



Sunny,
temps in the
lower 60s

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Street takeover arrests made

■ BHPD apprehends five, impounds two vehicles

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Beverly Hills Police Department officers arrested five people on Feb. 18 who were allegedly involved in a street takeover at the intersection of Canon Drive and Lomitas Avenue. Police also impounded two vehicles, BHPD Lt. Giovanni Trejo said.

A large crowd of people spontaneously showed up at approximately 11:30 p.m. and took over the intersection, Trejo said. Police estimated there were 100 cars blocking

all six points of access to the intersection and approximately 150 spectators standing in the area. The vehicles performed stunts in the intersection while people watched and filmed videos, Trejo said.

The BHPD received calls about the street takeover and converged on the scene. Most of the people involved fled when officers arrived, he added. Officers stopped and arrested five people for misdemeanor vehicle infractions related to exhibition of speed and engaging

See **BHPD** page 21



photo courtesy of the BHPD

A street takeover in which 100 cars blocked the intersection of Canon Drive and Lomitas Avenue occurred on Feb. 18.

The more Pride in L.A., the merrier

■ At least two parades planned after CSW split

BY CARLOS DE LOERA

The West Hollywood City Council on Feb. 22 approved event production company JJLA's bid to produce a Pride parade on June 5, during the city's Pride Weekend.

An additional \$800,000 will be allocated from the city's general fund to help host the event.

This year's parade will mark the first official WeHo Pride parade after the city cut ties with Christopher Street West, the nonprofit that produces L.A. Pride, in 2020. West Hollywood had hosted the L.A. Pride parade since 1979.

Earlier this week, CSW announced the return of the L.A. Pride parade, scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 12, in Hollywood, where the parade originated in 1970. A full schedule of activities and the parade route and time have yet to be announced.

"L.A. Pride is thrilled to come together this year to commemorate the historic anniversary at the parade's first and original loca-



photo by Jon Viscott/City of West Hollywood

West Hollywood will host its inaugural WeHo Pride parade on June 5.

tion," Gerald Garth, vice president of CSW programs and initiatives, said in a statement. "As a mission-driven and community-centered nonprofit organization, CSW recognizes that LGBTQ+ experiences of Los Angeles are broader than just one neighborhood. Considering feedback gathered since the pandemic began, we are committed to creating experiences and access to our entire community, including many of those who have been most underserved and

underrepresented."

Garth spoke on the perceived conflict between the two Pride parades, given their proximity and previous history.

"L.A. Pride is produced by a nonprofit organization by and for the wider Los Angeles community," Garth said. "If a municipality wants to celebrate Pride Month with their own for-profit producer and host their own local celebration, then we applaud them."

See **Pride** page 21

Jeff Hyland was a 'true visionary' in Beverly Hills

■ Hilton & Hyland president dies at the age of 75

BY AARON BLEVINS

Beverly Hills real estate legend Jeff Hyland died on Feb. 16 at the age of 75 after a year-long battle with cancer. Services were held Feb. 18, and a public memorial could be held in the coming weeks.

Hyland was the president of Hilton & Hyland, a luxury real estate firm in Beverly Hills. He co-founded the company in 1993 with Rick Hilton, and it continues to see success, having reported an annual sales volume of \$3.5 billion in 2020.

The Los Angeles native authored "The Legendary Estates of Beverly Hills" and immersed himself in the Beverly Hills community. He was previously honored with The Will Rogers Real Estate Lifetime Achievement Award by the city.

"He loved Beverly Hills," Vice

Mayor Lili Bosse said. "He loved Beverly Hills' history. He really valued the integrity of Beverly Hills and had an understanding and a value for Beverly Hills' past. And, [he] was somebody who really stood side-by-side with you, making sure that Beverly Hills moved into the future without losing the integrity and beauty of what Beverly Hills stands for."

She said Hyland was a "true visionary."

"I think he's somebody who really helped shape Beverly Hills into being what we are now – both in terms of his value of real estate and what we love about Beverly Hills, which is a sense of community," Bosse added. "He was very much involved with the community and made Beverly Hills feel like an extended family. He was a very, very special human being. He's exactly why we choose to live in Beverly Hills, [because] people like him. He really, in my opinion, exemplified everything that we love

See **Hyland** page 22

WeHo council approves 'roofie' test strips

BY RANCE COLLINS

For the last few months, the city of West Hollywood has made nightlife safety a top priority. On Feb. 22, the West Hollywood City Council approved a measure that aims to address the growing concern about patrons being "roofied" by allocating funds to distribute test strips that detect spiked drinks to bars and nightclubs.

According to a West Hollywood staff report, "in tandem with the distribution efforts, the city [would] develop educational materials regarding test strips to distribute to community members and business establishments and post through the city's communication channels."

The potential impact of the measure became clear during public comment.

"As someone who has survived being drugged and assaulted at a club in Hollywood years ago, if someone in that bar had given me a card strip where I could have literally taken a straw and doused and tested for GHB or ketamine in my drink, I would have not drank it and I would have not been assaulted," Keely Field, co-chair of the



photo by Aaron Blevins

Test strips to detect spiked drinks will be distributed to bars and nightclubs in West Hollywood.

West Hollywood Women's Advisory Board, said.

She also pointed out the practicality of how the measure can not only prevent sexual assault but catch criminals in the act.

"It will be a deterrent to these perpetrators who are easily able to drug patrons in the bars and the clubs," Field added. "It is a deterrent because it will be openly available. This will save lives, and also this is physical evidence that a

crime has occurred. Then you can have a time stamp, go look at the security footage in the club or bar and find the perpetrator."

Mayor Pro Tempore Sepi Shyne said that Field came up with the idea and took it to the city's Safety Nightlife subcommittee, where it garnered support.

"I too am a survivor," Shyne said. "I know how difficult it is to talk about, so just know that you are

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photo by Edwin Folven

A Bridge Home shelter that opened in Hollywood in 2019 provides temporary housing and services for people experiencing homeless .

Council OKs motion seeking details about county services

The Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved a motion on Feb. 22 authored by Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, that aims to improve the delivery of critically-needed health and housing services at homeless shelters and interim housing sites in the Los Angeles.

“The city of Los Angeles relies entirely on the county-managed network to provide the most vulnerable Angelenos with critically needed services, including resources related to mental health and substance abuse,” O’Farrell said. “It is quite clear that, at least in my district, the people who need mental health and addiction disorder treatment are not getting those services at all. I demand answers as to why that is the case. We need to do better. I want to thank my colleagues on the Homelessness and Poverty Committee for moving forward so

quickly on this initiative.”

O’Farrell’s motion was seconded by Councilman Kevin de León, 14th District, chair of the council’s Homelessness and Poverty Committee, which unanimously approved the motion on Feb. 10 before it was sent to the full City Council. The motion calls for a review of the efficacy of service delivery to all homeless shelters and interim housing sites, including A Bridge Home, Tiny Home Village and Safe Parking locations, as well as all congregate and non-congregate shelters.

The city of Los Angeles does not have a health department and relies exclusively on Los Angeles County for public health services, including those related to mental health and substance abuse. In October 2020, the City Council adopted a motion by O’Farrell, also seconded by de León, which instructed a review of the city/county public health contract dating to 1964. The review confirmed that there is no clear method for the city to evaluate if the county’s service delivery is effective.

“The city of Los Angeles has reached a turning point where we are creating effective short and long-term housing solutions for the homelessness crisis,” de León said. “But unless we substantively address the ineffectiveness of the county’s ability to deliver desperately needed mental health services and substance abuse treatment, we will continue to have thousands of people living on our streets experiencing insufferable conditions.”

For information, visit cd13.com.

Melrose Action holds vaccination clinic on Feb. 24

Melrose Action is holding a vaccination clinic on Thursday, Feb. 24, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Poinsettia Park. Members of the public can make reservations or walk up and receive vaccinations. The clinic is being held in conjunction with the office of Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Fulgent Genetics and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. All vaccines and booster shots are available, as well as flu shots from Cedars-Sinai and COVID-19 testing.

To register to receive any of the vaccines from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., visit vaccine.fulgentgenetics.com/vaccination?siteid=FSS-STE000478.

Trans Can Work webinar

Join the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and Trans Can Work for the TGI (Trans, Gender Diverse and Intersex) Trifecta, featuring information on workforce inclusion, on Thursday, Feb. 24, from 2-4 p.m. The webinar offers training for companies, resume workshops for TGI-identifying individuals and a networking event including potential recruitment opportunities. RSVP required. eventbrite.com/e/tgi-trifecta-event-for-companies-tgi-workplace-inclusion-101-registration-257371413827.

Art discussion

The Fowler Museum is holding “A Global Destination for Art: Patrick Martinez and Carolina A. Miranda,” an online art discussion on Thursday, Feb. 24, from 4-5 p.m. As a complement to the exhibition “How Do You See This World?: The Art of Almighty God,” contemporary artist Martinez will discuss his work with Miranda, an arts and urban design columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Admission is free but reservations are required. eventbrite.com/e/artist-talk-patrick-martinez-and-carolina-a-miranda-tickets-227265436037.

‘This Joint Is Jumpin’

Maybin Hewes’ new revue “This Joint Is Jumpin’” runs from Saturday, Feb. 26, through Sunday, March 6, at Theatre West. Hewes, 91, has enjoyed a long career in show business as a singer and dancer. She will join Anna Gagliardo, Nicole Gianuca, Arlene Parness, Mitchell Roché, Lauren Sullivan and Sydney Swearengin in the show, which includes dancing, singing, music and comedy sketches. Showtimes are 7 p.m. on Feb. 26 and March 5; 2 p.m. on Feb. 27 and March 6. Tickets are \$35. 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West. (323)851-7977, theatrewest.org.

‘Fidelio’

The Broad Stage and Heartbeat Opera presents “Fidelio” on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m., and

CALENDAR

Sunday, Feb. 27, at 4 p.m. The production features music by Beethoven and original libretto by Joseph Sonnleithner and Georg Friedrich Sonnleithner. In Heartbeat Opera’s adaptation, Leonore is Leah, a young Black woman, and her husband Florestan is Stan, a Black Lives Matter activist who has been wrongfully incarcerated by a white supremacist prison warden. Leah dreams that she becomes Lee, a female prison guard who attempts to rescue Stan from death in prison. Tickets are \$45. 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. (310)434-3200, thebroadstage.org.



‘On the Other Hand, We’re Happy’

Rogue Machine is hosting the American premiere of Daf James’ “On the Other Hand, We’re Happy” running from Saturday, Feb. 26, through Sunday, April 17, at the Matrix Theatre. Award winning Welsh playwright James has crafted a story around a young couple’s dreams of adopting. When an unforeseen turn of events upends their goals, plans must be adjusted. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Monday; 3 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$45. 7657 Melrose Ave. (855)585-5185, roguemachinetheatre.net.

Art exhibit

Building Bridges Art Exchange is holding a solo exhibition titled “Promising Skies” by artist Walter Erra Hubert from Saturday, Feb. 26, through Wednesday, March 30, at Bergamot Station Arts Center in Santa Monica. Hubert is an internationally-recognized artist who creates acrylic paintings, mono prints, works in resin and mixed media pieces. Hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; noon to 6 p.m., Saturday. 2525 Michigan Ave., Unit F2. buildingbridgesartexchange.org.

Writing webinar

Aspiring authors won’t want to miss

an Independent Writers of Southern California webinar titled “Romance & Women’s Literature: Tips for Writing for the Biggest Markets in Fiction Today” on Monday, Feb. 28, from 7-9 p.m., via Zoom. Best-selling writer and author Ina Hillebrandt will lead a panel of authors in a discussion on composing romance books. Admission is free for IOWSC members; \$15 for non-members. Reservations required. iwosc.org.

Piano Spheres

Classical music lovers are invited to join Piano Spheres for “Vicki Ray-Frozen Improvisations,” a performance on Tuesday, March 1, from 8-10 p.m. in Zipper Hall at the Colburn School. The recital explores Stravinsky’s famous quotation, “All composition is frozen improvisation.” It includes works by Schnittke, Poulenc, Bartok, Smith, Budd, Herman/Shaffer, Deyoe, Kagel, Ligeti and Taylor. Tickets are \$25. 200 S. Grand Ave. (323)226-0326, pianospheres.org.



‘The Batman’

Cinelounge Sunset will show “The Batman” continuously from Thursday, March 3, at 5 p.m., through Sunday, March 6, at 8:30 p.m. Based on characters created by Bob Kane and Bill Finger, “The Batman” stars Robert Pattinson, Zoe Kravitz, Paul Dano, Colin Farrell, Jeffrey Wright and Andy Serkis. In his second year of fighting crime, Batman uncovers corruption in Gotham City that connects to his own family, while facing a serial killer known as the Riddler. From Monday, March 7, through Thursday, March 24, the film will be shown during regular showtimes in an extended run. See schedule for dates and showtimes. Tickets are \$14.50. 6464 Sunset Blvd. (323)924-1644, cinelounge-hollywood.com.



O’Farrell delivers State of Hollywood address

Los Angeles City Council President Pro Tem Mitch O’Farrell, 13th Council District, will deliver his ninth State of Hollywood address on Thursday, Feb. 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Taglyan Center, 1210 Vine St. The luncheon will be presented by Variety.

“This is the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce’s first premiere in-per-

son event since early 2020,” said Nicole Mihalka, chair of the Hollywood Chamber’s board. “Hollywood is on the road to recovery, and we look forward to hearing what lies ahead for CD13.”

The outdoor reception starts at 11:30 a.m., followed by a luncheon at noon. Admission is \$125 for chamber members and \$175 for nonmembers.

All guests must pre-register and no walk-up entry will be allowed.

For information and sponsorship opportunities, email Kaylee Kiecker, executive vice president of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, at kaylee@hollywoodchamber.net. Individual reservations can be made by visiting hollywoodchamber.net/events.

WeHo task force hosts ethics reform meeting

The city of West Hollywood invites community members to attend an upcoming meeting of the city’s Ethics Reform Task Force. The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, via Zoom teleconference.

The West Hollywood City Council created the city’s Ethics Reform Task Force in 2015 to develop recommendations on campaign finance, government ethics and lobbying. The task force aims to hear from community members on the topics and more to voice opinions, experiences and suggestions.

For those unable to attend the meeting, written comments may be submitted by email prior to 3 p.m. on Feb. 24 to mcrowder@weho.org. All written submissions to the task force will be public record.

The city of West Hollywood has a commitment to responding proactively to the unique needs of its diverse community, creatively finding solutions to managing its urban environment and is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the well-being of the community.

The city strives for quality in all actions in setting the highest goals

and standards. Two of the core values of the city are respect and support for people and responsiveness to the public. The city recognizes and celebrates the diversity of its community by treating all individuals with respect for their personal dignity and by providing a wide array of specialized services. To register, visit bit.ly/ERTF022422. Details, a meeting link and an agenda will be posted at weho.org/agendas or weho.org/calendar. For information, visit weho.org/city-hall/boards-commissions/committees-and-task-forces/ethics-reform-task-force.

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(323)933-5518
BEVERLYPRESS.COM

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 36036
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036

Michael Villalpando
PUBLISHER

Karen Villalpando
EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Edwin Folven
editor@beverlypress.com
EDITOR

Aaron Blevins
aaron@beverlypress.com

Carlos De Loera
carlos@beverlypress.com
REPORTERS

Lionel Ochoa
GRAPHIC ARTIST

Cameron Kiszla
Jill Weinlein,
Tim Posada,
Rebecca Villalpando,
Michael Krikorian
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

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West Hollywood approves co-living project

BY AARON BLEVINS

The West Hollywood City Council voted 4-1 on Feb. 22 to deny an appeal that challenged the city’s Planning Commission’s approval of a co-living project at the corner of Fairfax and Fountain avenues.

According to a staff report, the developers, FF1 LLC, modified the project to include 14 market-rate co-living units with a total of 79 bedrooms. Three four-bedroom units would be affordable housing.

Each bedroom would have a private bathroom, but units would share a kitchen and living, dining and laundry areas in the five-story building, the staff report states.

“This type of housing, while it is unique, I believe it will help us define policy moving forward,” Councilwoman Lindsey Horvath said. “Just as ... the chamber has indicated, it is innovative. It’s a new type of housing to serve people who are looking for this type of housing. We need multiple types of housing to meet the various housing needs that exist in our community.”

One of the main points of contention between the appellants – Jerry Ptashkin and Nick Hoogendyk – and the developers was whether the bedrooms should be defined as “single-room occupancy” units or “dwelling” units. SROs require a conditional use permit.

Attorney John B. Murdock, who was representing the appellants, thanked the council for requesting that the developers add more affordable housing to the project; however, he stressed that the project will have 79 units – not 14.

“The argument is being made – and it’s a reasonable argument – that people will have sleepover guests ... so the consequence of that would be rather than 79 adults, you could have

258 adults at any one time staying in this building,” Murdock said. “Clearly, this is not the type of use that’s contemplated by your current zoning.”

He said defining the bedrooms as SROs would require the developers to answer additional questions about the project and provide city officials with more details on its operations, such as management contracts and parking plans.

“I’m not trying to fight you,” Murdock added. “I’m trying to get you to please obey the law, so you all don’t have to waste time in court.”

Levin-Morris Architects is the project’s architectural firm. Principal Edward Levin said the appellants have no grounds for appeal, as California’s building code defines them as “dwelling units.”

“These are four-bedroom and five-bedroom dwellings,” he said. “It’s that simple.”

Several residents in the area denounced the project.

“I’m really lost in some of the conversation about what an SRO is, what an apartment is or whatever,” resident Robert Smith said. “What I do think is this whole project is so big and so dangerous that I don’t know how the conversation, how the process, could have gotten this far.”

He said the intersection is already very dangerous and crowded, and at times, it can be “absolute chaos.”

“The only benefit is to those who profit,” Smith added.

West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Genevieve Morrill voiced support for the project, which she said is not an SRO.

“Research shows that more and more of these co-living environments are accessible and actually desired,” she said.

While the majority of the council praised the affordable housing ele-

ment of the project, Mayor Lauren Meister voted against it, stating that she was not convinced by city staff’s arguments to deny the appeal.

“If I had a garage and I put a kitchen in it and I put a bathroom in it, would staff make a determination that it’s an [accessory dwelling unit] and not a garage, even if I said it was a garage because I had room to park my car? I think not,” she said. “So, why would you not make a determination that this is an SRO?”

Attempts to reach Murdock to determine if the appellants intend to file a lawsuit were unsuccessful by deadline.



rendering courtesy of Levin-Morris Architects

The West Hollywood City Council approved the co-living project at Fairfax and Fountain avenues on Feb. 22.

Weimaraners on display on Wilshire

BY RANCE COLLINS

For nearly two years, the former Barneys New York building on Wilshire has sat empty. The historic structure in the epicenter of Beverly Hills’ famed shopping district has six large, distinct store windows that have been blank and lifeless, surrounded by hustle, bustle and businesses with bright displays that make the area an elite retail destination. Thanks to the Beverly Hills Arts and Culture Commission, along with Lisa Baker, Saks Fifth Avenue and Marc Selwyn Fine Art, 9570 Wilshire Blvd. is alive again.

“A few years ago, our commission came up with Activate Empty Storefronts,” said Deborah Frank, chair of the Arts and Culture Commission. “The whole concept was to take these gorgeous empty buildings and fill them with art.”

Gallery owner Marc Selwyn worked with the commission to bring life to the former Barneys location.

“We had this dream of using this building to do some kind of public art project,” he said. “We approached Saks ... and we hit upon Lisa Baker, who has a foundation that supports the arts, and she jumped started this and made it happen.”

Baker is also on the board of Hudson’s Bay Company, which owns Saks Fifth Avenue. The company now controls the building, and Baker was instrumental in bringing all the parties together.

Selwyn tapped his friend and

longtime client, artist William Wegman, to fill the space with a large scale, multi-screen video installation, utilizing two works: “Up Down Up” (2017) and “Harmonics” (2019). Featuring Topper and Flo, sibling Weimaraners, the installation was unveiled on Feb. 16 and can be seen nightly from 5:30 p.m. to midnight through Mar. 30.

According to a press release about the installation, in “Up Down Up,” Wegman’s Weimaraners Flo and Topper turn the screen into an elevator or people-mover, mirroring the pedestrians and passing cars, occasionally connecting with a glance as they shift along. In “Harmonics,” Wegman’s mastery of transformation is on display. The viewer experiences a line of 28 perfectly synchronized dogs against a black backdrop. One moment, the dogs are a chorus line, then an undulating wave.

Wegman, a pioneer and legend in video art, was thrilled to have his work featured prominently in the city. Flo and Topper are his personal pets, and the art pieces were years in the making.

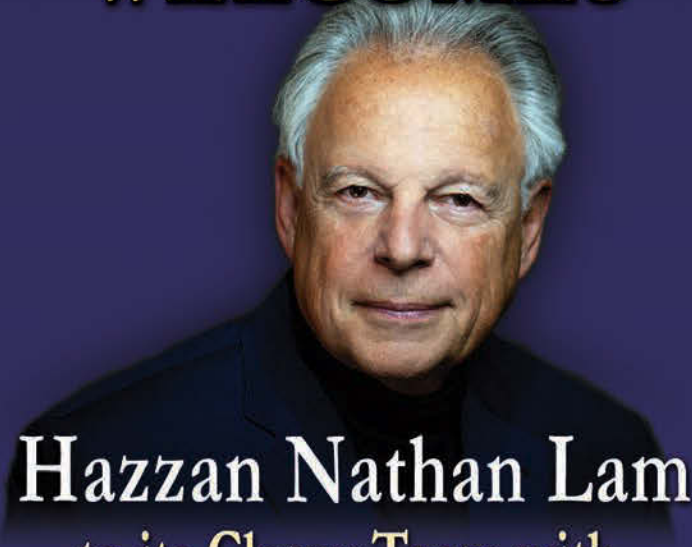
“I started working with them 10 or 11 years ago, and this is really a great place to showcase that,” Wegman said.

While he was unable to attend the opening, Selwyn enabled the artist to enjoy the event virtually by phone through FaceTime.

Saks representative Edmund


See Wegman page 22

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photo by Edwin Folven

Smoke and fire damage was evident around the roof of the home that was damaged by a fire on Feb. 21.

Firefighters extinguish blaze in vacant Hollywood home

Los Angeles Fire Department Firefighters responded to a blaze in a vacant single-family residence at 5813 W. Lexington Ave. on Feb. 21 and extinguished the flames in approximately 13 minutes. The fire was reported at 6:58 a.m. and firefighters found heavy smoke coming from the attic and roof of the two-story residence. Firefighters cut holes in the roof for ventilation. The fire appears to have started outside and extended into the interior, LAFD spokeswoman Margaret Stewart said. The residence is fenced. No injuries were reported and the cause remains under investigation.

BHPD searches for suspect in burglary at COVID testing site

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Police in Beverly Hills are investigating a burglary at approximately 3 a.m. on Feb. 23 at a COVID-19 testing site at 9900 Santa Monica Blvd.

Lt. Giovanni Trejo said the Beverly Hills Police Department received notification of a burglar alarm being activated at the site and officers were dispatched to the location. Nobody was found in the building, but officers determined a burglary had occurred and a safe was missing. Trejo said there was no sign of forced entry and investigators are trying to determine how someone gained access into the building.

The testing site is operated by 911

COVID Testing, a private for-profit company that operates similar sites on Sepulveda Boulevard across from the Getty Center, in Santa Monica and near Los Angeles International Airport. The company charges a fee and provides rapid testing for travel and entry into special events. Trejo could not confirm what was inside the safe, but media reports stated it contained \$4,000-\$5,000 in cash. Representatives of 911 COVID Testing could not be reached for comment.

Trejo said the investigation is ongoing and detectives will be checking security cameras in the area in the search for suspects. Anyone with information is urged to call the BHPD at (310)285-2125.

Gunshot shatters window at West Hollywood City Hall

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station investigators are searching for a suspect who allegedly fired a gunshot at approximately 2 a.m. on Feb. 18, shattering a window at West Hollywood City Hall, located at 8300 Santa Monica Blvd.

Lt. Bill Moulder said members of the janitorial staff were inside the building, heard the window shatter and called police. Nobody was injured, Moulder added.

Detectives believe the gunshot was fired from a passing vehicle. No threats against West Hollywood City Hall or any members of city government have been logged, he added.

"Detectives are investigating

what happened and who did it," Moulder said. "There was nothing leading up to this. We don't have any information in terms of direct threats."

West Hollywood City Hall was closed when incident occurred and the window has been repaired. City Hall remained closed on Feb. 18 while the investigation continued, and reopened to the public for in-person appointments for services on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

Moulder encouraged anyone with information about the gunshot to call the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station's detective bureau at (310)855-8850. For information about appointments for services at West Hollywood City Hall, call (323)848-6400, and visit weho.org.

Suspect faces charges for sexual assaults

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 27-year-old man who police believe is homeless was arrested on Feb. 17 and charged with multiple felony counts in connection with two sexual assaults that occurred on Feb. 15 in the Melrose area and West Hollywood.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office charged Gabriel Hodges with one count of aggravated kidnapping, one count of assault to commit rape and one count of sexual assault during a residential burglary. He is being held on \$1 million bail.

Police released security camera photographs of the suspect following the assaults and the images were widely broadcast by the media. Hodges was arrested at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 17 in the 600 block of Fifth Street in downtown Los Angeles, LAPD spokeswoman Meghan Aguilar said. A citizen recognized the suspect from media reports and called police, she added.

The first incident occurred at approximately 12:30 p.m. in the 800 block of North Vista Street, followed by the second assault approximately 15-20 minutes later in the 7600 block of Hampton Avenue in West Hollywood.

Police allege Hodges approached a female victim walking alone on Vista Street, grabbed her around her



photo courtesy of the LAPD

Police released security camera photographs of the sexual assault suspect, who was taken into custody downtown on Feb. 17.

neck and forced her to walk down a driveway to a secluded area next to a house. The victim broke free, ran to the street and flagged down a good Samaritan, who drove the victim to the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, said Detective Brent Hopkins, with the Los Angeles Police Department's West Bureau Sexual Assault Detail.

During the West Hollywood assault, Hodges allegedly approached a victim outside her apartment on Hampton Avenue and pushed her inside. The victim screamed and the suspect ran out, said Lt. Bill Moulder, with the West

Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

Hopkins said law enforcement officials devoted a significant amount of resources to search for the suspect, including detectives assigned to other units and undercover officers. Hodges is being held in Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department custody pending further court proceedings.

Anyone with further information about the crimes is urged to call the LAPD's West Bureau Sexual Assault Detail at (213)473-0447, and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station's Detective Bureau at (310)855-8850.

Cause of death pending after actress' body is found

■ Authorities do not suspect foul play

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles County Office of Medical Examiner-Coroner is investigating the death of a missing actress whose body was found in a vehicle on Feb. 18 in the 7500 block of Franklin Avenue, near Runyon Canyon Park.

Authorities do not believe foul play was involved, and the case is currently considered a death investigation, said Detective Omar Franco, with the Los Angeles Police Department's Missing

Person's Unit. Franco said the victim, Lindsey Erin Pearlman, 43, was reported missing on Feb. 13 by her husband, who told police she was despondent. Patrol officers from the Hollywood Division found Pearlman's body in her parked car at approximately 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 18.

Because there was no evidence of foul play, the case was referred to the coroner's office for an inves-



photo courtesy of LAPD
Lindsey Erin Pearlman

tigation, Franco said.

The Los Angeles County Office of Medical Examiner-Coroner conducted an autopsy and the findings were inconclusive. The cause of death was deferred until further testing is completed, spokeswoman Sarah Ardalani said.

Pearlman appeared on television shows including "Empire," "General Hospital," "Chicago Justice" and "Vicious." She was last seen around noon on Feb. 13 in the 1600 block of North Mariposa Avenue in East Hollywood, police said. Anyone with information is urged to call the LAPD's Missing Person's Unit at (213)996-1800.



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Los Angeles County is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed La Brea Tar Pits Master Plan. The EIR will provide an assessment of the project’s probable environmental effects pursuant to State of California requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The County is hosting virtual public scoping meetings to provide information on the EIR process and to invite public comments.

Live interpretation will be available at both meetings in Spanish and Korean.
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Crowd dispersed outside concert at The Roxy

■ Police said 1,000 people showed up, many without tickets

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Dozens of deputies from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's West Hollywood Station were called to the 9000

block of Sunset Boulevard on Sunday night after a large crowd gathered outside The Roxy Theatre for a concert by the rapper, Yeat.

Lt. Bill Moulder said the crowd was estimated at approximately 1,000 people, many of whom did not have tickets to the concert and but showed up anyway. The staff at the Roxy called deputies around 9 p.m. when people began shoving

and trying to forcibly enter the theater. Moulder said management cancelled the concert. Deputies arrived and, with the help of a helicopter, ordered the crowd to disperse.

Videos posted on social media showed members of the crowd climbing on street poles and loitering along Sunset Boulevard near the theater. Moulder said he had viewed the videos but had no further information about any criminal activity.

“The helicopter arrived and gave the dispersal order, and they did comply,” he said. “No arrests were made. We took the additional steps necessary to make sure we had the resources we needed, and people left the area.”

Moulder said the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station has agreements in place with the Beverly Hills and Los Angeles police departments in which they share resources if extra officers are needed. That was not the case with the situation at The Roxy, he added.

Moulder added that Yeat left the

theater when the concert was cancelled. He added that authorities work closely with the management of bars and nightclubs in the city, and there was no indication the concert on Feb. 20 would be problematic.

"We're not exactly sure what happened here, but it appears to be one of those situations where they didn't expect such a large crowd," Moulder said. "We'll be following up with [The Roxy Theatre] management to determine what exactly happened and how we can avoid it happening again. Fortunately, we were able to address it effectively."



photo courtesy of The Wallis

Paul Selwyn, left, his wife Joan and son Marc Selwyn attended The Wallis' inaugural gala and were longtime supporters of the arts.

Beverly Hills community mourns Paul Selwyn

Many people are mourning the death of philanthropist, community leader and founding president of the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Paul Selwyn, who died on Feb. 17 at his home in Beverly Hills.

A stalwart figure in the Beverly Hills community for more than eight decades, Selwyn emigrated to the United States from Belgium in 1938, just before the onset of World War II. He attended school in Beverly Hills and played on the Beverly Hills High School tennis team before attending UCLA, where he was a member of the tennis and cricket teams, and the ROTC program. After graduation, he was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy and served in the Philippines.

Selwyn took a job with the Herald International in Hong Kong before returning to Beverly Hills in 1958, where he became vice president of Pauling and Company. He met his wife-to-be, Joan Gordon, in 1959. The two shared a love for philanthropy, which suffused their relationship and was reflected in the values with which they raised their son, Marc. In 1968, Selwyn became owner of Pauling and Company. He retired in 1990, but did not

slow down, merely redirecting his energies to other areas of the community.

Selwyn was a founding board member of the Los Angeles Children's Museum, where he served as president and chairman. He served on the Beverly Hills Architectural Commission from 1980-86, and was later appointed to the Beverly Hills Planning Commission, serving from 1986-94. Selwyn served as chairman of both commissions twice during his terms.

In 1996, Selwyn launched and became president of the Beverly Hills Cultural Center Foundation, which later became the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. He served on The Wallis' board of directors until 2014, and holds the title of founding president.

Selwyn is survived by his wife, Joan, son, Marc, and daughter Laura. Joan and Marc Selwyn are Wallis ambassadors and with Laura, long-time supporters who share their father's love for The Wallis, Beverly Hills and the arts. The Selwyn family was a frequent visitor to The Wallis outside his regular attendance at shows and events. For information, visit thewallis.org.

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A photograph of a mannequin wearing a blue and white checkered suit jacket over a white dress shirt and a patterned tie.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Gumbo Pot Beignet Tent
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Beverly Hills law firm is a family affair

Dordick Law Corporation in Beverly Hills has truly become a family business after founding attorney Gary Dordick brought his son, Dylan, and daughters, Michelle and Taylor, into the firm.

Dordick, a lifelong Beverly Hills resident and graduate of Beverly Hills High School, opened his law firm in 1988 and has had offices at 509 S. Beverly Drive since 1996. Attorneys Dylan, Michelle and Taylor Dordick also graduated from Beverly Hills High School and studied law at Hastings, Fordham and Loyola law schools, respectively. Dylan Dordick joined his father at the firm in 2020, followed by Michelle in 2021 and Taylor in 2022.

Dordick required his children to get experience working for other law firms before they came to work with him and said they have become a valued addition to his practice. Dordick Law Corporation, which specializes in civil litigation law and trials, has a total of 14 attorneys on staff.

“We primarily do catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases. Most of our cases are referred by other law firms in California who want us to do the litigation and trial work,” Dordick said. “We have two locations now. We have a law firm in [downtown] Los Angeles, and we have the firm in Beverly Hills. All of my kids work at the Beverly Hills office, and I divide my time between both offices.”

Dordick said the law firm has a proven track record of successfully litigating trials and cited a recent \$42.7 million judgment in a negligence lawsuit against U-Haul, and a \$72.6 million judgment in a trial involving victims injured in a fight outside the Mr. Nice Guy restaurant on La Cienega Boulevard, as examples of the firm’s successes. He said his children are involved in the day-to-day operations and oversee cases. Dordick also praised the other attorneys working for the firm for their hard work and success.

“[I tell people] we now have four lawyers named Dordick, and 10 other really good ones,” Dordick said. “They are all very good. My kids have to do the work just like everyone else, and work hard and prove themselves, just like all the other lawyers. All our clients have suffered catastrophic losses or the loss of a loved one, and they deserve lawyers who know what they are doing and work hard, and there are no exceptions to it.”

Michelle Dordick said she is “blessed” to be able to work with her family. She said she did not always consider following in her father’s footsteps, but decided to go to law school and is grateful for the opportunities it has afforded her.

“While growing up, we were very much encouraged to do our own thing, and I didn’t want to be a lawyer. As I got older, I realized



photo courtesy of Gary Dordick

Gary Dordick, right, was joined by son, Dylan, and daughters Taylor, second from left, and Michelle, at a law firm outing on Feb. 22 at Crypto.com Arena for the Professional Bull Riders series.

O’Farrell meets with Gardner Street shelter residents

Los Angeles City Council President Pro Tem Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, met with residents on Valentine’s Day at the Gardner Street A Bridge Home housing shelter for women. The shelter is one of three A Bridge Home facilities in the 13th District. With onsite services provided by the Weingart Center, the Gardner Street facility provides shelter to nearly 20 formerly unhoused women, including Sasha, who joined O’Farrell. Thanks to the center, Sasha is on a pathway to wellness, stability and permanent housing, he said.



photo courtesy of the 13th District council office

that this is the environment I was raised in. When I went to law school and tried it out, I realized it was what I wanted to do,” Michelle Dordick said. “Now, working here, there is really no bigger blessing. There is no other way to describe it. It is a blessing to be working with your family and I am loving every second of it.”

Gary Dordick mentioned that other changes are planned in the near future for the firm. He has purchased a building at 470 S. Beverly Drive and plans to move into the space by the end of the year once renovations are complete. Dordick added that he is proud of his children and happy they pursued a career in law and joined him at the firm.

“It’s really a dream come true for me. It seems like it wasn’t long ago that they were fighting over toys and candy, and they still fight, but now the nature of the fighting is different. There is a competitive aspect to it, and they teach each other and help each other as well,” he said. “People ask me how I got three of my kids to become lawyers and I tell them, ‘I let them make their own decisions.’ I am very fortunate to get to work with them in what has become the family business.”



wellness

wednesdays

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Upcoming Wellness Wednesdays Activities

• 3-16-22 at 8 am:

Harmony Fitness
(hosted by Ladan's Wellness Sanctuary)
» Roxbury Park

• 3-30-22 at 8 am:

Pickleball
» La Cienega Tennis Center

Activities subject to change; more details at beverlyhills.org/wellnesswednesdays

beverlyhills.org/wellnesswednesdays | Questions can be directed to 310-285-1014 | #BHHealthyCity



A beguiling birthday bash

BY CHRIS ERSKINE

I acknowledge certain shortcomings in my writing. The feeling I generally have when I finish a piece is, “Yeah, this confirms I should’ve been a TV weatherman. I’d let others do the science, and I would just blurt the week’s forecast too loudly to strangers over the tellie, while faking genuine excitement for the warm days ahead.”

And by Tuesday, expect the jet stream to dip down and tickle your grandchildren in the ribs. No, just kidding. That’ll be Wednesday. Please dress accordingly.

But writing? There’s no future to it. No past. Not for me.

Book tip — a mid-winter read in the dog days of February, after football ends: “The Handyman,” by Carolyn See, a wry, sexy look at the life of a young L.A. handyman whose real passion isn’t passion, it’s art. No, wait, his real passion is sex. No, wait, his real passion is

And she made a book out of that!!

People can make a book of anything, obviously. I don’t think all that much needs to happen. It just needs to happen in interesting ways.

As they say of stand-up comedy: Good writing is “complaining with charm.”

For me, charm is such an elusive thing. I excel at awkwardness, at the pregnant pause, at a hitch in the conversation during which people begin to scan the room for someone new.

But charm? Charm is something in the genes, like blue eyes or perfect teeth ... lightning fastballs or freckles across the bridge of the nose.

Those genes I don’t have, none of them, except for the blue eyes. And those are mostly just a relic of my youth.

The other night, I was at this party where a chiropractor friend (Joe) was “adjusting” all the guests – and they didn’t even know it. As Joe chatted you up, he’d put a thumb in the small of your back, or an elbow in your side and “correct” you while you sipped your martini or your margarita.

I said, “Dr. Joe, quit working the guests, take a break. But first can you do something about this shoulder?”

Obviously, Dr. Joe chose the right line of work. The Beethoven of Bones, he can’t stop tinkering with the keys.

Good parties are finally back, have you noticed? For a long time,



folks were using the pandemic as an excuse not to have parties, and everyone was secretly happy about that. Deep down, few people relish weekend parties. They are obligations – like teeth cleanings and oil changes. You do them because you should.

Yet, over time, a strange thing happened across the magic kingdom of Los Angeles, a diaphanous seaside resort known mostly for bad traffic, strip malls and tiny pink wishes (wrapped in maple bacon).

Over time, people grew to actually miss their weekend parties.

Now, some things we’ll never understand: Why isn’t Pluto a planet? What’s happened to John Cusack’s career? Why does organic peanut butter taste so bad?

But even total dolts — even broke-down Bohemian idealists like me — can understand the need for a good party now and then. It blows the carbon off our spark plugs. It burns the grease off our grill.

This party had a shrimp tower. Is there anything more life affirming than a shrimp tower? Seriously, have you ever seen a piece of architecture, or any landmark – a canyon, a geyser of any sort — that moved you as much as a really good shrimp tower?

Obviously, no.

Gazing at this shrimp tower was like ga-ga’ing over a Rembrandt ... standing there flatfooted, losing all track of time, in a dazed, neuropsychic state.

So I began to load my little appetizer plate. One shrimp, two shrimp, three shrimp, four...

The shrimp were HUUUUUUUUGE — triple jumbo, double D’s. I asked one to dance, another to marry me. Then I ate them and loaded the plate up all over again.

Five shrimp, six shrimp, seven shrimp, eight...

How quickly had my life improved? That same morning, I had been flat on my back on the bedroom floor, ready to rip off five

sit-ups, wondering why all my friends were either reporters or attorneys.

“Is that healthy, having friends like that?” I asked myself.

I just lay there motionless, unable to start my engine, unable to summon any motivation at all. A minute passed before I realized I had completely stalled out.

FYI, this always happens when football ends each February. Tax season takes over.

I had frozen up at the thought of rounding up all my tax statements.

Twelve hours later, I’m at this great birthday bash, amid women with sequin eyes (Suzanne, Susy, Dolly, Rhonda). The host, Michael, was in this ancient double-breasted blazer he got at Bullock’s, ice-cream white with brass buttons. Total gleam. Michael looked like Gatsby. Or Gavin MacLeod. Or the salad captain at Chasen’s.

Which made me think of Chasen’s famous chili. In mid-winter, virtually everything makes me think of Chasen’s famous chili.

Waiter!!

As time went on, there was dancing at this party. A young lass in a minidress did the splits and smashed a wine glass on the floor, perhaps the best party move since Belushi. The wine glass broke in a million pieces, like a schmattered chandelier.

Then Joe “corrected” a few more Chardonnay Moms, and the DJ, whose father, Terry Kath, was in Chicago (the greatest rock band of all time) added a sub beat to a hip-hop song I could never ever name.

Point is: We need to lead dual



photo by Michael Jilg

Karen Villalpando, left, and Emily Villalpando Jilg, celebrated 60 and 30 in style with family and friends on Saturday.

lives of obligation and joyfulness. Like oil and vinegar, or Lennon and McCartney, they offset each other well.

Point is (part deux): Happy birthday, Karen and Emily. Mother-daughter parties are the very best. Karen turned 60 and Emily turned 30. We celebrated all their years, all their blessings, with this beguiling bash, with shrimp towers and roving

ing chiropractors and gin dripping down the insides of our warm wrists.

Bravo. Take a bow. And please dress accordingly.

Chris Erskine is a well-known local author and columnist. For more columns and books, visit ChrisErskineLA.com.

Notable Quotes

“Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die. And it is youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow, and the triumphs that are the aftermath of war.”

Herbert Hoover
1874-1964

Speech at the Republican National Convention,
Chicago,
June 27, 1944

Herbert Hoover was the 31st President of the United States and served from 1929-1933. He earned worldwide gratitude as “The Great Humanitarian” who fed war-torn Europe during and after World War I.



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*source: Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations

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Markowitz vies for council bid

BY AARON BLEVINS

Just in Case BH founder Vera Markowitz has experienced plenty of success in her professional career, and she is hoping that will continue with her bid for one of the three open Beverly Hills City Council seats.

Mayor Robert Wunderlich and Councilmen John Mirisch and Lester Friedman are up for re-election, and Markowitz joins four other candidates looking to unseat an incumbent in the June 7 Primary Election.

“There are so many different problems in the city, and at this point, if we don’t make these problems get better, I don’t know if [the city] will ever recover,” said Markowitz, who has lived in Beverly Hills for more than 50 years.

She said the city’s water reserves, its fiber optics project and its general plan update are among the more pressing issues the city will be facing in the near future. Markowitz said the city’s fiber optics project has “all kinds of issues,” and she claims the city’s water reserves would only last three days in an emergency.

“I don’t know if people are even aware of it,” she said, adding that the city could bolster its reserves in a lot of areas – specifically in the hills – to alleviate the issue. “We haven’t utilized those areas.”

Markowitz said the general plan update is “critical,” as it will guide development in Beverly Hills for years to come. She also referenced the city’s wastewater treatment plant.

“It was closed in 2011,” she

added. “I’m not even sure it’s open yet. It’s been a fiasco. It was originally opened in 2005, and by 2011, because of mismanagement, it went down. Those kinds of things really need to be addressed.”

Markowitz has never held an elected office, but she has been involved in civic matters in Beverly Hills for several years. Prior to founding Just in Case BH, an emergency preparedness program, she spent several years advising the City Council on issues with the Beverly Hills Police Department, which was inundated with lawsuits at the time.

“Fifty of the best [police officers] left. ... The damage that was done at the time is still not recouped,” Markowitz said.

After the resignation of former Police Chief Sandra Spagnoli, Markowitz said she approached now-Vice Mayor Lili Bosse about starting an emergency preparedness program. Markowitz met with Fire Chief Greg Barton, and the concept blossomed.

“It is one of a kind,” she said. “It’s not been done anywhere in the country as to the extent that we have done it. We have a manual that’s going to be going out very shortly to every single resident, and I thank the council for supporting the program. Every single resident will get a manual telling them what to do, where to go, what services are available and, in general, what they have to do in a large emergency. ... We’re also developing a real-time app so people get information as it’s happening, as opposed to everyone calling the police department or fire depart-



photo courtesy of Vera Markowitz

Vera Markowitz

ment constantly. It’s quite close to being all formulated and ready to go.”

Markowitz said she feels confident that her civic experience and volunteerism will serve the council well.

“I have to tell you, I am one of these passionate people,” she added. “I feel that, if I make my environment better, it’s better for everyone.”

Markowitz said council members – with the exception of Bosse – have shown “an inability to govern well” in the past.

“I’m working to improve the quality of the city and city services,” she said. “There are so many different issues. The infrastructure is very archaic, and we all have to work together to update our city and make it the great city that it once was.”

Volunteers fan out to count people who are unhoused

■ Count will help determine scope of homeless crisis

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Despite some of the coldest temperatures of the year, thousands of people are canvassing neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles County through the end of Feb. 24 and counting people living on the streets during the 2022 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count.

The three-day tally of the unhoused population began on Tuesday in the San Gabriel and San Fernando Valleys, continued on Wednesday in the West Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles and South Bay communities, and will conclude Thursday night in the metro Los Angeles, South Los Angeles and Antelope Valley areas. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority executive director Heidi Marston joined Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles County supervisors Sheila Kuehl and Holly Mitchell, as well as many other officials, at a virtual press conference on Feb. 22 to launch the count.

It marked the first time since 2020 that the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count was conducted. The count was not held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The data from this year’s count will help us understand who our unhoused neighbors are, their needs and the programs we need to continue to build to support them getting rehoused,” Marston said. “Homelessness is a humanitarian crisis, and truly addressing it means that all of us need to commit to the same unprecedented coordination that we brought during the pandemic. We can do that by working together to strengthen our social safety net systems and by remaining steadfast in creating the hundreds of thousands of affordable homes necessary to meet L.A. County’s needs.”

“This is really about ... making sure nobody is left behind,” Garcetti added. “These aren’t just statistics, these are stories. Not

just numbers, but narratives, our flesh and blood and often our own families, our neighbors, people we knew that we went to school with, people who we worked with, people who are down on their luck and are in the toughest and most traumatic places.”

The homeless count is being conducted by volunteers who are driving around communities and tallying people they see living on the streets, in vehicles and encampments. To address safety concerns and COVID-19, the count is being conducted by vehicle, and volunteers have been placed together in small groups to avoid unnecessary exposure to others. LAHSA encouraged but did not require volunteers to be vaccinated.

The 2020 homeless count found that approximately 66,400 people in Los Angeles County were unhoused. Marston did not venture to estimate what LAHSA believes the number will be this year, but was hopeful it will be significantly lower based on shelters and housing being created during the past two years. Data from the 2022 count will be shared with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the numbers will be publicly released in June, Marston said.

Kuehl said the count is an important measure of the county’s success in addressing homelessness and will help gauge what more needs to be done. She said it is particularly important this year after the pandemic.

“This year’s count carries a sense of special anticipation because we haven’t been able to conduct one for the last two years. In addition, the visibility of street homelessness has brought a pervasive sense that we have lost ground,” said Kuehl, 3rd District. “I know everyone is frustrated that we haven’t found enough housing for all those who have lost theirs, but thanks to all the great homeless count volunteers, we will soon have a more accurate measure to help us. Regardless of what we discover, we will always strive to do more and do better.”



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count will help authorities determine where resources are needed to move people off the streets and into housing.

Letters to the Editor

Stop the fireworks over The Grove

Re “Caruso’s running,” Feb. 17 issue

If Rick Caruso wants my vote, he will move out of the 17th century and stop blowing off fireworks over The Grove.

The 21st century uses drone displays of lights in the sky. Silly? Not if you live within two miles of The Grove.

Why use these bombs bursting in air? They are unnecessary pollution and noise with little upside. Drawing people to stores can be accomplished in other ways.

Want to be a leader? Lead the way in celebrating 21st century-style. Enough with the fireworks.

David Reid
Hollywood

Work at Supreme store in WeHo goes beyond what was promised

Re “Renovations begin at Supreme store on Sunset,” Feb. 17 issue

Just a few weeks ago, consultant and lobbyist Aaron Green, from Afriat Consulting, had a neighborhood meeting on Zoom for our Weho Heights neighborhood. We were told it would be an hour-long meeting, [but it] turned out to be a

23-minute meeting where we were all muted and all of our construction questions were never addressed or answered and now we know why.

In this Zoom meeting, we were told mere things about the upcoming “renovation” where Supreme would be “just raising the roof a little and adding skylights” and then “just moving the window facing Sunset Boulevard a little bit over.”

But now, we see that the building has been totally gutted where all the walls have been removed. This was definitely not at all what Supreme discussed regarding the renovations with the neighborhood residents.

This way, Supreme cleverly knew without razing the building completely, they could just do an “over the counter” permit at the planning department at West Hollywood City Hall. Thus, bypassing the more formal longer process of going in front of the planning commission and City Council. Supreme knew this and made sure to avoid the risk of both city meetings, where they would have to face residents speaking for two minutes about the construction plans and impact of this scandalous sneaker drop event business. So now, Supreme has turned the Tower Records building into a mere shell of a metal frame.

Sadly, the original bricks of the store were taken away in dump trucks. I am sure many of the Tower Records fans would have loved to have one of those bricks as a memory of decades of the

most amazing music store in the world.

Jerome Cleary
West Hollywood

Better police work may have prevented senseless tragedy

Re “An outpouring of support for Brianna,” Jan. 26 issue

Last month I attended the vigil in honor of Brianna Kupfer, the 24-year-old [woman] who was stabbed to death while working alone at the Croft House furniture store on La Brea Avenue.

I live near the store and her tragedy lingers. Could we have prevented her murder?

We have since learned that the suspect, Shawn Laval Smith, was no stranger to law enforcement. He has a long rap sheet with more than a dozen charges over the past decade, including recent arrests in Daly City in 2021 and Covina in 2020. At the time of Brianna’s stabbing, Smith was out on bond from a South Carolina arrest and agreed not to leave the state.

It is maddening that Smith’s contacts with police did not sound alarms. Law enforcement should have reviewed his rap sheet and protected Brianna and our community.

Teddy Kapur
Hancock Park

Melrose Triangle Project gets approval

BY CARLOS DE LOERA

The West Hollywood Planning Commission unanimously approved new plans for the Melrose Triangle Project on Feb. 17.

Plans for the Melrose Triangle Project were originally approved by the City Council in October 2014, but had been placed on hold for years due to litigation. The developer, real estate development company Charles Company, introduced revisions to create a more resident and pedestrian-friendly destination.

The project will primarily consist of three mixed-use buildings: the Gateway Building at the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard, Melrose Avenue and Doheny Drive; the Boulevard Building located on Santa Monica Boulevard; and the Avenue Building at the intersection of Melrose Avenue and Almont Drive. The buildings will house residential units, office spaces and retail stores.

Differences in the newly approved project include an increase from 76 residential units to 80, which incorporates four additional moderate-income units and four additional low-income units. In total, there will be 12 moderate-income units, 12 low-income units and 56 market-price units. The inclusion of the lower income units, under an agreement with the city housing department, entitles the project to a density bonus. With the bonus, developers seek an increase in the overall height of the building from a maximum of 70 feet to 72 feet and the elevator overruns from 15 feet above the roofline to 21.5 feet for the Gateway Building, 23 feet for the Boulevard Building and 31 feet for the Avenue Building. The bonus also allows for an increased floor area ratio, which would expand the building’s density requirement, from 2.59 to 3.

Planning commissioner Marquita

Bill would extend child tax credit

Assemblyman Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles) has introduced Assembly Bill 2589, legislation to give a \$2,000 tax credit payment per child to families earning under \$30,000 per year.

Santiago said the bill will ensure that 2 million children in California will not fall into poverty by providing a one-time payment of \$2,000 per child to California residents who made less than \$30,000 in 2021. The bill will also increase the California Earned Income Tax Credit minimum tax credit to approximately \$255 per eligible person filing taxes. Together, AB 2589 would benefit approximately 5 million Californians, Santiago added.

“While the federal government’s child tax credit has expired, California must lead the nation in providing support to our low-income families through a child tax credit payment, in addition to increasing the CalEITC minimum payment,” Santiago said. “Low-income residents risk falling back into the depths of poverty if we do not support them. With our record budget surplus, now is the time to invest in working families.”

For information, visit a53.asmdc.org.

Thomas applauded the increase in the number of low-income residences.

Planning commissioner David Gregoire also voiced support for the addition of the affordable housing units, but was discontent with “the deduction of the square footage for each of those low-income units.”

Additional changes to the project include the removal of gallery and showroom space, an increase in available office spaces, a reduction in parking from 884 to 526 spaces and an increase in publicly accessible open space.

Ric Abramson, urban design and architecture studio manager for the city of West Hollywood, highlighted the project’s renewed emphasis in creating pedestrian-friendly entrances that allow for increased foot traffic and ease of access.

“This project, compared to the pre-

viously proposed project, at the urban design level, has integrated some very thoughtful components,” Abramson said. “It has thought about the public way in a very useful way.”

Associate planner Adrian Gallo, who presented the staff report findings, clarified that the Charles Company also drafted a resolution to address additional enhancements to the cul-de-sac and pedestrian area along Almont Drive between Melrose Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard. The \$250,000 enhancements will improve the almost 30-year-old configuration at the location, creating a gathering space.

In spite of the many measures to increase walkability, Thomas expressed concern regarding the potential for traffic congestion near the project.

“With the removal of the Santa Monica ingress and egress and the



photo by Gensler

Revised plans for the long-awaited Melrose Triangle Project were approved by the West Hollywood Planning Commission.

occasional closure of the Almont driveway for special events and programming, has our traffic specialist looked into what the traffic impact could be on a busy afternoon or evening when Melrose is the only exit for cars?” Thomas asked.

In response, Gallo noted that a

traffic study was conducted for the project and it concluded the traffic impact would not be detrimental to the surrounding area.

The plans will now face an appeals process before being presented to City Council at a future date.

In honor of Jeff Hyland



Dear Friends...

The outpouring of tributes, remarks and remembrances of the way my husband, Jeff, touched your lives has moved me very deeply. I am overwhelmed by the degree and extent of what I have read in the past week, the comments from those of you who I have seen, and the love and compassion I have felt from you.

Jeff was never a person to talk about what he did for others, nor to expect anything back whenever he gave. He was a very generous man in so many ways, giving of his attention, his expertise, his resources and his love. To me, that is part of what made him such a great man and my loving husband and companion for the past 46 years. Few things thrilled him more than the smiles on clients’ faces when he helped them find the homes of their dreams, knowing they would now go out into their busy lives with wonderful homes to come back to. Few things, that is, except doing for others and giving of himself without any expectation of return.

Were Jeff still with us, he would be as overwhelmed as me by the outpouring so many hundreds of you, and others, have extended to us. I will carry this remarkable experience in my heart for the rest of my years, and I know Jeff is out there thanking all of you just as you continue to move through your memories of your time with him.

On behalf of my family, I thank you again, and am touched beyond measure.

Lori Hyland

Lori Hyland

RESTAURANT NEWS

by Jill Weinlein

Mardi Gras at Little Dom’s

Little Dom’s annual Mardi Gras feast of iconic Cajun and Creole-inspired dishes runs from Feb. 26 through March 1. Chef Brandon Boudet, a New Orleans native, will offer a festive menu to celebrate with shrimp, chicken and andouille gumbo, pork cracklings with Steen’s cane syrup hot sauce, soft shell crab po boys, jambalaya rice balls with creole mustard, and barbecued oysters. Mardi Gras-inspired desserts created by executive pastry chef Ann Kirk include apple bread pudding with hard sauce, beignets with raspberry sauce, and slices of king cake. The specials are only available for dine-in dinner service. Little Dom’s is also offering a southern twist to its weekly, three-course Monday Night Supper on Feb. 28. The menu features fried green tomato

with kale and green onion butter-milk dressing, pan fried pork chop with dirty rice and banana cream pie for \$25. 2128 Hillhurst Ave. (323)661-0055.

1 Hotel West Hollywood new chef

Executive Chef Ginger Pierce has years of culinary experience in New York City, where she cooked in some of the most iconic restaurants including Barbuto for Jonathan Waxman, and 1 Hotel’s Jams. Pierce joined the West Hollywood team to enhance the garden-to-table menu at 1 Kitchen and Juniper. She offers many zero-waste dishes, including a new vegan breakfast burrito, superfood salad, vegan yogurt with homemade granola and housemade chickpea burger. The property has an on-site, 100%

organic garden and beehive that provides fresh ingredients for garden fresh meals. 8490 Sunset Blvd. (310)424-1600.

Golden Road Brewing Golden Doggies

The local beer brand is holding the Golden Doggies social media contest to discover the finest pups in L.A. and award them the ultimate “Hollywood” prize pack. Fans are invited to share a photo of their dressed-up pup on Instagram or Twitter and submit the photo in one of five categories: Best Red Carpet Attire, Best Lookalike (celebrity or dog and owner), Best Supporting Tail Wag, Best Trick Pose and Best Doggie Duo. Five winners will be chosen by March 16 and will be invited to attend a Golden Doggies red carpet event. Prizes include a year’s supply of dog treats, photo session with a local pet photographer, custom dog apparel, gift card for pet toys, personalized dog bed and matching set of bowls, one year of free dog agili-



photo courtesy of UNCOOL

UNCOOL offers an imaginative approach to classic cocktails, and delicious comfort food.

UNCOOL opens in West Hollywood

The Larchmont-favorite burger shop is now open in West Hollywood, offering an imaginative approach to classic cocktails and comfort food. On Saturday, Feb. 26, UNCOOL will celebrate with a \$5 UN-happy meal featuring a cocktail, burger and fries – available to all guests 21 and older who follow @we.are.uncool. Joshua Suchan’s bar-forward concept features libations from Ice and Alchemy that include boozy snow cones, basil daiquiris and tiki drinks.

Executive chef Jon Katz, formerly of Eataly L.A., employs classically trained techniques to create simple yet inventive dishes such as breakfast burritos, avocado breakfast sandwiches and pastrami breakfast sandwiches. Lunch and dinner fare includes American wagyu burgers and vegan impossible smash burgers, Korean fried chicken sandwiches and wings with 17 sauce options. The restaurant is open daily from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. 7881 Santa Monica Blvd. Uncool.fun.

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ty training classes and a night’s stay at a dog-friendly hotel with a custom doggy spa experience. Golden Road is partnering with local animal non-profit Wags & Walks to donate \$1 for every contest entry. 5410 W. San Fernando Road. (818)243-2337, goldenroad.la.

Harold & Belle’s
NOLA experience

On Tuesday, March 1, starting at 11 a.m., Harold & Belle’s will showcase their family recipes and Louisiana culture with an authentic Fat Tuesday bash. Wear purple, green and gold and enjoy the festivities, including a DJ starting at 5 p.m. and two live bands at 6 p.m. Traditional NOLA favorites include jambalaya, Louisiana-style catfish nuggets, red beans and rice, and Louisiana hot links. There will be plenty of beads, and two bars serving Harold & Belle’s signature hurricane cocktail and a variety of beers from the local, Black-owned brand Crown & Hops. 2920 E. Jefferson Blvd. (323)735-9023.

Farmers Market kicks off year
of fun with Mardi Gras

The Original Farmers Market, is kicking off its 2022 calendar of events with a Mardi Gras celebration on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 26-27, and Fat Tuesday, March 1. Expect a colorful, joyful event with familiar sights, sounds and of course, tastes. Enjoy zydeco and blues bands, children’s crafts and a beignet pop-up tent by The Gumbo Pot, open from noon to 4 p.m. on Feb. 26-27 on the Market Plaza. The Gumbo Pot will also offer its delicious jambalaya and mouth-watering gumbo and po boys throughout the celebration, and EB’s Beer and Wine and Market Tavern will have plenty of New Orleans’ favorite brew, Abita Beer. Grab a slice of king cake, a Mardi Gras staple, at Michelina Artisan Boulanger. Although the Multi-Gras pet costume contest will not be held this year, stop by The Dog Bakery for a treat for your furry friends. Free treats will be available for pooches in cos-

tume on Feb. 26-27. The Original Farmers Market is planning many other fun events throughout the year. From local favorites to showstopping performances and delicious food, there is something for everyone. Notably, one of the Market’s most iconic events – the Gilmore Heritage Auto Show – will return to its usual date in early June. The fun continues next month with the Farmers Market’s St. Patrick’s Day celebration on Thursday, March 17. Visit the market for Magee’s famous corned beef and cabbage, green beer from EB’s and Bar 326, and live music including a strolling bagpiper. Summer Music on the Plaza returns on Friday evenings from May 27 through Aug. 26, with live musical performances throughout the summer in many genres, from reggae to rock ‘n’ roll. The 28th Annual Gilmore Heritage Auto Show returns on Saturday, June 4, featuring nearly

100 cars that exemplify classic California culture. This year’s theme is “a tribute to American royalty,” and the event will pay tribute to Cadillacs, Imperials, Lincolns, Duesenbergs, Packards and other vintage luxury vehicles. “We are so pleased to bring back our schedule of favorite market annual events in 2022,” said Ilysha Buss, director of marketing at the Original Farmers Market. “We are honored to serve as the community’s gathering place for celebrations, from St. Patrick’s Day to Fall Festival, and everything in between and beyond. We have something for everyone and look forward to sharing great times and memories with our customers.” The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. For information, visit farmersmarket-la.com.



photo courtesy of the Original Farmers Market
Let the good times roll at the Mardi Gras celebration at the Farmers Market with music, food and fun.



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POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Feb. 10 and Feb. 19. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department, (310)550-4951.

Beverly Hills Police Department

Feb. 13

At 4:50 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 700 block of N. Bedford.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of S. Robertson at 9:30 a.m.

At 2:35 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9400 block of Brighton.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. La Peer at 3 p.m.

Feb. 14

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near the corner of Santa Monica and Canon at 1:05 a.m.

At 2:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 bock of S. Reeves.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of S. Rodeo at 5:43 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 400 block of S. Maple.

Feb. 15

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 400 block of N. Palm at 7:30 a.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9700 block of Olympic.

Feb. 16

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Canon at 5:40 a.m.

At 11:36 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Canon.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of S. Rodeo at 12:34 p.m.

At 4:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. Rodeo. At 5:31 p.m.

At 8 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 100 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. La Peer at 8:09 p.m.

Feb. 17

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 400 block of N. Oakhurst at 6:58 a.m.

At 1:19 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Wilshire and Carson.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of

N. Hamilton at 5 p.m.

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

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Santa Monica and Wilshire at 7:50 p.m.

At 10 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported near the corner of Clifton and Le Doux.

Feb. 18

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 300 block of N. Palm at 12:14 a.m.

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of S. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 200 block of N. Rodeo at 11:54 a.m.

At 1:16 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 9600 block of Wilshire.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near the corner of Doheny and Burton at 11:05 p.m.

Feb. 19

At 12:55 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near the corner of Doheny and Gregory.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

Feb. 13

At 12:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson. Two additional grand thefts were reported in the same area at 1 a.m. and 1:15 a.m.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1300 block of N. Sweetzer at 1:26 a.m.

At 2:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Santa Monica and Robertson.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Gardner and Santa Monica at 5:50 p.m.

At 6:20 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 600 block of N. Flores at 6:25 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a vehicle burglary near the corner of Crescent Heights and Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Holloway and Hacienda at 9 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 11:09 p.m.

At 11:10 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 800 block of N. San Vicente.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 11:40 p.m.

Feb. 14

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Crescent Heights at 9 a.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1100 block of N. Alta Loma at 10:50 p.m.

At 11:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

Feb. 15

At 8:46 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7300 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9000 block of Cynthia at 4 p.m.

At 4:47 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8600 block of Santa Monica at 9:50 p.m.

Feb. 16

At 4:09 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1100 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 5:45 p.m.

Feb. 17

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1100 block of N. Hilldale.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of N. Orlando at 3:55 a.m.

At 9:15 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Hacienda.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8200 block of Santa Monica at 12:10 p.m.

Feb. 18

At 3:17 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 8000 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 9:20 a.m.

At 10:50 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1300 block of N. Olive.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8400 block of De Longpre at 4:30 p.m.

At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

Feb. 19

At 12:41 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Melrose and San Vicente at 7:35 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Melrose.

Los Angeles Police Department

Feb. 11

An assault was reported in the 600 block of S. Cochran at 12:15 a.m.

At 7 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 800 block of N. Orange Grove.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Third and Robertson at 12:30 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of N. Cahuenga.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6600 block of Selma at 10 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Santa Monica and El Centro.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 5800 block of Santa Monica at 10:10 p.m.

At 10:35 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Franklin and El Cerrito.

Feb. 12

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8500 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 500 block of N. Arden at 10 p.m.

Feb. 13

At 12:10 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Hawthorn and Vista.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 6700 block of Franklin at 1 a.m.

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 1600 block of N. El Centro.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1600 block of Cosmo at 1:50 a.m.

At 3:30 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 5800 block of Lexington.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8300 block of Third at 5:09 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 800 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of N. Larchmont at 2:47 p.m.

At 8:50 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Sunset and Fairfax.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 100 block of N. Flores at 9:15 p.m.

Feb. 14

At 12:10 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 400 block of N. Ogden.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Romaine and Wilcox at 12:45 a.m.

At 4:10 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 700 block of N. Cherokee.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Selma and Schrader at 8 p.m.

At 10:10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 5700 block of Santa Monica.

A robbery was reported in the 100 block of S. Clark at 10:30 p.m.

Feb. 15

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 5500 block of Hollywood at 7 a.m.

At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 5800 block of Harold.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 5500 block of Wilshire at 9:35 a.m.

At noon, an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 600 block of S. Ridgeley.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1900 block of Highland at 5:54 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an assault was reported in the 7000 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. Sycamore at 10:40 p.m.

WHAT IF I DO NO ESTATE PLANNING?

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

Disposition Outside The Will

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

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The heart and soul of Annie's Soul Delicious

Two weeks ago, I was invited to the “Love for the Soul” donation drive at Annie’s Soul Delicious in Little Ethiopia. Colorful balloons and a DJ spinning lively music welcomed guests on the sidewalk in front of the restaurant.

A steady stream of Annie’s fans donated personal care items for the Testimonial Cathedral Church of God in Christ in Los Angeles. Cardboard boxes were filled with soap, toothpaste, shampoo, socks, towels, toothbrushes, deodorant, underwear and sleeping bags for those in need. In return, Annie gave donors a complimentary lunch with an entrée and two sides, plus corn bread. After placing my donation in the container, I was handed a menu offering a choice of fried or barbecued chicken, fried catfish, meatloaf or vegan jambalaya.

Walking inside to place my order, I noticed an entire wall decorated with colorful guest signatures and drawings. On the wall behind the counter, all the menu items were written in colorful large letters. I selected barbecue chicken and asked Annie, with her infectious smile, which two sides I should choose, and she said, “definitely the mac and cheese and braised cabbage.” I went with her recommendation, even though the candied yams, greens with smoked turkey, black-eyed peas and fried okra looked appealing.

Annie’s full name is Annalisa Mastoianni-Johnson, and her restaurant is a family affair. Her teenage son was the handsome young man in front who handed me a menu and a raffle ticket. She shared that she named the restaurant in reference to what people say after eating her “so delicious” cuisine. She prepares her food with love from her soul.

Annie first started as a private chef running a gourmet food delivery service for clients that included Academy Award-winning actor Forest Whitaker. He appreciated her culinary expertise and variety of dishes, from vegan to comforting soul food, she said. When Whitaker directed the movie “Hope Floats” in 1998, he commissioned Annie to prepare her “soul delicious” food for the cast and crew. Soon, word got around in Los Angeles about Annie’s cooking, and with the encouragement of fans, she opened a pop-up, and later her own brick-and-mortar restaurant in 2019 on Fairfax Avenue.

During the pandemic, Annie kept her restaurant open four days a week – Thursday through Sunday – and often had lines winding out the door. Local residents loved her fall-off-the-bone oxtails and gravy, smothered pork chops, tender barbecued ribs, shrimp and grits, red beans, habanero fried chicken and chicken wings tossed in a house-made Hennessy sauce. Fans follow Annie’s Soul Delicious on Instagram for weekly specials, such as jambalaya, seafood pasta with Cajun alfredo sauce and Annie’s famous gumbo.

I’ve heard her desserts are just as good, especially her famous OMG banana pudding. I noticed a display of sweet treats on the counter such as “Boogie’s Brownies with Kit Kat,” “Boogie’s Brownies with walnuts” and thick red cookies with chunks of s’mores.

I didn’t have to wait long for my order, and when I took the food home to share with my family, I noticed instead of barbecue chicken, the container was filled with four filets of fried catfish. I usually don’t order catfish, yet was eager to try Annie’s. The filets were dusted



By Jill Weinlein

in Annie’s special cornmeal mix and fried until golden in color. They came with a container of her southern-style remoulade sauce, which is like a tartar sauce made with a may-

onnaise base but kicked up a notch with a little mustard, Cajun seasoning, maybe a sprinkle of hot sauce and possibly pickle juice. My teenage daughter declared her mac and cheese “heavenly” and the braised cabbage had a pleasing zing of flavor. I’ll be back to try her barbecued chicken, yet will definitely order the fried catfish again.

Annie’s Soul Delicious is open Thursday through Sunday at noon. The restaurant offers indoor seating and pet-friendly outdoor patio dining. Annie’s food can also be delivered using most major platforms. \$-\$. 1066 S. Fairfax Ave. (323)424-7402, anniessouldelicious.com.



photo by Jill Weinlein

Annie’s Soul Delicious offers a variety of soul food favorites including fried catfish, mac and cheese and braised cabbage.

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BH chef to prepare SAG Award menu

For the first time, Michelin-starred chef, restaurateur, author and culinary entrepreneur Curtis Stone will serve as the executive chef and oversee the menu for the 28th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards.

The SAG Awards will be nationally simulcast live on TNT and TBS on Sunday, Feb. 27, at 5 p.m. from The Barker Hangar in Santa Monica and will be available the following day on HBO Max.

The dinner will be executed by Curtis Stone Events to help bring Stone's first-ever SAG Awards menu to life and deliver attendees a true fine-dining experience. Stone's curated menu will feature organic, locally sourced ingredients and appeal to diverse palates.

"The SAG Awards are an iconic ceremony celebrating so much talent in the industry. It's been an

honor and privilege to collaborate on this evening and I'm very excited to bring this menu to life with my team in a few short weeks," the chef said.

"We are thrilled to have chef Curtis Stone and his team at Curtis Stone Events join us this year. They have been great partners in crafting a menu that our nominees and guests won't soon forget. We are looking forward to celebrating together again at the SAG Awards – with Curtis's amazing food for everyone to savor," SAG Awards executive producer Jon Brockett said.

The menu will consist of turmeric roasted cauliflower; a mint and quinoa salad; sweet potato with curry, coconut, cilantro and cucumber; artichoke and mushroom; truffle dressing; and salmon rilletes with lemon, capers and dill.

The wines on hand will be Champagne Taittinger Brut La Française, NV, Cooper's Hawk Artist's Red Blend and Cooper's Hawk Artist's White Blend.

Stone is a Los Angeles-based chef who began cooking at the Savoy Hotel's five-star restaurant in his hometown of Melbourne, Australia, at the age of 18. He moved to Europe when he was 21 to further his education and classical training under renowned chef Marco Pierre White for eight years, a foundation that would inform his subsequent career in Los Angeles.

In 2014, Stone opened his first solo restaurant, Maude in Beverly Hills to immediate acclaim. Following the success of Maude, which reopened on Feb. 14, Stone opened Gwen Butcher Shop & Restaurant in Hollywood in July 2016 with his brother, Luke.

The brothers opened their second restaurant together, Georgie, modeled after Gwen, with restaurateur Stephan Courseau in Dallas in fall 2019.

In addition to the restaurants, Stone operates Curtis Stone Events in Los Angeles, a full-service events and catering company that crafts personalized occasions for guests. Stone is known for his appearances on television programs such as "Take Home Chef," "Top Chef Masters," the Emmy-nominated "Top Chef Junior" and he makes frequent appearances on "MasterChef Australia."

In fall 2019, Curtis debuted "Field Trip with Curtis Stone" on PBS, a six-episode series inspired by his global travels to research the regional menus at the newly minted Michelin-starred Maude. Season two premiered in October 2020 and is streaming on Peacock and Tastemade.

Most recently, Curtis filled a judge's seat for "Crime Scene



photo by Clay Larsen

Beverly Hills chef Curtis Stone's talents will be on full display during the SAG Awards on Feb. 27.

Kitchen," a new baking competition hosted by Joel McHale, which premiered in May 2021. A New York Times bestselling author, Stone has authored six cookbooks, including his most recent, "Good Food, Good Life."

John O'Groats offers 'biscuits from heaven'

Ask anyone who regularly dines at the beloved John O'Groats restaurant, and they will likely say the Westside institute serves "biscuits from heaven," just like it reads on the giant blue awning out



photo by Veronica Puleo

John O'Groats specializes in biscuits made from scratch using a 19th century recipe.

front on Pico Boulevard. The Rancho Park mainstay has become famous for tangy, mammoth, piping hot biscuit "pucks" made from a recipe that has remained unchanged since the restaurant opened 40 years ago on Feb. 26, 1982.

To celebrate the milestone, John O'Groats will give a \$40 gift certificate to each of the first 40 parties to arrive for breakfast on Feb. 26.

John O'Groats is a veteran biscuit maker in Southern California, and the restaurant had crowds lining up for weekend brunches, even before biscuits were a hip thing to have on a menu. The biscuits here are tender, flaky and very tall, and they are perfect for spreading butter and honey, fresh apricot and raspberry preserves, and smothered in John O'Groats thick sausage gravy.

"Our biscuits? Well, it's the most basic recipe you could imagine," said Paul Tyler, longtime general manager and family owner of John O'Groats. "My dad, the late Robert Jacoby, found the recipe in an old cookbook from the 19th century back in 1982. He baked our biscuits on day one using that ancient

recipe, and to this day, we've never strayed."

Tyler's biscuit philosophy also stands as the restaurant's ethos. There have been only a few changes at the site over the years, including two expanded dining rooms and the addition of gluten-free and low-carb menu items. Tyler said the restaurant has been built on an incredibly simple and successful formula: If you serve customers a hearty, basic breakfast and a fresh, flavorful cup of coffee, they'll keep coming back for more.

John O'Groats' biscuits come in a variety of flavors including original buttermilk, gluten-free, bacon cheddar, chocolate chip and cheddar scallion. Patrons are asked to allow 20 minutes for baking. The biscuits are also available via delivery.

"They are so perfectly soft in the middle, but the outside had the perfect crispiness," said a diner who recently sampled the biscuits. "It was perfectly flaky. I took some home to my family and they all loved them."

John O'Groats is located at 10516 W. Pico Blvd. For information, call (310)204-0692, or visit johnogroats.us.



photo courtesy of Paul Tyler

John O'Groats' biscuits have a flaky exterior and soft interior perfect for spreading butter, honey and preserves.

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‘Peacemaker’ gives new credibility to DC Universe

Hard truth: While “The Suicide Squad” greatly improved upon its mediocre predecessor (Oscar for makeup aside), its quarks never amounted to a game changer. I admit my own skepticism when a spinoff announcement coincided the kinda-sorta sequel’s premiere.

Certainly, the idea of John Cena as an antihero named Peacemaker sounds charming enough. He even sports a cringey catchphrase. “I cherish peace with all my heart,” he first says in the film, though others attribute it to him in the series. “I don’t care how many men, women and children I need to kill to get it.”

But can this guy really lead his own show, and in essence become the singular character with the most screen time in the DC Extended Universe? Yep, he sure can, and I stand corrected. Thank writer-producer-director James Gunn (“Guardians of the Galaxy,” “The Suicide Squad”) for so much that works incredibly well here.

Here’s the thing. “Peacemaker,”

all of season one streaming now on HBO Max, might be billed as a comedy-infused series, but nothing actually evokes audible reactions. Perhaps Gunn is funnier when he competes with a PG-13 rating. That said, the whole experience is quite clever.

We watch as Cena’s Peacemaker, otherwise known as Christopher Smith, awakes from a coma following the events in “The Suicide Squad.” He soon learns he still reports to the secret agency A.R.G.U.S., whose most effective weapon involves forcing supervillains to embark on impossible missions with the hope of years off their sentence, along with a tiny bomb in the brain to force compliance.

Peacemaker serves as the muscle of Project Butterfly (that reveal is pretty great, so don’t spoil it), which also includes a few A.R.G.U.S. agents and a former mercenary leading the pack.

At first, Chris serves as the butt

ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

of every joke. His obsession with doves engraved on all weapons, name dropping superheroes in tall tales and general buffoonery mixed with undeserved confidence. Most of the gang dislikes him, tolerating him for what his barbarism affords the team.

But A.R.G.U.S. agent Leota (Danielle Brooks) sees something else in him, especially when she encounters Chris’ pet bald eagle, unoriginally named Eagly (voiced by Dee Bradley Baker).

A rocket, a tree, a shark, a rat and now an eagle – Gunn loves his own brand of CGI personification. Eagly is a wonderful addition to the story, Chris’ best friend who occasionally drops a dead possum in front of him to show affection.

As Chris returns home, he also



photo courtesy of HBO Max

John Cena, right, and Freddie Stroma make Peacemaker a fun installment in DC’s superhero canon.

Artlounge Collective launches California-centric exhibit

Award-winning artist and entrepreneur K. Ryan Henisey is launching Artlounge Collective, which is currently presenting an exhibit in the Magic Box at the Mondrian Los Angeles Hotel.

“As a working artist, gallery-cooperative president and experienced corporate marketer, I kept seeing a gap between artist expectations and consumer habits,” Henisey said. “Artlounge Collective is about bridging that divide. There is a massive consumer audience for original fine art – hundreds of billions of dollars worldwide – but many artists miss the fact that more than half of all artwork sold for less than \$1,000 last year. At Artlounge, we work closely with our artists to provide top-quality original and creative works at prices accessible to the widest range of the U.S. public.”

Henisey previously oversaw product management and publications for major cruise lines. An award-winning artist and recipient of a 2021 public arts grant from the city of West Hollywood, Henisey is also president of TAG Gallery in the Miracle Mile, where he oversees more than 50 fine art displays a year.



photo courtesy of Artlounge Collective

Works in Justin Prough’s “The Fictional Reality of California Beach Culture” exhibit are on display at the Mondrian Los Angeles Hotel.

27 in the Magic Box at the Mondrian Los Angeles Hotel, 8440 Sunset Blvd. Artlounge Collective plans to open a storefront this spring. For information, call (323)481-2205, email liveuniquely@artlounge.co, and visit artlounge.co.

“Ryan has built a community of trust with many L.A.-artists and I knew I wanted to join him on this new venture,” said artist Justin Prough, creator of “The Fictional Reality of California Beach Culture,” which is on display at the Mondrian Los Angeles Hotel. “As a fellow artist, he has a deep understanding of how to balance an individual’s artistic goals with the reality of everyday consumers.”

Artlounge Collective will feature artists and performers in a growing network of venues and pop-up events.

“Artlounge was created with artists in mind,” Henisey added. “Inspired by the talents and skills of friends and colleagues and the lack of opportunities available to most artists, I started to dream of a new way to share fine art experiences with everyday people. Artlounge Collective focuses on artists and creating inviting fine art experiences, because as a creative, I believe in the transformative power of art.”

Artlounge Collective’s first exhibition is on display through March

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McKay honored on Hollywood WOF

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce honored director/producer and writer Adam McKay with the 2,713th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Thursday, Feb. 17. The star was dedicated in the category of motion pictures at 6767 Hollywood Blvd. in front of the Hollywood Wax Museum.

“Adam McKay is highly-regarded and respected as a contributor to both motion pictures and television, and we are proud to welcome him to the Hollywood Walk of Fame,” Hollywood Walk of Fame producer Ana Martinez said.

Joining emcee Nicole Mihalka, chair of the Board of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, and co-emcee/Hollywood Chamber of Commerce president emeritus Leron Gubler were Walk of Famer/comedienne Sarah Silverman, who appears in McKay’s “Don’t Look Up” for Netflix, and McKay’s longtime collaborator, John C. Reilly, who stars in their upcoming HBO series “Winning Time: The Rise of the

Lakers Dynasty.”

McKay, an Academy Award-winning writer, director and producer, made his name in the comedy world when he served as the head writer at “Saturday Night Live.” He later wrote and directed numerous comedies, such as “Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy,” “Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby” and “Step Brothers.”

“Don’t Look Up” is one of Netflix’s most successful films and stars Jennifer Lawrence and Leonardo DiCaprio. It tells the story of two low-level astronomers who must go on a giant media tour to warn of an approaching comet that will destroy Earth. The film has been nominated for four Oscars, including Best Picture.

McKay’s 2018 feature, “Vice,” received eight Academy Award nominations, six Golden Globe and BAFTA nominations, and a DGA nomination for McKay. In 2015, McKay and Charles Randolph adapted Michael Lewis’s New York Times best-selling book, “The Big Short.”

McKay earned Academy Award, BAFTA and Golden Globe nominations for Best Director, and he and Randolph won Best Adapted Screenplay at the Academy Awards, BAFTA, WGA and USC Scriptor Awards. Other recent film work includes his role as an executive producer on Olivia Wilde’s directorial debut “Booksmart,” Netflix’s “Dead to Me” and writer/director Lorene Scafaria’s “Hustlers.”

For television, McKay serves as an executive producer on the critically acclaimed HBO show “Succession.” McKay directed the pilot, for which he won the 2018 DGA Award for Drama Series. The show won the 2019 BAFTA for Best International Series and the 2020 Emmy and Golden Globe for Best Drama Series. Upcoming television projects include HBO’s drama series “Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty” and late-night series “Game Theory with Bomani Jones,” as well as a limited series based on Miami Herald investigative reporter Julie K. Brown’s book about Jeffrey



photo by @imagerybyoscar/courtesy of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Actors Sarah Silverman and John C. Reilly joined director/producer Adam McKay, center, during the unveiling.

Epstein. In addition, McKay and Bong Joon Ho are developing an HBO limited series inspired by Bong Joon Ho’s Academy Award Best Picture “Parasite.”

McKay’s production company, Hyperobject Industries, has a wide-ranging focus from comedies, dramas, horror, documentaries and documentary-series that cover

politically charged and challenging subjects with which McKay has become synonymous.

In 2016, McKay joined the creative council of Represent Us, the largest grassroots anti-corruption campaign in the U.S. to pass laws that stop political bribery, end secret money and give voters a stronger voice.

Almighty God graces the Fowler

The Fowler Museum at UCLA presents “How Do You See This World?: The Art of Almighty God,” a retrospective of almost 80 paintings by contemporary Ghanaian artist Kwame Akoto, now through May 15. Drawn from the Fowler’s collection of significant contemporary works from Ghana and institutional and private loans, Akoto’s paintings survey a surprising array of subject matter, from portraits to animated biblical scenes to expressionistic accumulations of paint, all linked by a through line of textual

commentary that appears in each work. One of the most prolific artists in West Africa, Akoto captivates an ever-growing audience, and his studio in Kumasi has become a popular tourist attraction.

Addressed as “Almighty” by friends and acquaintances, Akoto founded Almighty God Art Works in 1972, after completing a rigorous six-year apprenticeship. The studio specializes in sign writing, including hand-painted signs for small businesses, cloth banners for evangelical events and tin portraits for

grave monuments. As the industry continues to trend toward digital printing, Akoto has been devoting more time to what he calls “creativity arts” which are paintings produced primarily for an international clientele and range from depictions of international celebrities to Christian themes of temptation and salvation, to commentaries on the world’s problems. The universe of topics addressed in Akoto’s paintings is constantly growing, along with his use of Christian maxims and biblical citations. Self-portraits appear throughout the exhibition, offering reflections on the artist and the human condition.

Almighty’s practice as a sign writer permeates his creativity arts in the form of texts running the perimeter of wooden frames or embedded in the paintings. The written word is at least as important as the painted image in Almighty’s works. He has said, “You need to read to understand my art.” In addition to scriptural quotes and descriptions of a given subject, the texts include expositions on the process of painting, sustaining Almighty’s firm belief that his creations speak to both artist and viewer. The interplay of word and image is characteristic of the arts of the Akan-speaking peoples of southern Ghana. Almighty draws upon this tradition in his own way, creating a direct channel of communication in which the subject and sometimes the paint itself initiates a dialogue with viewers.

The Fowler Museum is located at 308 Charles E Young Drive. For information, visit fowler.ucla.edu/exhibitions/almighty-god.

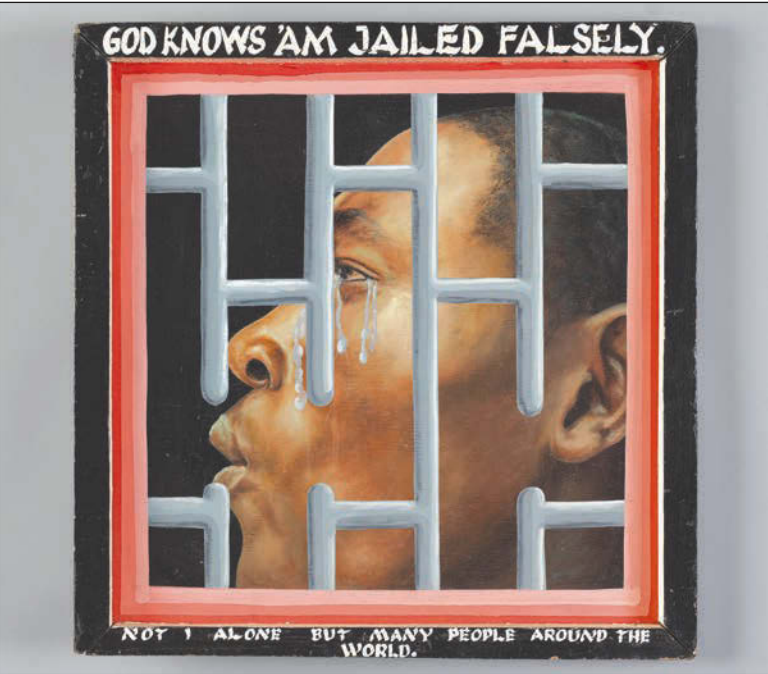


photo by Kwame Akoto

Ghanaian artist Almighty’s artwork examines themes ranging from celebrities to salvation to activism.

Pajama parties come to El Capitan

In celebration of Women’s History Month, Hollywood’s El Capitan Theatre welcomes “Moana” on March 3 and 4, featuring songs written by Lin-Manuel Miranda, and “Mulan” on March 5 and 6 with Pajama Party screenings Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m.

During the “Mulan” Pajama Party screenings, guests can enjoy breakfast in their reserved seat while wearing their favorite family-friendly pajamas. Each guest attending will receive a muffin, cereal, yogurt and juice or coffee.

Daily showtimes for “Moana”

and “Mulan” are 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. with the Mickey Mouse short “Clock Cleaners” playing alongside the films. Showtimes and dates are subject to change.

Gold Members can receive one complimentary 64-ounce popcorn tub and one complimentary 20-ounce bottled beverage when showing their current membership card at concessions, limited to one redemption per member card.

The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd. Tickets are now on sale at elcapitantickets.com



photo courtesy of Disney

Theatergoers can enjoy breakfast in their pajamas during special screenings of “Moana” and “Mulan” and fandango.com/el-capitan-theatre-acon/theater-page. All seats are reserved and \$12 for all ages. Tickets for Pajama Party screenings are \$25 for all ages.

Animal services receives donation

Petco Love has awarded the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services with a \$25,000 grant that will go toward the department’s lifesaving programs in 2022.

The funding will benefit the department’s Pet Food Pantry, which is open weekly at three different sites in the city to provide support to pet owners in Los Angeles who need assistance in caring for their companion animals.

It will also help the department’s Safety Net Foster, a foster placement program for pet owners who are temporarily unable to care for their pet due to a temporary difficulty. It is an alternative to having to surrender their pet to the shelter.

The department’s Kitten and

Adult Animal Foster Program, which place shelter animals into homes while looking for adoptive homes, will receive funding as well. Further, the grant will be used to purchase adoption supplies and provide post-adoption support to help adopters welcome their new family member.

Previously known as the Petco Foundation, Petco Love is a non-profit that has invested more than \$300 million to date in pet adoption and other lifesaving efforts. They’ve also helped to find homes for more than 6.5 million pets in partnership with Petco and other organizations, including L.A. Animal Services.

For information, visit laanimalservices.com.

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Korean Cultural Center
Los Angeles

KOREA

A map showing the location of the Korean Cultural Center in Los Angeles, near the Miracle Mile District. The map includes landmarks like the Los Angeles Convention Center and the Los Angeles Music Center.

“ Located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd., in the Miracle Mile District, the Korean Cultural Center is the axis of Korean heritage in Los Angeles. KCCLA welcomes the general public to experience the rich traditions & history of Korea through specialized events. ”

KCCLA Online Program

- Korean Folklore Stories
- Korean Cuisine Series
- Korean Art in America Series
- Korean Movie Night
- K-Performance Series
- Remembering April 29 Writing Contest (TBC)
- From Jikji to Gutenberg: The Origins of Cast-Metal Type
- 2021 Online K-Pop Dance Tutorial
- 2021 Hanbok Wave
- Online Korean Language Program
- 2021 Online Korean Speech Contest

Please sign up for our newsletter on www.kccla.org

A photograph of the exterior of the Korean Cultural Center building, a modern structure with large glass windows and a flat roof.

A QR code that, when scanned, likely leads to the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles website.

[@KCCLA](https://www.facebook.com/KCCLA) [@KCCLA](https://www.instagram.com/KCCLA) [YOUTUBE KCCLA](https://www.youtube.com/KCCLA) WWW.KCCLA.ORG

Undies for Everyone comes to L.A. students

Undies for Everyone, the nation’s only nonprofit to exclusively provide new underwear to underserved children, has expanded into Los Angeles to serve local students. Since launching in 2012, UFE has provided more than 2 million pairs of underwear to children in 16 cities across the U.S., with distribution beginning this year in Los Angeles.

Currently, 80% of students in the Los Angeles Unified School District, which amounts to 415,668 children, come from families that struggle financially. When these kids have new underwear to wear to school, it addresses a basic need that improves social and academic out-

comes, including increasing regular school attendance. UFE is partnering with the Los Angeles Homeless Department to provide children living in poverty or crisis each with a new pair of underwear for every day of the week, seven pairs total.

Undies for Everyone has two programs to get local community groups and businesses involved. The first program is Undies for Change, in which the organization sends underwear and supplies to volunteers who fold packs of undies and deliver to the L.A. Homeless Department. The second program is One Click Undies, where volunteers can host a virtual undies drive. UFE provides volun-

teers everything needed – linked QR codes, a linked Amazon Wish List, email templates and fillable flyers for printing or sending to other groups.

Underwear insecurity makes everything about the school day harder for students. With the help of volunteers and donors, UFE helps to alleviate the burden of underwear insecurity for children by providing a week’s worth of undies.

Celebrating its 10-year anniversary, Undies for Everyone plans to distribute more than 1.1 million pairs of underwear across the U.S. this year.

For information, visit undiesforeveryone.org.

Expansion of free college tuition

Assemblyman Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles), joined Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District; Los Angeles Community College District board of trustees member Mike Fong and community partners at a press conference on Feb. 17 to celebrate the introduction of Assembly Bill 2266, which will expand the California College Promise program to provide two years of tuition-free community college to all full-time students.

“The LACCD College Promise Program has experienced unparalleled success, with higher overall rates of completion and persistence among mostly first-generation students,” LACCD chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez said. “This bill expands much-needed access to higher education, keeps college affordable for working families and accelerates the journey to a no-cost associates degree for all full-time students, keeping California globally competitive in an inclusive economy.”

In 2017, AB 19 (also authored by Santiago) established CCP, which authorized funding to be used by California community colleges to waive fees for first-time, full-time students during their first academic year. In 2019, AB 2 (Santiago) expanded upon the promise program by adding a second academic year of waived tuition for first-time, full-time students. Over 33,000 students received a CCP waiver in the 2020-21 academic year.

CCP is considered a holistic program that provides academic and financial support for students through the use of counselors, peer mentors and other student success tools. Currently, the program only provides two years of free community college for first time students and does not include returning students. AB 2266 will remove the first-time requirement from the College Promise Program and allow all full-time students to receive two tuition-free years at any community college.

Observatory offers unique views of the night sky

The Griffith Observatory Foundation will present “ABOVE,” a new astronomy program on Monday, March 14, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the observatory’s Samuel Oschin Planetarium.

Each installment in the series will be offered only once for a truly unique, never-before-seen presentation of the night sky. In addition to the presentation under the dome,

attendees will have full access to exhibits and telescopes on an evening that the observatory is otherwise closed to the public.

The program utilizes the Zeiss Universarium Mark IX star projection system, which offers a detailed view of the night sky filled with thousands of stars. The computerized system can be oriented to show their appearance from any place on

Earth, and at any time tens of thousands of years in the past and future.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and attendees can enjoy exhibits, views from the observatory and food and beverages for purchase at the Cafe at the End of the Universe. At 7:30 p.m., Griffith Observatory director E.C. Krupp will narrate the presentation in the Samuel Oschin Planetarium. Following the program, attendees can enjoy evening star observing and full access to the observatory until 9:30 p.m.

The Griffith Observatory is located at 2800 E. Observatory Road. Tickets are \$50 per person and include parking. For information, visit griffithobservatory.org.



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

Learn about stars visible in spring during a special program at the Griffith Observatory.



photo courtesy of Assemblyman Miguel Santiago’s office

Assemblyman Miguel Santiago, center, joined county officials and community college district administrators to announce legislation that will provide free tuition to more students.

VINTAGE
PARKLABREA NEWS

Blood donations are still
sorely needed

Former Los Angeles Police Chief Bernard Parks, left, donated blood with then Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Chief Operating Officer Thomas F. Zenty in this photograph in the Feb. 19, 1998, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. Parks, who later represented the Los Angeles City Council 8th District from 2003-15, led an LAPD effort that year to help replenish the blood supply, which had dwindled to dangerously low levels. Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is currently experiencing low blood supplies and is encouraging members of the public to donate. For information, call (310)423-5346, or visit cedars-sinai.org/donateblood.

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marlboroughsummer.org

Pride parade returns to WeHo

From page 1

Mayor Pro Tem Sepi Shyne said the city of West Hollywood will benefit from both events.

“As far as Hollywood and CSW having the Hollywood parade, I think that only benefits us because I hope people come and stay at our hotels for an entire week and then go celebrate the next weekend,” Shyne said. “I would even suggest having a city float in the L.A. Pride parade. I think it would be important for West Hollywood to have a presence there ... hopefully it can be a showing of goodwill that we’re not doing this because we’re trying to take anything away from [other parades], we’re doing this because we needed a Pride parade. Quite frankly, CSW left, was given the opportunity to come back and choose not to.”

In an effort to make the city’s parade stand out from its previous incarnations, Councilman John D’Amico proposed a day and time change for the event.

“I’m concerned about producing a parade at 11 a.m. on a Sunday, it never really made sense to me that we were having a parade on Sunday morning after a big celebratory Saturday night,” D’Amico said. “I’m concerned that we’re defaulting to reproducing ... what CSW has done for so many years. We need to jump in with both feet and be West Hollywood Pride, and to me that means reinventing what this



photo by Jon Viscotti/City of West Hollywood

JJLA is expected to offer the West Hollywood City Council more details about its parade proposal at a future meeting.

parade is and can be and represents for all of us.”

Shyne said the Sunday parade is a tradition.

“Here’s why I feel we need to hold the parade on a Sunday — people are used to it,” Shyne said. “With the short amount of time, I don’t feel safe with traffic on a Saturday night. [JJLA] could come back next year and then we can discuss an alternative day. For this year, stay tried and true, we know it’ll work. Safety-wise and staff-wise, with this short amount of time

it doesn’t make sense to put it [on hold] for two weeks. That’s two weeks less marketing, less time planning. Another two weeks gone for getting potential sponsorships.”

To address D’Amico’s concern about the parade’s start time, the council granted JJLA the opportunity to explore other potential start time options for the June 5 parade.

More details regarding the parade will be presented to the council once JJLA meets with city staff to further outline their proposal.

his policies and provide his arguments why he should not be recalled, according to the association.

“This vote is by those who are intimately familiar with how Mr. Gascón’s policies actually play out on a day-to-day basis. We believe the vote of our members will resonate with the voters of Los Angeles as they decide whether to recall Gascón from office and restore public safety as the priority of the district attorney’s office,” ADDA president Michele Hanisee said.

that presented real challenges. As a result, we are making minor adjustments to our policies on juveniles and [life without parole] to allow for exceptions in the most extraordinary of cases.

He said the Tubbs case showed that the office needed a policy safety valve.

“Rather than the usual case where a child is arrested close in time to their crime, police arrested Ms. Tubbs at 26 for a crime she committed as a juvenile,” Gascón said. “Ms. Tubbs had several charges in other counties after the juvenile offense but never received any services which both her past behavior and that subsequent to her arrest demonstrates she clearly needs. After her sentencing in our case, I became aware of extremely troubling statements she made about her case, the resolution of it and the young girl that she harmed.”

He said the issues and facts of her particular case were “unusual,” and that he should have treated them that way. Gascón said the policy change will allow prosecutors to create a pathway in outlier cases.

“Any time a prosecutor wants to deviate from our core principles, they must put a request in writing,” he added. “That request will then go to a committee, staffed by my most trusted advisors, who must evaluate the case and approve any requests to pursue an exception. This process ensures that only in the rarest of cases, where our system has failed, will we diverge from our principles.”

On Feb. 22, the Association of Deputy District Attorneys announced that 97.9% percent of the front-line prosecutors tasked with implementing Gascón’s policies have voted to support his recall. The vote came after Gascón refused an invitation to address the prosecutors of his office to explain and defend

Gascón announces policy changes

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón on Feb. 20 announced that his office will implement some policy adjustments that will alter the way prosecutors pursue cases against juveniles.

Gascón referenced the case of Hannah Tubbs, a 26-year-old transgender woman who pleaded guilty of sexually assaulting a 10-year-old child. The announcement came in the wake of Fox News releasing recordings of Tubbs, who was reportedly 17 at the time of the crime, bragging about her light sentence.

“I want to reaffirm my commitment to the core values I expressed when I took office,” Gascón said. “We do not believe that children should be tried as adults. We should treat kids like kids and give them every opportunity to grow and change. We also do not believe people should be sentenced to death in prison. People change and evolve — most often, for the better. For too long, our system operated without recognizing this fact, ignoring entirely the capacity people have for change. We must restore that underlying value into our justice system. While we maintain our commitment to these principles and will continue working to improve our system, there are some cases and situations that require a different response. We have made some adjustments to our policies to account for these exceptions.”

The D.A. said that, when he started policing 40 years ago, he believed that arrested and jailing individuals was the best way to protect communities.

“However, after several decades of work, it was clear to me that we needed a more nuanced approach,” Gascón added. “The same is true now. While I remain committed to the core values of our policies, I have seen a small number of cases

BHPD makes takeover arrests

From page 1

in racing. Trejo did not know the status of the cases, but suspects in misdemeanor cases are generally released pending court hearings.

Trejo said the incident caused concern among residents and citizens, and he advised people to call police immediately if they see a street takeover.

“It’s scary,” Trejo added. “Call 911 and stay away from the area. Also, don’t stay and record it, because you could be arrested and charged as a participant in the event. The best thing is to just stay away.”

Sharona Nazarian, a resident who lives nearby, said the street takeover scared her family.

“We were sleeping when we were awakened by a thunderous, loud rumbling noise of car engines. Because we did not know what was happening, we were alarmed and contacted the police,” Nazarian said. “Cars had blocked off the roads and were doing doughnuts in the center of the intersection — a sideshow. I feel

that we need to support the police with better resources so we can have a plan, be better prepared and be proactive for a future situation such as this. When the police arrived, the crowd dispersed into the residential areas. Again, because we did not know what was happening and just saw a crowd of people coming toward us, it was very alarming. There was a lot of confusion and uncertainty.”

Trejo said street takeovers have not been a problem previously, but he is aware of them occurring nearby in Los Angeles and other locations.

“I have not seen a trend in the city, but I have seen a trend countywide,” Trejo said. “It is certainly challenging to address. The intelligence unit tries to keep up with social media and to stay ahead of these events, but in this particular case, there wasn’t any heads up.”

Anyone with information is urged to call the BHPD at (310) 285-2125.

Bill would support teacher housing

Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) on Feb. 16 introduced Assembly Bill 2295, a bill that would spur the production of and provide housing for California’s teachers and school employees.

Currently, one in 10 school districts are seeing teacher turnover rates that are higher than 25%, meaning that one in four teachers are forced to leave their jobs because they cannot afford to live in the same communities in which they work, according to Bloom.

According to a report on Education Workforce Housing by UCLA cityLAB and UC Berkeley’s Turner Center for Housing and Center for Cities and Schools, school districts in California own more than 75,000

acres of land that are potentially suitable for housing.

If successful, districts could feasibly provide enough housing to meet the current crisis while simultaneously addressing teaching shortages. However, a workforce housing project for school teachers and employees can take over seven years to complete.

AB 2295 would make it easier for school districts to build housing on land they already own without displacing any active school district facilities, Bloom said.

The measure would remove the administrative barriers that have delayed housing production and ensures that teachers and school employees have access to affordable housing close to where they work.

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WeHo tackles ‘roofie’ problem

From page 1

very loved and acknowledged.”

Shyne doubled down on the city’s commitment to the issue.

“I just want you and other victims of sexual assault in our city and outside of our city to know that we are doing everything within our power to provide resources and prevention and safety, and you will always be safe in our city,” Shyne said.

The test strips are among a series of proposals and initiatives that the city has put forth recently to tackle the “roofie” problem. Particular attention has been paid to the issue after a social media post alleged a patron was drugged at The Abbey in July. In that case, the patron recanted the story after meeting with representatives of The Abbey and

viewing security camera footage that showed nobody put anything unusual in her drinks. However, the city takes the issue of drink spiking very seriously and implemented measures to prevent it from happening.

In November, the city adopted an ordinance that amended the municipal code to require signage and training concerning the “safety and awareness of patrons at business establishments that serve alcohol for on-site consumption.”

In December, West Hollywood also launched their “Only Yes Means Yes” campaign, with the slogan “just because I’m flirty doesn’t mean I’m ready,” and distributed #onlyYes coasters to bars, launched

digital advertisements and created sidewalk selfie stops, among other ways to raise awareness.

“The safety of our residents, workers and visitors is a priority for our city, which is why we have revitalized the #onlyYes campaign as one of our tools to ensure that people who live, work and play in West Hollywood are safe,” Shyne said in a statement.

If approved, the safety strips would cost about \$15,000 to purchase and distribute to the city’s bars and clubs.

“It is very personal to me,” Field said. “I have talked to survivors in West Hollywood who have been drugged at different bars and clubs in our city. This will save lives.”

Wegman installation opens

From page 3

Johnson said the company was thrilled to participate in the installation.

“We are very excited to bring life back to Barney’s windows ... and to be part of the Frieze activation after a long [period of] COVID,” Johnson said.

The installation coincided with Frieze Week in Beverly Hills.

“This is really an opportunity for renowned artwork to be displayed in our community,” Beverly Hills City Councilman Lester Friedman said. “We’re really going to see some fine pieces that we would not otherwise be able to see.”

Arts and Culture Commissioner Stephanie Vahn

was particularly enthusiastic about how Wegman’s contribution will soften the street’s traffic woes.

“Anyone who drives by Wilshire Boulevard is going to get greeted by the sweetest puppies anybody’s ever seen,” she said.

At the opening, Beverly Hills Mayor Robert Wunderlich aptly summed up the importance of the artwork.

“This is Wilshire Boulevard,” Wunderlich said. “It’s a major street, and we have this high-profile, easily-visible use of our city’s window space. This is the sort of thing we need to enliven our streets and for our people to enjoy.”



photo by Rance Collins

Beverly Hills Mayor Robert Wunderlich, left, joined Marc Selwyn, of Selwyn Fine Arts; Arts and Culture Commissioner Maralee Beck; Councilman Lester Friedman; Arts and Culture Commission Chair Deborah Frank; and Arts and Culture Commissioners Stephanie Vahn and Liliana Filipovic at the opening of the installation. Artist William Wegman joined by phone through FaceTime.

Hyland remembered fondly in Beverly Hills

From page 1

about our city and our residents.”

In a statement issued after he won the lifetime achievement award in 2016, Hyland professed his love for the city.

“I take tremendous pride in my work and how it has contributed to Beverly Hills,” he said. “I love this city, and I look forward to spreading my affinity for Beverly Hills for many years to come.”

Hyland was a founding member of Christie’s International Real Estate Inc., and he has served as the president of the Beverly Hills Board of Realtors, president of the Los Angeles County Boards of Real Estate and the state director for the California Association of Realtors.

“The Greater Los Angeles Realtors community is deeply saddened by the passing of Jeff Hyland, a well-respected leader in Beverly Hills real estate for many years,” GLAR president Anthony Vulin said. “Jeff was unquestionably a titan of Beverly Hills real estate and in the Los Angeles business community. He embodied the values of ethical conduct, professionalism and integrity, and willingly shared his expertise and vast knowledge with others in the industry, serving as a past president of the Beverly Hills Board of Realtors in 1987, one of the organizations that would eventually become the Greater Los Angeles Realtors. Jeff Hyland was a legend in our industry. He will leave a legacy of exceptional customer service and class.”

house in town than Jeff – he knew all of the stories about all of the houses that made up the luxury estate market. He was a good friend to our community and will be greatly missed.”

Billy Jack Carter, a past GLAR board member and an office manager for Hilton & Hyland, said Hyland made “immeasurable” contributions to the industry, community and area philanthropic organizations.

“He brought infinite experience, passion and energy to every endeavor that he undertook, motivating all those that knew him,” Carter said. “He was wholeheartedly dedicated to leading and inspiring future generations of Realtors as well. This is an incredible loss, and he will be greatly missed.”

Hyland was an architectural historian and helped with the publication of several books – “Paul R. Williams, Architect: A Legacy of Style,” “Wallace Neff, 1895-1982: The Romance of Regional Architecture” and “The Estates of Beverly Hills.”

In “The Legendary Estates of Beverly Hills,” he authored a comprehensive history of 50 famed estates in the city.

“A few years ago, I recognized the need for a truly definitive book on the subject that would allow me to share my knowledge and passion for these homes with other people,” he said. “I had four goals when I set out to write ‘The Legendary Estates of Beverly Hills.’ First, the book had to have accurate and in-depth historical and contemporary information about each property. For nearly three years, gifted doctoral students from UCLA and Columbia University helped me with that research. The book includes a general bibliography and list of refer-

ence sources for each property.

“Second, I wanted to cover the full range of properties, from the early 20th century to the early 21st century. While the 1920s and 1930s were the decades of extraordinary estate construction, a few remarkable homes were also built in the 1940s and 1950s, and striking new homes have been completed in recent years.

“Third, I wanted to tell the full story of each estate, not just provide a listing of their architectural features. The book’s histories of Beverly Hills, Holmby Hills and Bel-Air ‘set the stage’ for the estates in these neighborhoods. Additional historical information is provided in the chapters about the individual estates, along with details about each estate’s design and construction. I also delve into the often-fascinating lives of the residents of these prized properties, from their passionate involvement in the design of their estates to their larger-than-life activities and entertainments, their intrigues and sometimes their tragedies.

“Finally, I wanted the book to be attractive and elegant, just like the estates themselves, with the finest contemporary and historical photographs available. In other words, I wanted this book to be as pleasurable to glance through casually as it is to read from start to finish.”

Born in Little Holmby, which is situated between UCLA and Beverly Hills, Hyland was accepted into the Cornell School of Hotel Administration in New York and graduated from the United States International University in San Diego. He later became a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker and Mike Silverman and Associates. From 1980-90, he was a founding partner at Alvarez, Hyland & Young.

Guaranteed income pilot launched

The city of West Hollywood, in collaboration with the National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles, will open applications for the first pilot project for guaranteed income in the nation aimed at evaluating the impact of cash payments on the financial stability and quality of life of LGBTQIA older adults.

Guaranteed income is a direct and regular cash payment – no strings attached – provided to a specific group of people for a designated time. Guaranteed income pilots are a way to test the impact of the payments, while also providing a service to help financially stabilize community members and learn information to help create future, evidence-based policies and programs.

Community members who are interested in applying for the West Hollywood Pilot for Guaranteed Income must reside in the city of West Hollywood, be 50 years or older, identify as LGBTQIA and have an individual income of \$41,400 or less.

The application period will open on Feb. 25 and will close on March 6. The program will be facilitated by the National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles. A total of 25 qualifying participants will be randomly selected from the pool of eligible applicants to receive unconditional monthly \$1,000 payments from April 2022 through September 2023.

In January 2021, the West Hollywood City Council approved an item for the city of West Hollywood to join the Mayors for Guaranteed Income network and directed staff to develop a guaran-

teed income pilot program for West Hollywood.

The city of West Hollywood seeks to test the emerging promise of guaranteed income to help prevent homelessness, support community members as they age in place and reduce the stressors of poverty and financial insecurity.

The city, with the help of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income and the Center for Guaranteed Income at the University of Pennsylvania, has developed a data-driven guaranteed income pilot that will be the first LGBTQIA-focused pilot and the first older adult-focused pilot in the nation.

Since March 16, 2020, the city of West Hollywood has provided more than \$1.5 million dollars in rental assistance to West Hollywood residents that were unable to pay their rent due to COVID-related impacts.

To apply, visit ncjwla.org/whpgi. People who need assistance applying may call (323)852-8500, ext. 650, or may send an email to whpgi@ncjwla.org.

Ovation Hollywood hosts ‘NAACP Live!’ pop-up event

Ovation Hollywood (formerly Hollywood and Highland), has partnered with the NAACP and media partner KJLH radio to host “NAACP Live!,” an interactive pop-up experience taking place in conjunction with the 53rd NAACP Image Awards from Thursday, Feb. 24, through Saturday, Feb. 26. The pop-up will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily along the Awards Walk at Ovation Hollywood.

“NAACP Live!” will spotlight local artists and community performers alongside Image Awards nominees. The pop-up will encourage attendees to take action in their local communities.

Visitors will have the opportunity to support local, Black-owned businesses including art, home decor and apparel marketplace DomolINK, beauty and personal care brand Amp Beauty LA,

African high culture jewelry brand Fubala Jewelry and premium streetwear brand Meraki Gianni.

The 53rd NAACP Image Awards will be held on Feb. 26, at 5 p.m. on the BET network. “NAACP Live!” will take place at Ste. #125 along the Awards Walk at Ovation Hollywood.

For information, visit hollywoodandhighland.com/events/naacp-live.

Answers From Page 23



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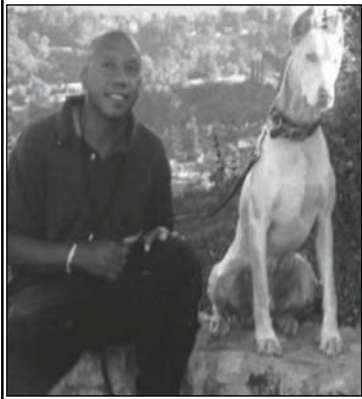
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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. Switch out

5. Fantasy draft choice

9. Gratify

13. Hot drink in the winter cold

15. Recipe instruction

16. J, in fashion

17. Combat gear

18. Adele or Shirley Bassey, e.g.

19. Fiona or Shrek

20. Duke en croute?

23. Beetle's victim, often

24. Topples from power

25. Informal vernacular

28. Fast food restaurant giveaway

30. Lotus sports car

31. Battery for laser pointers

33. Back up

37. Dessert to die for?

40. Understand?

41. A president and a singer

42. Sauce

43. Soccer players protect them

45. Metric heavyweight

47. Starts the bidding

49. Wine cask material

50. Emperor's fave

57. Fly, for one

58. Wings for Pei

59. You can set it on a cell phone

60. Señor's emphatic yes

Down

61. Campfire story

62. Tree brightly colored in autumn

63. Baldwin of "30 Rock"

64. Blinds item

65. Very large

1. Rebel in a union

2. Showed off

3. Tip-top

4. Magician's exclamation

5. Song from David

6. "___ be a cold day..."

7. Big name in credit cards

8. Money in Malmo

9. JK Rowling or Susan Boyle

10. Insider's language

11. Sea swallows

12. Lamb's mom

14. Aragorn's love in The Lord of the Rings

21. "Falstaff" composer

22. Fruit used in smoothies

25. Swing around

26. Kind of resort

27. Neosporin, e.g.

28. What Brady tries to avoid

29. Gross-weight deduction

30. Heart chart

32. Q ___ "Quebec"

34. The Drifters' "___ the Roof"

35. Movie prefix

36. Part of a bray

38. Cultural, in combinations

39. Abbr. on a business sign

44. Specks in the sea

46. Gumbo vegetables

47. Baseball pioneer Buck

48. No longer fashionable

49. Beginning

51. Its hub is Ben Gurion

52. Cooker for the casa

53. Reunion attendee

54. It's dropped sometimes at parties

55. Tedious affair

56. Old disco song title

57. Charitable ad

answers on page 22

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