Hollywood held a community cleanup and beautification event on Jan. 23 in the Melrose Hill neighborhoods.

Prior to the event, volunteers gathered at the Lemon Grove Recreation Center and received a certificate of recognition from the office of Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District. The cleanup occurred along streets between Santa Monica Boulevard and Melrose Avenue, and Oxford and Normandie avenues.

Volunteers concentrated on areas around the Hollywood (101) Freeway where large amounts of trash had accumulated and filled a 900-cubic-foot dumpster provided by L.A. Sanitation.

The goal of the cleanup was to share community cohesiveness in the midst of the latest wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The volunteers hoped to inspire others to take pride in their neighborhoods and continue working to beautify the city.

The World Mission Society Church of God is located at 1528 N. Vermont Ave. For information, visit lwaocc.com.

Volunteers concentrated on removing trash and debris around the Hollywood (101) Freeway.
Remembering Kobe and Gigi

Wednesday, Jan. 26, marked the two-year anniversary of the passing of NBA legend Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gigi, who died in a helicopter crash in Calabasas while on their way to a basketball tournament at the Bryant’s Mamba Sports Academy. Seven other people were also killed: John and Keri Altobelli, and their daughter, Alyssa Altobelli; Sarah Chester and her daughter, Payton Chester; Christina Mauser; and pilot Ara Zobayan.

Bryant, who played 20 seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers, and Gigi, 13, a rising female basketball star, were remembered throughout the city with murals in the weeks after the helicopter crash. Two murals honoring Bryant are located in the 6500 block of Melrose Avenue.

City receives federal funds for L.A. River restoration

Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti applauded $28 million in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the L.A. River Ecosystem Restoration project. The funding will enable habitat restoration near the Arroyo Seco confluence and the Taylor Yard site.

“The L.A. River is one of Los Angeles’ crown jewels – a foundational piece of our city’s story. Now, it’s on us to make it shine for ourselves and future generations,” Garcetti said. “This $28 million investment by our federal partners – their largest to date in the river – caps off nearly a decade of progress and investment in our bold vision of the L.A. River’s future. I am deeply grateful to our Los Angeles Congressional delegation, as well as the Biden administration, for this funding, and I look forward to seeing the transformation continue as a lifelong Angeles.”

The L.A. River Ecosystem Restoration project will restore 11 miles of the L.A. River from Griffith Park to downtown Los Angeles. It will restore hundreds of acres for multiple plant and animal species and provide access to natural areas and trails for historically disadvantaged communities. The city estimates the plan will generate 14,200 construction jobs and 2,670 permanent jobs.

For information, visit lamayor.org.

Ronald McDonald House Charities names first Latina CEO for SoCal chapter

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California announced that Fatima Djelmane Rodriguez will become the charity’s new CEO. With more than 16 years as a leader in the nonprofit sector, and a longtime steward to her community, Rodriguez brings proven leadership skills to her new role, a spokesperson said.

As CEO, Rodriguez will continue to lead her chapter with significant growth, expanding its impact through programs in Southern California. She previously served as executive director of Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times, where she furthered the program’s mission of building healthier lives for children with cancer and their families.

“I’m committed to ensuring RMHSC is a leader in supporting critically ill and injured children and their families with compassion, cultural competency, integrity and innovation,” Rodriguez said. “With more than 60% of our families coming from communities of color, as a Latina, I’m proud to represent the majority of children and families who rely on our houses, family rooms and Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Rodriguez helped implement Camp at Home, a virtual program that continued to serve children and families. The program received recognition for its innovation in a time of crisis by Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Rodriguez has also expanded the program’s branding and social media presence.

“We are thrilled to congratulate Fatima on her well-earned promotion to CEO of RMHSC,” said Doug Kanner, chair of the board of directors for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California. “We have worked with Fatima for many years developing and growing the camp and we are so proud of everything she has achieved on behalf of the program.”

Ronald McDonald House Charities names first Latina CEO for SoCal chapter

Fatima Djelmane Rodriguez will become the first Latina CEO of the Southern California chapter of Ronald McDonald House Charities.

ORDER NOW FOR Valentine’s Day

BLooms

BY

Emily

Call (818)359-8239

for appt. and orders

831 Foothill Blvd., La Canada

bloomobyemilylilgco.com • emilylilgco.com

photo by Edwin Folven

photo courtesy of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California

photo by Edwin Folven

Ronald McDonald House Charities names first Latina CEO for SoCal chapter
The American Lung Association released its 20th annual State of Tobacco Control report on Jan. 25, indicating there has been significant progress in ending tobacco use, but challenges remain regarding e-cigarettes and flavored tobacco products.

The State of Tobacco Control report evaluates state and federal policymakers on actions taken to eliminate tobacco use, the nation’s leading cause of preventable death. The report recommends proven and effective tobacco control laws and policies to save lives. The 2022 State of Tobacco Control reveals that the country has made substantial progress in advancing tobacco control policies over the past 20 years, including comprehensive smoke-free laws in more states, increased tobacco taxes and more access to treatments to help people quit smoking.

The report noted that California has passed legislative policies to reduce and prevent tobacco use, including e-cigarettes. However, more work needs to be done, said Erica Costa, advocacy director for the American Lung Association in California. The statewide smoking rate is 8.9%, and the high school tobacco use rate is 12.7%.

“While we have seen considerable progress in California, tobacco use remains our leading cause of preventable death and disease, taking an estimated 39,950 lives each year,” Costa said. “Our progress on tobacco control policy has not been equal. We continue to see the unequal burden of tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke in communities experiencing disparities.”

This year’s report noted the need for California lawmakers to focus on ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes. According to the 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey, more than two million high school middle school students use e-cigarettes, and over 80% of those kids use flavored e-cigarettes. In addition, menthol cigarettes continue to be the major cause of tobacco-related death and disease in Black communities. Ending the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol, will not only help end youth vaping, but will also help address the disproportionate impact of menthol cigarettes and flavored cigarettes on many communities, including Black Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans and youth, Costa added.

“Kids follow the flavors, so ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products in California is key to ending youth tobacco use,” she said. “We call on legislators in Sacramento to prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol, across California.”

For information and to read the report, visit lung.org.

The American Lung Association’s annual report evaluates state and federal tobacco control policies. The report examines tobacco use and control policies in all 50 states, and ranks each state on a scale from 1 to 100. The report highlights key achievements and areas for improvement, including

- Progress in California, tobacco use reductions in more states, increased tobacco taxes and more access to treatments to help people quit smoking.
- More work ahead, with challenges remaining in regulating e-cigarettes and flavored tobacco products.
- Menthol cigarettes and flavored products continue to disproportionately impact minority communities.
- Comprehensive smoke-free laws in more states, increased tobacco taxes.
- Continued progress on tobacco control policy.

Los Angeles City Council President Pro Tempore Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, launched an electronic newsletter series on Jan. 20 called “Greener L.A. Updates” to better inform residents about critical work to protect the environment, including a landmark effort to achieve 100% carbon-free energy in Los Angeles by 2035. “The climate crisis is front of mind for many of us, and I want Angelenos to be fully informed of the groundbreaking work the city of Los Angeles is doing to protect the environment,” O’Farrell said. “The city is well on its way to a fully sustainable future, and the path is being charted in our environment committee. These times demand from us urgency, ambition and accountability, and we are committed to delivering.”

“Greener L.A. Updates” will be electronically published on a regular basis following meetings of the council’s Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice and Los Angeles River Committee, led by O’Farrell. The committee develops environmental policy and initiatives for the city of Los Angeles and also oversees city agencies including the Department of Water and Power and L.A. Sanitation. Under O’Farrell’s leadership, the committee has moved forward on major environmental policies including the LA100 plan to achieve 100% carbon-free energy by 2035, a building energy decarbonization plan to install solar power and solar storage on municipal facilities, a master plan for electric vehicles in the city and an ordinance regulating environmentally harmful foodware accessories.

For information and the committee’s meeting schedule, visit clerk.lacity.org/calendar. To read the first “Greener L.A. Update,” visit bit.ly/GreenerLAwelcome, and to bit.ly/GreenerLAupdates.

Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department is accepting applications through Feb. 7 for the Comeback Checks Programs, which will provide $25 million in grants for small businesses.

The EWDD is processing applications as quickly as possible and finalists will be notified 10 business days after the close of the program. The city of Los Angeles allocated American Rescue Plan Act funds to provide grants to eligible microenterprises and small businesses in need of economic support due to business interruptions or business closures suffered as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Comeback Checks Program will provide up to $5,000 grants to approximately 5,000 businesses in Los Angeles. Grant recipients will be selected through a lottery, with final award recommendations based on the availability of funds, program guidelines, submission of all required information and support documentation. Grant funds may only be used for costs incurred on or after March 3, 2021.

The city has partnered with the Community Reinvestment Fund to assist with implementation of the program. Correspondence regarding this program, including award notices, will be issued by CRF. It is the responsibility of applicants to respond to requests for information and documentation in a timely manner. EWDD’s nine BusinessSource Centers are available to assist prospective applicants.

For information and to apply, visit ewdd.lacity.org/index.php/recovery/comeback.
Uncle Louie’s Meat Balls

$6.98 per lb.
Polla Asada
$4.98 per lb

with this ad • exp. 2/2/2022

6333 W. Third St.
In The Original Farmers Market
323.938.5131
marcondas.com

National Croissant Day at Pitchoun
Treat yourself to hand-crafted plain, chocolate and almond croissants at the French bakery, Pitchoun, on Jan. 30 in celebration of National Croissant Day. Beginning Feb. 2, Pitchoun is also offering pretty rose croissants to celebrate Valentine’s Day. The bakery fills plain croissants with rose water-infused pastry cream and partially dips them in pink chocolate. 8500 Beverly Blvd., #103. (323)381-5328.

New Pasta Corner at the Farmers Market
Last Friday, the new Pasta Corner held a grand opening with co-founder Vincent Benoliel at the Original Farmers Market and welcomed Julie Bardos, from the French Consulate, along with French singer-songwriter Matt Pokora and his wife Christina Milian. Festivities included cooking classes and a pasta ribbon-cutting ceremony. Pasta Corner offers homemade pasta made by hand and with a state-of-the-art pasta machine, and specialties such as black ink squid tagliatelle, spaghetti alla bolognese and lumache Marsala chicken. 6333 W. Third St., Ste. 510. (323)787-4444, pastacornerla.com.

Breadblok gluten-free croissants
Dine on the outdoor patio designed with Breadblok’s famous California-meets-South of France aesthetic and enjoy seasonal favorites including vegan apple tartlets, quiche Lorraine, honey baked squash and carrot salad. To celebrate National Croissant Day on Jan. 30, enjoy Breadblok’s croissants, which are gluten-free, gum-free, soy-free and free of refined sugars and additives. They come in four delicious flavors including traditional, pain au chocolat made with housemade chocolate, almond and prosciutto gruyere. The croissants are $6.60-$8.50. Breadblok has restaurants in Santa Monica and Silver Lake. Visit Breadblok Silver Lake Monday, Jan. 31, take a photograph and post it using hashtag BreadblokSilverLake for a chance to win a $50 gift card. Also during January, Breadblok Silver Lake is offering free delivery when customers order with Toast, UberEats, Postmates and DoorDash. 1511 Montana Ave., (310)857-8576.

Lunar New Year at Merois
Celebrate the Year of the Tiger with a special dinner featuring a five-course menu on Friday, Feb. 4, at Wolfgang Puck’s Merois at The Pendry. Diners can choose Peking duck, Maine lobster noodle and crispy fried fish. Other delights include sheng jian bao dumplings, Santa Barbara spot prawns, kung pao green beans, oolong tea and fortune cookies. A DJ will spin tunes, dragon dancers will perform and guests can receive special give-aways. The dinner is $160 per person, with specialty cocktails offered at an additional cost. Tickets are pre-sold only and non-refundable. 8430 Sunset Blvd., (323)918-3410, sevenrooms.com/experiences/meroistwesthollywood.

Vito Restaurant specialty cocktails
In February, the old-school Italian restaurant in Santa Monica is serving three specialty cocktails with a Valentine’s Day theme. The Miss Valentine is made with Belvedere vodka, while the Little Kiss is crafted with Prosecco and the Bitter Hearts Know Better is made with gin. Owned by the Naples-born Somma family, their classic, home-cooked Southern Italian cuisine includes Spaghetti Della Casa with chopped shrimp and flamed cognac sauce, and pollo alla Vito with prosciutto, fresh broccoli, mozzarella cheese and sherry wine sauce. The Caesar salad is made tableside and dressed specially to customers’ tastes. Be sure to finish with tiramisù. 2807 Ocean Park Blvd., (310)450-4999.

Mude drinks
The wellness beverage Mude, by the Naked Collective, is a sparkling drink that supports the immune system and helps refresh your mood. Each of the all-natural plant-based ingredients help people focus, rest, relax, energize and protect immune health, the company says. They are vegan, gluten-free.
non-GMO and certified carbon neutral, and have less than 6 grams of sugar and 40 calories per can. Mude is available at Erewhon, Lassens and other retail stores. Each $12 pack is $30. 7660 Beverly Blvd. Ste. A, (323) 937-0777.

Milk Bar’s Valentine’s Day treats

Bringing home a red velvet cheesecake featuring layers of double chocolate red velvet cake and frosting from Milk Bar. Also available are red velvet cheesecake truffles filled with chocolate cake, chocolate chips, cream cheese and red velvet crumbs with a delicate chocolate shell. For a limited time, Milk Bar is making fudge frosting from Milk Bar. Also available are dark, milk and white chocolate squares in three flavors. The iconic Milk Bar is making fudge frosting in dark, milk and white chocolate as well. For Valentine’s Day, pick up a box packed with six favorite milk squares with a cornflake crunch. For Valentine’s Day, pick up a box packed with six favorite cookies. Milk Bar offers in-store pickup, delivery and online sales at milkbarstore.com. 7150 Melrose Ave., (213) 841-8423.

Good Eggs delivers to your door

The San Francisco online marketplace Good Eggs is launching in Los Angeles on Feb. 1. Good Eggs’ same-day delivery brings organic and sustainably-produced items directly to residents’ doorsteps. Select peaches from the Masumoto Family Farm, small-batch dried and fresh pasta from Semolina Artisanal Pasta, strawberries from Harry’s Berries, cakes from Sweet Laurel, and cookies by Sweet Laurel, and meal kits and prepared foods. Celebrate the upcoming Lunar New Year with a variety of available products, like soba noodles, organic tofu and shiitake mushrooms. goodeggs.com/home.

John Kelly Chocolates new ruby hearts

John Kelly Chocolates’ new custom solid ruby hearts are made with 100% ruby chocolate, which is another type of chocolate in addition to dark, milk and white chocolate. Ruby chocolate offers a burst of fresh, tangy berry notes, and its eye-catching ruby hue is reminiscent of white chocolate mixed with raspberries and strawberries. The hearts come in round boxes with six pieces and can be tied with a fuchsia ribbon in honor of Valentine’s Day. John Kelly Chocolate shops are located in Beverly Hills, Hollywood and Santa Monica. 9523 S. Santa Monica Blvd., (310) 734-7228; 1508 N. Sierra Bonita Ave., (323) 851-3277; 1111 ½ Montana Ave., (310) 899-0900.

Cabra Los Angeles opens

Chef Stephanie Izard’s Peruvian-inspired restaurant Cabra Los Angeles at The Hoxton in downtown, serves colorful and experimental craft cocktails including classic pisco sours and frozen pisco fever with vodka and guava. Chef Izard prepares empanadas, classic Peruvian chicken, steak, pork and fresh seafood dishes. Enjoy panoramic views of the downtown Los Angeles skyline from the rooftop restaurant. Opposite the dining room, the sunny bar and patio offers lounge seating and greenery. Cabra Los Angeles opens daily at 4 p.m. Lunch and brunch will debut in the coming months. 1060 S. Broadway, (213) 725-5900.

Sweatfin in the United States. The two fast-casual poke restaurants plan to open 80 new locations in the U.S. and Europe in 2022, and corporate-owned restaurants over the next three years throughout the U.S. 5112 Sunset Blvd., (323) 600-6210; 8075 W. Third St., #100, (323) 934-7701; 135 N. Larchmont Blvd., (323) 945-6040.
POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Jan. 14 and Jan. 22. The information was compiled from crimemapping.co. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)443-4467, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8800, and the Beverly Hills Police Department, (310)456-4901.

Beverly Hills Police Department

Jan. 15
At 2:15 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 100 block of S. Crescent.
At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Bedford.
An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9400 block of Olympic at 5:19 p.m.
Jan. 16
At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Beverly.
Jan. 17
At 6:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9600 block of Wilshire.
Jan. 18
An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 400 block of S. Roxbury at 12:15 p.m.
At 1:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed commercial burglary in the 300 block of Beverly.
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. Re rode at 7 p.m.
Jan. 19
At 6:06 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Beverly.
An unknown suspect burglarized a burglary in the 9100 block of Wilshire at 5:12 p.m.
At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.
Jan. 20
At 3 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. Hamilton.
A vandalism incident was reported in the 8700 block of Wilshire at 12:02 p.m.
At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect stole auto parts in the 150 block of S. Bedford.
An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 500 block of N. Palm at 8:30 p.m.
Jan. 21
At 1:31 a.m., a suspect was arrest ed on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near the corner of Santa Monica and Rodeo.
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 102 block of N. La Cienega at 1:54 a.m.
At 6:05 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

Los Angeles Police Department

Jan. 14
At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. La Brea.
An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1100 block of N. Fairfax at 4:20 p.m.
At 7:15 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 100 block of Kings.
Jan. 15
At 11:20 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9500 block of Wilshire.
West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

Jan. 16
At noon, an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 500 block of N. Huntley.
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 12:05 a.m.
At 11:13 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.
An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson at midnight.
At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8200 block of Sunset.
Jan. 17
At 1:20 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.
An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.
An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1400 block of N. Fairfax at 8 a.m.
At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8600 block of Hollywood.
An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 600 block of N. Westbourne at 9 p.m.
Jan. 18
A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident near the corner of Fountain and Vista at 12:15 p.m.
At 12:17 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8400 block of Fountain.
Jan. 19
At 12:52 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.
Jan. 20
At 5:46 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.
An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the 8600 block of Santa Monica at 11:05 a.m.
At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1000 block of Havenhurst.
Jan. 21
At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. West Knoll.
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of Santa Monica at 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 22
At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. La Brea.
An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1100 block of N. Fairfax at 4:20 p.m.
At 7:15 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 100 block of Kings.
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of N. Stanley at 12:01 a.m.
At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 700 block of N. La Cienega.
A assault assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1500 block of Vine at 7 a.m.
At 7:25 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6500 block of Sunset.
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of N. Plymouth at 10:50 a.m.
At 1:10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1000 block of N. Highland.
At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6500 block of Hollywood.
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1500 block of Vine at 5 p.m.
At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8400 block of Beverly.
An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1400 block of N. Fairfax at 8 a.m.
At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1400 block of Vine at 6:10 p.m.
At 8:15 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 6200 block of Sunset.
An unknown suspect steal ed a vehicle parked in the 100 block of Gordon at 8:30 p.m.
Jan. 15
At 12:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of S. Robertson.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6900 block of Franklin at 2 a.m.
At 3 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of Vine between 11:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.
An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1100 block of Meadowbrook at 10 a.m.
At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 800 block of N. Laurel.
An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Vermont and Sunset at 4:30 p.m.
At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8500 block of Beverly.
An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Seward at 8:15 p.m.
At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Sunset and Wilton.
An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Waring and Sycamore at 9:35 p.m.
An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1600 block of N. La Cienega.
Jan. 16
At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Plymouth.
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Orange Grove at 5 p.m.
At 6:35 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1400 block of N. Loma.
An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1300 block of N. Fuller at 8 p.m.
At 8:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Fountain and Gower.

Stephen W. Kramer
8558 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 205
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(323)964-7109

National Healthcare

National, state and commu nit y organizations are leading a massive effort to highlight the importance of Advance Health Care Directives (AHCD) in California, the growing impor tance of every adult having an Advance Health Care Directives, (AHCD) has been addressed by the Secretary of State who has established a state-wide AHCD Registry. Should you become injured, ill, or otherwise unable to speak for yourself, your healthcare provider or legal represen tative may request infor mation from the state wide-reg istry regarding your healthcare.

In an AHCD, you designate an individual whom you desire to carry out your wishes regarding hospital, your care, support staff, treatment, and end-of-life issues if you become unable to speak for yourself. Healthcare providers must follow your Agent’s instructions. The significance of having an AHCD cannot be overstated. Privacy laws and liability issues have made it increasingly diffi cult for doctors and hospitals to discuss medical matters with family members – even a spouse or parent? Consequently, without an AHCD, it is impossible for hospital administrators to determine your care.
Fritzi Coop spreads its wings to tacos and margaritas at El Granjero

El Granjero Cantina is L.A.’s newest most colorful cantina featuring a top-notch culinary team delivering a delectably delicious, fun and fresh take on authentic Mexican cuisine influenced by Southern California farmers market ingredients. With its lively, bright and inviting indoor-outdoor seating and great patio for people watching, El Granjero is located in the former Ulysses Voyage space on the Market Plaza at The Original Farmers Market.

El Granjero Cantina founder and owner John Moshay has a deep connection to the cultural traditions of Mexico. Moshay, also Co-Owner of Fritzi Coop at the Farmers Market with Fritzi Coop partner, chef and owner Neal Frazier, sought out Executive Chef Jenni Sklar (Lucques, Sqirl, Son of a Gun, and Whos Nelly Catering) to create El Granjero Cantina’s modern Mexican menu and oversee the kitchen. Sklar’s ingredient driven menu embraces regional Mexican flavors using seasonal and fresh ingredients sourced at a la carte and a la carte menu. The Valentine’s menu feature Ossetra caviar and ahi tuna ribbons. The above toasted egg yolk and caviar is a favorite from Jean-Georges regular menu.

El Granjero Cantina also offers select beer, wine, house-made Sangria, and non-alcoholic beverages such as El Granjero’s horchata and freshly bottled aguas frescas. El Granjero Cantina is open every Sunday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Happy Hour “All Day” every Monday and Tuesday, and every Wednesday through Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Call the cantina at (323)879-9324 or visit CantinaLA.com.
Exhibit examines relationship between music and art

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art presents "Artists Inspired by Music: Interscope Reimagined," an exhibition that revisits groundbreaking music through visual art.

Artists often cite music as a source of inspiration, capturing the sonic experience through color and form or translating musical innovations into their own practices. In the exhibition, a diverse, intergenerational group of contemporary visual artists participate in a creative dialogue with musical artists who responded to, sang along to, or were featured on albums released by Interscope Records over the last three decades with works of their own in a range of media. The exhibition, which runs from Jan. 30 to Feb. 13, will present over 50 artworks by 46 visual artists. A major work of the works are newly commissioned pieces and will be presented for the first time to the public.

Featured visual artists include Cecily Brown, Lauren Halsey, Kehinde Wiley, Takashi Murakami and Ed Ruscha. Musicians include Dr. Dre, Billie Eilish, Kendrick Lamar, Nine Inch Nails and Lady Gaga.

"Artists Inspired by Music" celebrates a dialogue between two different art forms across three decades of production," said Staci Steinberger, LACMA’s curator of decorative arts and design. "The show provides a fresh perspective on influential albums and songs from its catalogue and fosters exchanges with musicians to generate resonant pairings. The team worked closely with LACMA associate curator John Janick, vice chairman Steve Berman and music executive Josh Abraham revisited the label’s history of groundbreaking music through the lens of visual art, an idea that was sparked by label partner Justin Lubliner.

The installation focuses on creative pairings, visually reflecting on a history of musical innovation and powerful performances across genres. In some cases, multiple artists responded to the same musician, offering different interpretations of their work through the years. Following the conclusion of the exhibition, the artworks will be used on reissues of the record albums.

"Artists Inspired by Music: Interscope Reimagined" is an extension of a series of LACMA exhibitions and programs celebrating the relationship between art and music. The show provides a fresh perspective on influential albums and songs from its catalogue and fosters exchanges with musicians to generate resonant pairings. The team worked closely with LACMA associate curator John Janick, vice chairman Steve Berman and music executive Josh Abraham revisited the label’s history of groundbreaking music through the lens of visual art, an idea that was sparked by label partner Justin Lubliner.

Holocaust Museum presents award-winning documentary

Holocaust Museum L.A. presents a panel discussion about the award-winning documentary “Determined: The Story of Holocaust Survivor Avraham Perlmutter” on Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 11 a.m. The film is the extraordinary story of Holocaust survivor and Hollywood L.A. speaker Avraham Perlmutter and was directed by his daughter, Keren. Among other accolades, the film won the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 2020 San Diego International Jewish Film Festival and won Best Orchestration from a Documentary at the Garden State Film Festival.

Perlmutter was 10 years old when the Nazis arrived in his hometown of Vienna, Austria. Hoping to keep him safe, his parents sent Perlmutter to the Netherlands, but German forces were not far behind. Over the course of the war, he braved harrowing experiences, including being shot, tortured and starved. The full screening of the film will feature "Determined" director Keren Perlmutter, composer Steven Chesne and descendants of Peter and Gertrude Beijers, who hid Perlmutter for over a year in the Netherlands.

"Determined" will be available to screen in advance from Jan. 31 to Feb. 5 via a link that will be provided upon registration.

For information and to register, visit holocaustausma.org/event-details/determined-virtual-screening-and-q-a.

Pantages hosts blood drive and vaccine clinic, offers a chance to see ‘Hamilton’

In preparation for the return of performances of the musical "Hamilton" on Feb. 9, the Hollywood Pantages Theatre will host a special week of events dedicated to promoting community health and safety.

The theater will host a blood drive in partnership with the American Red Cross, and a vaccination and booster clinic in partnership with 986 Pharmacy. The events will take place in the grand lobby of the Hollywood Pantages Theatre. Additionally, the theater will accept donations to help support the Hollywood Food Coalition all week.

On Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the American Red Cross will hold a drive that will be open to the public. All who donate blood will be given a redeemable voucher for two tickets to see "Hamilton" on Feb. 9 or Feb. 10. Tickets will be provided based on availability and may be located anywhere in the theater.

On Jan. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., vaccinations and boosters against COVID-19 will be given to eligible participants. Participants ages 5-11 may receive their first or second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, and those ages 12 and older may receive a first, second or booster dose of either Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. First doses and boosters of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine will also be available for those 12 and older.

Individuals under the age of 18 must have consent from a parent or guardian to receive a vaccination or booster shot. Vaccines and boosters are free and available to everyone regardless of insurance, immigration status and residency.

All who attend the vaccine clinic will receive a chance to win a pair of VIP tickets to see "Hamilton" at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre on Feb. 9 or Feb. 10.

In partnership with the Hollywood Food Coalition, the Pantages will hold a food drive on Jan. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., to provide needed supplies for the coalition’s nationally supported Community Dinner for anyone in need of a hot, nutritious meal. The public is specifically asked to donate elbow macaroni pasta, penne pasta, olive oil and canned tomato products. Items can be dropped off at a donation box outside of the theater’s box office. All who donate food will receive a chance to win a pair of VIP tickets to see "Hamilton" on Feb. 9 or Feb. 10.

The Hollywood Pantages Theatre is located at 6233 Hollywood Blvd. For information, visit broadwayhollywood.com/communityweek.

Kehinde Wiley’s “The Watcher” is one of many pieces that will be showcased at LACMA’s new installation celebrating art and music.

---

Photo via Courtesy of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Has isolation morphed me, or is the new ‘Hotel Transylvania’ film OK?

Almost two years ago, we all received the official request to stay at home. Film and television production went into hiatus, and crumbs of quality like “Tiger King” elevated too far beyond flavor of the year.

Thanks to the variant’s tedious sequel, tests have run dry while positive results are frequently missed. That ain’t the only sentinel infecting my mind as that cursed virus works its way out of my system (two years, I almost made it two years).

With my newfound isolation, even more so than before, there’s been a lot of desperate ploys to entertain younglings. Cue the latest Amazon Prime entry, “Hotel Transylvania: Transformania.” It’s got everything: monsters without scary imagery and a host of familiar voices peppering the airwaves.

After viewing this film every day since its premiere for near two weeks, I can’t say it’s bad. Clearly, I don’t mind watching it over and over and over, the kiddos too. I’m completely aware most critics trashed it to the same tune as the previous three installments.

But the whole crew of vamps, a werewolf, mummy, various reanimated corpses, blob and a couple muggles sure know how to mesmerize my kids, make them jump for glee, laugh at silly gags. Maybe it’s my kids, maybe it’s the virus, but some things top good art.

Since the pandemic began, I can’t help but view most if not all media through that wretched lens. Old episodes of beloved shows ring false since characters encounter the world at large within 6 feet of each sans mask. “Transformania” includes no masks, but I read the present into this children’s film.

The pair even experience a dose of reality when they take a flight …

“It’s like the filmmakers are warning everyone: don’t get on a plane or something monstrous might be seated in 13C.”

Dracula (Brian Hull) is on the verge of passing ownership of his monster hotel to daughter Mavis (Selena Gomez) and her human husband Jonathan (Andy Samberg). Alas, he gets cold feet and lies to Jon, saying only monsters can run the shop. This prompts Jon to find a magical fix: he becomes a monster with the help of former monster hunter Van Helsing (Jim Gaffigan). Then comes a host of shenanigans that render Dracula and his pals human, hence the film title.

The father and son-in-law now need to find a magical item to change back before Jon’s transformation invites some unsavory changes in behavior.

How can I not see the pandemic in that story. With a zap of green light or a drink from the wrong cup, folks’ lives are turned upside down. To avoid causing a racket, the band of monsters attempts to hide from Drac and Jon head off into isolation from the entire world …

In the meantime, I’m sure this one will be done playing in my house by the time you read this. Hopefully, the postal service will drop off our four free tests so I can test negative and discover sunshine again, and the leave pixelated in their own form of social distancing while Drac and Jon head off into isolation from the entire world …

Since the pandemic began, I can’t help but view most if not all media through that wretched lens. Old episodes of beloved shows ring false since characters encounter the world at large within 6 feet of each sans mask. “Transformania” includes no masks, but I read the present into this children’s film.

I know more about this movie than anyone should. What makes it worse is, I’ve accepted that this film is my fate. I truly have no complaints (at least regarding this film and not other realities beyond that screen). It’s fun. Samberg and Gomez are delightful people. And voice actor Hull does his best impression of Adam Sandler’s Dracula.

But I’m disturbed by what this newfound enjoyment of something so fleeting means. Do my opinions still have merit? I’m not sure. Maybe it’s the isolation or that virus getting the best of me.

Producer Barili interviews Academy members John Leguizamo, Eva Longoria and Edward James Olmos in the series.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has launched “Seen,” a new interview series that follows Argentinean-American journalist, director, writer and producer Nick Barili as he conducts one-on-one conversations with influential artists and filmmakers with Latin-American and Spanish roots. In the first season, Academy members John Leguizamo, Eva Longoria and Edward James Olmos share their personal journeys, exploring how their crafts and culture play a role in breaking down barriers in filmmaking.

The series kicks off in Leguizamo’s New York home, where the actor, writer, director and producer talks about his journey from troublemaker to trailblazer. He discusses maneuvering through the industry over his decades-long career, how he’s confronted stereotypical casting and the underrepresentation of Latinx communities in front of and behind the camera. The conversation covers tokenism, colonialism and what’s left for him to accomplish.

In the series’ upcoming installments, Barili joins Olmos on the Jan. 31 episode for a visit with students in the Youth Cinema Project program at Los Angeles County’s Bell Gardens Intermediate School and meets with Longoria in the Research, but the sign of parenting changes in behavior.

A new interview series by Nick Barili examines what it’s like to be Latinx in Hollywood.

Feb. 7 episode for a tour of California State University, Northridge, from which she received a master’s degree in Chicano Studies in 2013.

A first-generation immigrant and advocate for more Latinx representation, Barili co-founded the Latinx in Media & Arts Coalition, which focuses on promoting Latinx creative, increasing access to traditional and new media platforms, providing resources and opportunities to youth and cultivating the next generation of Latinx entertainment and creative professionals.

Academy series focuses on Latinx artists and filmmakers

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has launched “Seen,” a new interview series that follows Argentinean-American journalist, director, writer and producer Nick Barili as he conducts one-on-one conversations with influential artists and filmmakers with Latin-American and Spanish roots. In the first season, Academy members John Leguizamo, Eva Longoria and Edward James Olmos share their personal journeys, exploring how their crafts and culture play a role in breaking down barriers in filmmaking.

The series kicks off in Leguizamo’s New York home, where the actor, writer, director and producer talks about his journey from troublemaker to trailblazer. He discusses maneuvering through the industry over his decades-long career, how he’s confronted stereotypical casting and the underrepresentation of Latinx communities in front of and behind the camera. The conversation covers tokenism, colonialism and what’s left for him to accomplish.

In the series’ upcoming installments, Barili joins Olmos on the Jan. 31 episode for a visit with students in the Youth Cinema Project program at Los Angeles County’s Bell Gardens Intermediate School and meets with Longoria in the Research, but the sign of parenting changes in behavior.

A new interview series by Nick Barili examines what it’s like to be Latinx in Hollywood.

Feb. 7 episode for a tour of California State University, Northridge, from which she received a master’s degree in Chicano Studies in 2013.

A first-generation immigrant and advocate for more Latinx representation, Barili co-founded the Latinx in Media & Arts Coalition, which focuses on promoting Latinx creative, increasing access to traditional and new media platforms, providing resources and opportunities to youth and cultivating the next generation of Latinx entertainment and creative professionals.

Barili is also the founder of Hard Knock TV, YouTube’s first hip-hop channel, which has garnered more than 285,000 subscribers. Over the course of his career, Barili has interviewed over 300 artists, hosted a show on Apple Music’s Beats 1 and spoken on and moderated industry panels for YouTube, SXSX, Google, Hispanicize, Full Color Future and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

All episodes of “Seen” can be viewed on the Academy’s YouTube channel at youtube.com/oscars.

Academy series focuses on Latinx artists and filmmakers

On Screen

Producer Barili interviews Academy members John Leguizamo, Eva Longoria and Edward James Olmos in the series.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has launched “Seen,” a new interview series that follows Argentinean-American journalist, director, writer and producer Nick Barili as he conducts one-on-one conversations with influential artists and filmmakers with Latin-American and Spanish roots. In the first season, Academy members John Leguizamo, Eva Longoria and Edward James Olmos share their personal journeys, exploring how their crafts and culture play a role in breaking down barriers in filmmaking.

The series kicks off in Leguizamo’s New York home, where the actor, writer, director and producer talks about his journey from troublemaker to trailblazer. He discusses maneuvering through the industry over his decades-long career, how he’s confronted stereotypical casting and the underrepresentation of Latinx communities in front of and behind the camera. The conversation covers tokenism, colonialism and what’s left for him to accomplish.

In the series’ upcoming installments, Barili joins Olmos on the Jan. 31 episode for a visit with students in the Youth Cinema Project program at Los Angeles County’s Bell Gardens Intermediate School and meets with Longoria in the Research, but the sign of parenting changes in behavior.

A new interview series by Nick Barili examines what it’s like to be Latinx in Hollywood.

Feb. 7 episode for a tour of California State University, Northridge, from which she received a master’s degree in Chicano Studies in 2013.

A first-generation immigrant and advocate for more Latinx representation, Barili co-founded the Latinx in Media & Arts Coalition, which focuses on promoting Latinx creative, increasing access to traditional and new media platforms, providing resources and opportunities to youth and cultivating the next generation of Latinx entertainment and creative professionals.

Barili is also the founder of Hard Knock TV, YouTube’s first hip-hop channel, which has garnered more than 285,000 subscribers. Over the course of his career, Barili has interviewed over 300 artists, hosted a show on Apple Music’s Beats 1 and spoken on and moderated industry panels for YouTube, SXSX, Google, Hispanicize, Full Color Future and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

All episodes of “Seen” can be viewed on the Academy’s YouTube channel at youtube.com/oscars.

Academy series focuses on Latinx artists and filmmakers

On Screen

Producer Barili interviews Academy members John Leguizamo, Eva Longoria and Edward James Olmos in the series.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has launched “Seen,” a new interview series that follows Argentinean-American journalist, director, writer and producer Nick Barili as he conducts one-on-one conversations with influential artists and filmmakers with Latin-American and Spanish roots. In the first season, Academy members John Leguizamo, Eva Longoria and Edward James Olmos share their personal journeys, exploring how their crafts and culture play a role in breaking down barriers in filmmaking.

The series kicks off in Leguizamo’s New York home, where the actor, writer, director and producer talks about his journey from troublemaker to trailblazer. He discusses maneuvering through the industry over his decades-long career, how he’s confronted stereotypical casting and the underrepresentation of Latinx communities in front of and behind the camera. The conversation covers tokenism, colonialism and what’s left for him to accomplish.

In the series’ upcoming installments, Barili joins Olmos on the Jan. 31 episode for a visit with students in the Youth Cinema Project program at Los Angeles County’s Bell Gardens Intermediate School and meets with Longoria in the Research, but the sign of parenting changes in behavior.

A new interview series by Nick Barili examines what it’s like to be Latinx in Hollywood.

Feb. 7 episode for a tour of California State University, Northridge, from which she received a master’s degree in Chicano Studies in 2013.

A first-generation immigrant and advocate for more Latinx representation, Barili co-founded the Latinx in Media & Arts Coalition, which focuses on promoting Latinx creative, increasing access to traditional and new media platforms, providing resources and opportunities to youth and cultivating the next generation of Latinx entertainment and creative professionals.

Barili is also the founder of Hard Knock TV, YouTube’s first hip-hop channel, which has garnered more than 285,000 subscribers. Over the course of his career, Barili has interviewed over 300 artists, hosted a show on Apple Music’s Beats 1 and spoken on and moderated industry panels for YouTube, SXSX, Google, Hispanicize, Full Color Future and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

All episodes of “Seen” can be viewed on the Academy’s YouTube channel at youtube.com/oscars.
District celebrates Black History Month

The Los Angeles Unified School Board unanimously approved a resolution on Jan. 25 recognizing February as National Black History Month, and celebrating the central role of Black Americans throughout U.S. history. Board Member George McKenna authored the resolution, which was sponsored by all other members of the board.

“The pandemic has been especially hard on young Angelenos, who face so many disruptions to their lives and schooling,” Garcia said. “With the Student 2 Student Success program, we’re making sure younger students get the extra support they need, and providing older students to tutor younger students is a step toward alleviating that learning loss while giving them a sneak peek at life as an educator." Garcia said Angeleno Corps has made youth development a priority. Last summer, he launched Earn, Learn, Play, an online platform that connects young Angelenos with hundreds of city and county recreational, educational and paid internship programs.

“The Los Angeles Unified School Board considers ideas for adressing climate change

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education introduced the Climate Literacy resolution during its Jan. 25 board meeting. The resolution aims to enact a comprehensive Climate Education Program for LAUSD, which will help resolve the escalating climate crisis.

Board members Scott Schmerelson, George McKenna and Jackie Goldberg co-sponsored the resolution, which is scheduled for a vote at the Feb. 8 board meeting. The resolution originated from the Climate Curriculum Committee, which is affiliated with the Los Angeles chapter of former Vice President Al Gore's Climate Reality Project.

"The introduction of the resolution was an excellent first step," Committee chair Lucy Garcia said. “Passing the resolution at the board meeting on Feb. 8 will allow Los Angeles to join the growing ranks that have already passed important measures to adopt critical climate education in schools, like Berkeley, Oakland, Santa Clara County and New Jersey have done.”

The ultimate goal of the resolution is to establish funding for staffing and training that will allow teachers and students to develop a better understanding about the climate crisis and the skills required to address the issue. The district also wants students to be better prepared to enter industries addressing the climate crisis. The program improves education in schools by integrating climate learning and climate justice into all subject matter from preschool to 12th grade.

Formed in April 2021 by Garcia, a retired LAUSD science teacher, the Climate Curriculum Committee includes students, community members, climate communication specialists, teachers and educators. For information, visit laclimatereality.org.

LAUSD board considers ideas for addressing climate change

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education introduced the Climate Literacy resolution during its Jan. 25 board meeting. The resolution aims to enact a comprehensive Climate Education Program for LAUSD, which will help resolve the escalating climate crisis.

Board members Scott Schmerelson, George McKenna and Jackie Goldberg co-sponsored the resolution, which is scheduled for a vote at the Feb. 8 board meeting. The resolution originated from the Climate Curriculum Committee, which is affiliated with the Los Angeles chapter of former Vice President Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project.

“The introduction of the resolution was an excellent first step,” Committee chair Lucy Garcia said. “Passing the resolution at the board meeting on Feb. 8 will allow Los Angeles to join the growing ranks that have already passed important measures to adopt critical climate education in schools, like Berkeley, Oakland, Santa Clara County and New Jersey have done.”

The ultimate goal of the resolution is to establish funding for staffing and training that will allow teachers and students to develop a better understanding about the climate crisis and the skills required to address the issue. The district also wants students to be better prepared to enter industries addressing the climate crisis. The program improves education in schools by integrating climate learning and climate justice into all subject matter from preschool to 12th grade.

Formed in April 2021 by Garcia, a retired LAUSD science teacher, the Climate Curriculum Committee includes students, community members, climate communication specialists, teachers and educators. For information, visit laclimatereality.org.

Program launches to help students succeed

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Jan. 24 launched the Student 2 Student Success program to compensate and provide training for young residents who tutor their siblings or school-aged relatives living in their households.

“The pandemic has been especially hard on young Angelenos, who face so many disruptions to their lives and schooling,” Garcetti said. “With the Student 2 Student Success program, we’re making sure younger students get the extra support they need, and providing older students to tutor younger students is a step toward alleviating that learning loss while giving them a sneak peek at life as an educator.”

Garcetti said Angeleno Corps has made youth development a priority. Last summer, he launched Earn, Learn, Play, an online platform that connects young Angelenos with hundreds of city and county recreational, educational and paid internship programs.

“The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education introduced the Climate Literacy resolution during its Jan. 25 board meeting. The resolution aims to enact a comprehensive Climate Education Program for LAUSD, which will help resolve the escalating climate crisis.

Board members Scott Schmerelson, George McKenna and Jackie Goldberg co-sponsored the resolution, which is scheduled for a vote at the Feb. 8 board meeting. The resolution originated from the Climate Curriculum Committee, which is affiliated with the Los Angeles chapter of former Vice President Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project.

“The introduction of the resolution was an excellent first step,” Committee chair Lucy Garcia said. “Passing the resolution at the board meeting on Feb. 8 will allow Los Angeles to join the growing ranks that have already passed important measures to adopt critical climate education in schools, like Berkeley, Oakland, Santa Clara County and New Jersey have done.”

The ultimate goal of the resolution is to establish funding for staffing and training that will allow teachers and students to develop a better understanding about the climate crisis and the skills required to address the issue. The district also wants students to be better prepared to enter industries addressing the climate crisis. The program improves education in schools by integrating climate learning and climate justice into all subject matter from preschool to 12th grade.

Formed in April 2021 by Garcia, a retired LAUSD science teacher, the Climate Curriculum Committee includes students, community members, climate communication specialists, teachers and educators. For information, visit laclimatereality.org.

Program launches to help students succeed

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Jan. 24 launched the Student 2 Student Success program to compensate and provide training for young residents who tutor their siblings or school-aged relatives living in their households.

“The pandemic has been especially hard on young Angelenos, who face so many disruptions to their lives and schooling,” Garcetti said. “With the Student 2 Student Success program, we’re making sure younger students get the extra support they need, and providing older students to tutor younger students is a step toward alleviating that learning loss while giving them a sneak peek at life as an educator.”

Garcetti said Angeleno Corps has made youth development a priority. Last summer, he launched Earn, Learn, Play, an online platform that connects young Angelenos with hundreds of city and county recreational, educational and paid internship programs.

“The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education introduced the Climate Literacy resolution during its Jan. 25 board meeting. The resolution aims to enact a comprehensive Climate Education Program for LAUSD, which will help resolve the escalating climate crisis.

Board members Scott Schmerelson, George McKenna and Jackie Goldberg co-sponsored the resolution, which is scheduled for a vote at the Feb. 8 board meeting. The resolution originated from the Climate Curriculum Committee, which is affiliated with the Los Angeles chapter of former Vice President Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project.

“The introduction of the resolution was an excellent first step,” Committee chair Lucy Garcia said. “Passing the resolution at the board meeting on Feb. 8 will allow Los Angeles to join the growing ranks that have already passed important measures to adopt critical climate education in schools, like Berkeley, Oakland, Santa Clara County and New Jersey have done.”

The ultimate goal of the resolution is to establish funding for staffing and training that will allow teachers and students to develop a better understanding about the climate crisis and the skills required to address the issue. The district also wants students to be better prepared to enter industries addressing the climate crisis. The program improves education in schools by integrating climate learning and climate justice into all subject matter from preschool to 12th grade.

Formed in April 2021 by Garcia, a retired LAUSD science teacher, the Climate Curriculum Committee includes students, community members, climate communication specialists, teachers and educators. For information, visit laclimatereality.org.

Program launches to help students succeed

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Jan. 24 launched the Student 2 Student Success program to compensate and provide training for young residents who tutor their siblings or school-aged relatives living in their households.

“The pandemic has been especially hard on young Angelenos, who face so many disruptions to their lives and schooling,” Garcetti said. “With the Student 2 Student Success program, we’re making sure younger students get the extra support they need, and providing older students to tutor younger students is a step toward alleviating that learning loss while giving them a sneak peek at life as an educator.”

Garcetti said Angeleno Corps has made youth development a priority. Last summer, he launched Earn, Learn, Play, an online platform that connects young Angelenos with hundreds of city and county recreational, educational and paid internship programs.

“The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education introduced the Climate Literacy resolution during its Jan. 25 board meeting. The resolution aims to enact a comprehensive Climate Education Program for LAUSD, which will help resolve the escalating climate crisis.

Board members Scott Schmerelson, George McKenna and Jackie Goldberg co-sponsored the resolution, which is scheduled for a vote at the Feb. 8 board meeting. The resolution originated from the Climate Curriculum Committee, which is affiliated with the Los Angeles chapter of former Vice President Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project.

“The introduction of the resolution was an excellent first step,” Committee chair Lucy Garcia said. “Passing the resolution at the board meeting on Feb. 8 will allow Los Angeles to join the growing ranks that have already passed important measures to adopt critical climate education in schools, like Berkeley, Oakland, Santa Clara County and New Jersey have done.”

The ultimate goal of the resolution is to establish funding for staffing and training that will allow teachers and students to develop a better understanding about the climate crisis and the skills required to address the issue. The district also wants students to be better prepared to enter industries addressing the climate crisis. The program improves education in schools by integrating climate learning and climate justice into all subject matter from preschool to 12th grade.

Formed in April 2021 by Garcia, a retired LAUSD science teacher, the Climate Curriculum Committee includes students, community members, climate communication specialists, teachers and educators. For information, visit laclimatereality.org.

Program launches to help students succeed

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Jan. 24 launched the Student 2 Student Success program to compensate and provide training for young residents who tutor their siblings or school-aged relatives living in their households.

“The pandemic has been especially hard on young Angelenos, who face so many disruptions to their lives and schooling,” Garcetti said. “With the Student 2 Student Success program, we’re making sure younger students get the extra support they need, and providing older students to tutor younger students is a step toward alleviating that learning loss while giving them a sneak peek at life as an educator.”

Garcetti said Angeleno Corps has made youth development a priority. Last summer, he launched Earn, Learn, Play, an online platform that connects young Angelenos with hundreds of city and county recreational, educational and paid internship programs.

“The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education introduced the Climate Literacy resolution during its Jan. 25 board meeting. The resolution aims to enact a comprehensive Climate Education Program for LAUSD, which will help resolve the escalating climate crisis.

Board members Scott Schmerelson, George McKenna and Jackie Goldberg co-sponsored the resolution, which is scheduled for a vote at the Feb. 8 board meeting. The resolution originated from the Climate Curriculum Committee, which is affiliated with the Los Angeles chapter of former Vice President Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project.

“The introduction of the resolution was an excellent first step,” Committee chair Lucy Garcia said. “Passing the resolution at the board meeting on Feb. 8 will allow Los Angeles to join the growing ranks that have already passed important measures to adopt critical climate education in schools, like Berkeley, Oakland, Santa Clara County and New Jersey have done.”

The ultimate goal of the resolution is to establish funding for staffing and training that will allow teachers and students to develop a better understanding about the climate crisis and the skills required to address the issue. The district also wants students to be better prepared to enter industries addressing the climate crisis. The program improves education in schools by integrating climate learning and climate justice into all subject matter from preschool to 12th grade.

Formed in April 2021 by Garcia, a retired LAUSD science teacher, the Climate Curriculum Committee includes students, community members, climate communication specialists, teachers and educators. For information, visit laclimatereality.org.
Prolific film editors honored for contributions

American Cinema Editors announced on Jan. 25 that film editors Lilian E. Benson and Richard Chew will receive career achievement awards for their outstanding contributions to film editing at the 72nd annual ACE Eddie Awards on March 5 at the ACE Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

“Lillian and Richard are rock star editors and represent the very best of our craft and profession,” ACE president Kevin Tent said. “Not only have they incredibly successful, prolific careers, but they’ve given back to our community in many ways, not the least of which by mentoring the next generation of editors. We are thrilled to honor these two special editors and their back at their amazing careers.”

As the first woman of color invited to join American Cinema Editors more than 30 years ago, Benson has been an integral part of the organization and its growth. She has served on its board of directors for over two decades and has been instrumental in helping ACE expand and diversify its reach.

“An Emmy Award nominee for the PBS documentary series “Eyes on the Prize,” which chronicled the civil rights movement from 1952-1985, Benson has worked on “Chicago Med” for the past six seasons. Her career has included projects such as “Beyond the Steps: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater,” “Motown: 40: The Music is Forever,” “A Century of Living,” “Conscience and the Constitution,” “Smothered: The Censorship Smorgasbord of the Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour,” “Cra


Center Theatre Group presents compelling new play

Center Theatre Group has announced casting for the West Coast premiere of playwright Jeremy O. Harris’ new work “Slave Play” running from Feb. 9-March 13 at the Mark Taper Forum.

Two-time NAACP and Obie Award winner Robert O’Hara returns to direct “Slave Play,” which earned a record 12 Tony nominations – the most for any play in the history of the awards. O’Hara received Center Theatre Group’s inaugural Sherwood Award. The original creative team from the Broadway engagement will bring the new work to Los Angeles direct from Broadway.

The cast of “Slave Play” features Broadway company members Antoinette Crowe-Legacy, Jonathan Higginbotham, Devin Kawaoa, Chalia La Tour, Irene Sofia Lucio, Paul Alexander Nolan, Jakeem Chari La Tour, Irene Sofia Lucio, Paul Alexander Nolan, Jakeem Ch

Laferte concert postponed until June

The LA Phil has announced that singer and songwriter Mon Laferte has postponed her upcom-

ing concert on Feb. 26 at the Walt Disney Concert Hall to June 8. Mon Laferte is one of the most revered, respected and beloved musicians in Chile. Her music brings together the musical tradi-

tions of her native country and those of Mexico, where she lives, with globally-minded pop. Her lyrics address issues facing women, people of color and others impoverished in Latin America. defiantly outspoken, she’s also the winner of four Latin Grammys, including most recent-

ly Best Singer Songwriter Album, for her 2021 album “Seis.” Written in the mountains of Tepoztlan, Mexico, and inspired by Mexican singer Chavela Vargas – whose songs freely cele-
brate love between women – and by 2019 protests against human rights abuses in Chile, the album

City of West Hollywood Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood City Council will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following item:

LOCATIONS: Citywide, West Hollywood, California

REQUEST: General plan amendment to update the Housing Element of the West Hollywood General Plan, to plan for the 2021-2029 6th Housing Element Cycle, including certification of the Environmental Impact Report.

PERMIT(S): General Plan Amendment, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT(S): City of West Hollywood

TIME/PLACE OF HEARING: Teleconference Meeting Monday, February 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting will be a teleconferenced meeting (with de-
tailed instructions for participation included on the posted agenda).

ZONES: Citywide, All Zones

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: An Environmental Impact Report has been prepared and circulated in accordance with CEQA requirements. The Housing Element Update was found to have significant im-

pacts on the environment related to air quality, historical re-

sources, and construction noise that are unavoidable. Adop-
tion of a Statement of Overriding Considerations is re-

quired to approve the Housing Element update.

Notice is further provided that information regarding the proposed Housing Element update and environmental determination may be found on the City’s website www.weho.org/housingelement

City Hall is accessible by appointment only. The staff report will be available on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 on-line at www.weho.org

IF YOU CHALLENGE this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in the written correspondence delivered to the West Hollywood City Council, via the Planning & Development Services Department at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call, or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6409 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to participate in said Public Hearing to express their opinion in this matter.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE COMPUTER ACCESS AND WOULD LIKE A藥 ED COPY OF THE AGENDA AND STAFF REPORT, OR YOU NEED FURTHER INFORMATION regarding this item, contact Rachel Dimond, Senior Planner in the Planning & Development Services Department at (323) 848-6475; or via email at: rdimond@weho.org

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

We сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.
The Autry marks milestone in fundraising

The Autry Museum of the American West has announced the successful conclusion of the Challenge, Discover, Celebrate campaign, a six-year, $80-million comprehensive fundraising initiative.

The Autry will use the funds to open a new Resources Center in Burbank and further elevate the visitor experience at its Griffith Park campus. The campaign also allowed the Autry to endure challenges during the past two years.

“The Challenge, Discover, Celebrate campaign supported the Autry at an especially precarious moment in our history, enabling the museum to fulfill its mission of public access to the collections during this time of global uncertainty,” said Stephen Aron, president and CEO of the Autry at an especially precarious moment in our history, enabling the museum to fulfill its mission of public access to the collections during this time of global uncertainty,” said Stephen Aron, president and CEO of the Autry.

“The conclusion of the campaign marks an important milestone in the institution’s history, providing a solid platform upon which the Autry will further extend its mission to tell the diverse stories of the American West in the future. The Autry Museum of the American West is located at 4700 Western Heritage Way in Griffith Park. For information, visit theautry.org.

Series explores the intricacies of Japanese film

Japanese House Los Angeles, a Japanese cultural destination at 6801 Hollywood Blvd., is holding “MA in Japanese Film: In Conversation with Film Director Ryusuke Hamaguchi.”

The final webinar in the Rethinking of MA series will be held on Feb. 3-16. Award-winning filmmaker Hamaguchi, whose film “Drive My Car” is under consideration in the Best International Feature Film category for the Academy Awards – join series hosts Hitoshi Abe, of UCLA, and Ken Tadashi Oshima, of the University of Washington, in a conversation exploring the role of MA in Japanese film.

The concept of MA, which roughly translates to “negative space,” evokes a painterly sense of a gap or pause that gives new shape and meaning to the whole. This seeming paradox is a core philosophy in Japanese culture, where absence can inspire as much presence. Through the four-part Rethinking of MA series, Japan House explores how the concept of MA is applied in art, architecture and food. In the upcoming webinar, Hamaguchi shares how MA is applied in his filmmaking.

“We’re honored to close out this four-part webinar series on the subject of MA in film with a renowned director,” said Yoko Kaifu, president of Japanese House Los Angeles. Rethinking of MA has been catalyzing a host of guest speakers respected for their work in Japanese architecture, contemporary art, cuisine and film.

“MA in Japanese Film” takes place in partnership with UCLA’s Terasaki Center and xLab, and the University of Washington’s Japan Studies program, in addition to promotional partners Asia Society of Southern California and Japan America Society of Southern California. The first three Rethinking of MA webinars are currently available for online viewing.

For information, visit japanscienceum.org.
Students learn about life on the space station

How human beings can stay healthy in space. We’re developing new technologies to help us control our life support systems, like reclaming and purifying water, and that could actually be used as technology on Earth for communities who don’t have access to clean water. We’re developing new technologies that help us control the ground looks inky black from the Space Station’s Cupola – provides the ultimate scenic view. For astronauts, the most important thing you can do is find things that you’re passionate about and keep working at them. For me, I was always seeking out the best team of people to work with, because I knew I was going to push myself to the edge of my abilities and I was going to make mistakes and, in order to grow, I needed to be around people who would give me honest feedback, who would say, “I’m going to do this,” and who would teach me how to be better. My favorite thing to do on the space station is to turn off all the lights when it’s dark outside.

-NASA Astronaut

Mark Vande Hei

Massry Prize awarded during ceremony in Beverly Hills

DNA and awards were given to Prabhu, Reich and Carmel for their discoveries that have shed new light on the origins of humans and how they cope with disease. Their research is on hominins, a direct cousin of modern-day humans, and what they’ve figured out a lot more about these ancient organisms than we ever knew before.

One standout finding by the group was made by Prabhu, a German professor at the Max Institute for Evolutionary Genomics in Leipzig, Germany, who discovered a possible connection between the Neanderthal gene and modern disease. "When he started looking at the DNA of COVID-19 patients, he discovered that some segments were making people that were severely infect ed, were the same segments that he found in the early humans," Svendsen explained. "They were able to actually reconstruct DNA from the frozen bones of Neanderthals that have been sitting for 40,000 years," Svendsen said. "They managed to take that ancient DNA, relate it to the DNA of current people and by doing that, they’ve figured out a lot more about these ancient organisms than we ever knew before."

The hope for these findings is that it will lead to new ideas about how better to do research to prevent infection in patients, in correspondence with their particular bugs. The prize is notable for its association as being a stepping stone to career success. Nobel Prize winner Greg Risling Danforth Massry Prize winners have gone on to win a Nobel Prize, including 2012 Nobel Prize winner in physiology and medicine Shinya Yamanaka, 2004 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry Avram Hershko and 2013 Nobel Prize winner in physics and medicine Randy Schekman. This has led to Svendsen dubbing the award the “Nobel Prize of L.A.”

Prize winner Reich, who currently serves as a professor at the departments of genetics and human evolutionary biology at Harvard University, noted that he was "extremely honored" to be one of a spotlight on this field of research. The field, of course, has many more people than just the three, the people who received the award. Reich said, “I think it’s a recognition in many ways of the field and not just of our contribution. Beyond the prestige, the winners were granted $300,000 and an all-expense-paid, three-day trip to Los Angeles to present their findings to faculty and students at USC and UCLA before being lauded at Beverly Hills City Hall during the award ceremony and lunch at the Four Seasons.

Note: Recipient Liran Carmel was out of the country and could not be interviewed by press time.

English language learners, who represent more than 37% of the immigrant Angeleno population, and their direct experience with Language Access Services in the city of Los Angeles will require every city department to implement a plan to handle language access matters, including constituents requests for services in different languages, and how information will be disseminated to reach non-English speaking communities. The executive directive, through the directive, all depart ments must designate a liaison who will participate in a Citywide Language Access Working Group led by a language access coordinator, which also becomes a perma nent, full-time position.
Carthay neighborhoods recognized

Demand for COVID-19 testing in Los Angeles has been high during the past several weeks, as sharply rising COVID-19 case counts and positivity rates coupled with the aftermath of holiday gatherings and travel has led to an unprecedented demand for testing.

The demand has led to scams, counterfeit test sites, and setup-up fraudsters COVID-19 testing sites, some of which are requiring those seeking tests to pay a fee. A list of testing sites is available.

As a reminder, community members are encouraged to be cautious with pocket costs for a COVID-19 test or be providing their social security number. Free testing options are available, and public and private medical insurance companies are required to cover the cost of COVID-19 testing and treatment without charging any co-pays.

West Hollywood's Code Compliance Division is working in coordination with the West Hollywood Department of Health Services to combat down scam pop-up testing sites. Community members who are concerned about illegitimate testing sites may reach out to the city by calling the Code Enforcement Hotline at (323) 848-6516.

Public warned about fake COVID-19 testing sites

“It is despicable that people are taking advantage of communities during a deadly pandemic.”

-Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn

The city of West Hollywood is one of the many Los Angeles County locations where testing is available for free to anyone in L.A. County, regardless of health insurance or ability to pay. If residents are experiencing symptoms or if they may have been exposed to COVID-19, a test can be ordered by visiting lacounty.gov/coronavirus/testing. Learn more about COVID-19 testing at ph.lacounty.gov/covid19.

West Hollywood community members should first call a health care provider for a COVID-19 test. For people who cannot get a test through a healthcare provider, free testing options are available.

Los Angeles County coordinates a testing site at Plaza Mar, 3217 Santa Monica Blvd. The testing site is open each day from Tuesday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Testing is available at no cost to anyone 4 years-old or older and is available regardless of insurance or citizenship status. Testing is sponsored by The Testing Co. and is hosted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Community Advisory Council and alteration of existing historic preservation overlay zones, which prevent the demolition of buildings in the neighborhoods.

The Carthay Circle, Carthay Square and South Carthay neighborhoods were developed between 1922 and approximately 1955.

Carthay Circle was the first tract developed, extending between Wilshire Boulevard to the north, Olympic Boulevard to the south, Fair Avenue to the east and the Beverly Hills border to the west. Real estate developer Walter McCarthy, who was originally from San Diego, created the neighborhood with the idea of having homes within walking distance of amenity-like grocery stores, places for socializing along Wilshire Boulevard.

The centerpiece for the neighborhood was the Carthay Circle Theatre, which was located at 6316 San Vicente Blvd. from 1926 until 1969, when it was demolished to make way for an office building and shopping center at the Carthay Circle Theatre in 1939. The theater’s auditorium was saved and moved to the Park City, and remains a centerpiece of the community. A small replica of the former theater, now known as the Carthay Circle Park was created at the intersection McCarthy Vista and Olympic Boulevard.

The Carthay Circle, Carthay Square and South Carthay neighborhoods include open medians and park spaces, wide streets and walking paths. This was a concept of extraordinary city planning, and that people are asking people to give social security numbers.

“It is despicable that people are taking advantage of communities during a deadly pandemic.”

-Hahn said. “I am directing the county’s Department of Consumer and Business Affairs to monitor pop-up testing sites. “It is despicable that the county and shut down any sites that are defraud- ing the public. Testing is one of our most important tools during this panic and those needing assistance who will get accurate test results and we will make sure it is available,” Hahn added.

Residents can find a free, legitimate test site by visiting covid19.lacounty.gov/testing. Residents are also asking people to report fraudulent test sites by visiting bit.ly/DCCBAHelp.
Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across
1. Dog pest
5. William Wallace, e.g.
9. Maj.’s superior
14. Behind
15. Dub
16. Farsi speaker, perhaps
17. Just like you see it
18. Caen’s river
19. Baby bottom sprinkles
20. Classic children’s nursery song
23. Lawyer’s group (abbr.)
24. In the open
25. Pet songbird
29. Grps.
31. Rap doctor?
34. Like an unwatched pot
35. Virtual opinion
36. Runs out of steam
37. Sleeping beauty characters
40. DIY handicrafts site
41. “Strength, Courage and wisdom”
singer India
42. Court site, with “The”
43. Go out with
44. Old weapon
45. Lawgivers
46. Wrath
47. Steely ___, rock group
48. Children with superpowers
56. Type of bank loan
57. Professor
58. “Better Call _____”
59. Common contraction
60. Enigmas deposit
61. Little BMW
62. Adam and Eve
63. Bohemian
64. Jacket part

Down
1. Where boys will be boys
2. Sumptuous
3. Mideast potentate
4. Church recess
5. Class conscious
6. “Cheers” role
7. Hotel chain
8. Prom dancer
9. It turns red in acid
10. Characteristic
11. H.S. subject
12. Fairy tale starter
13. Sue Grafton’s “___ for Lawless”
21. Way back when
22. In hiding
25. Outdoor eateries
26. Moderate
27. Brothels
28. Light
30. When in ______
31. Cousin of Dora the Explorer
32. “Scooby,“ now
33. Curlicues
35. Schmo
36. Lentil sauce
38. Large clam
39. Beach footwear
44. Upraises
45. Protection
46. “No way!”
47. Key of Chopin’s “Minute Waltz”
48. Father
49. Corrida cries
50. Hemingway nickname
51. Taxi firm
52. Doctrines, informally
53. Precipitate
54. Kind of moth
55. Docking spot
56. Left on the farm
57. Proficient

answers on page 22
Embrace the year of vitality, strength and courage, complete with exclusive offers from your favorite brands and restaurants.

JANUARY 24 - FEBRUARY 6

BLUE RIBBON SUSHI BAR & GRILL
DAVID YURMAN • DIN TAI FUNG • LUCY ZAHRAIN & CO.
MICHAEL KORS • SUGARFINA • TIFFANY & CO.
AND MORE

AMERICANAATBRAND.COM | THEGROVELA.COM