



Partly cloudy,
with temps in
the low 80s

- Birds perish after landing at tar pits pg. 3
- Clarence Avant mourned pg. 4

Volume 33 No. 31

Serving Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Hancock Park and Miracle Mile

August 17, 2023

L.A. City Council rejects Bulgari Hotel proposal

■ Motion calls for reconsideration of zoning change

BY JOEY WALDINGER

Luxury goods brand Bulgari's bid to build a hotel in Benedict Canyon was rejected by the Los Angeles City Council on Aug. 16.

Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, introduced a motion opposing the pro-

ject on March 15, which was finally adopted by an 8-6 vote in the City Council

"Today, the Los Angeles City Council stood with hundreds of community members and environmental leaders who have been fighting for years to protect the

See **Council** page 21



rendering courtesy of Bulgari

The proposed hotel has sparked heated debate about development in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Lawsuit claims real estate company colluded with Beverly Hills to block opening of clinic

BY JOEY WALDINGER

A lawsuit filed by attorneys for reproductive health facility DuPont Clinic alleges that Douglas Emmett, a commercial real estate company headquartered in Santa Monica, colluded with Beverly Hills officials to delay the opening and ultimately rescind the lease for a proposed clinic at 8920 Wilshire Blvd.

The lawsuit lists 10 causes of action against Douglas Emmett, including breach of contract, negligent interference with prospective economic relations and negligent misrepresentation.

According to the complaint, filed Aug. 14 in Los Angeles County Superior Court, Douglas Emmett entered into the lease in September 2022, fully aware of DuPont's array of services, which include abortions.

Based in Washington, D.C., DuPont chose to open a new location in Beverly Hills because of the city's public stance on women's reproductive rights,



photo by Joey Waldinger

The building where a clinic was proposed has been the site of repeated protests.

according to the complaint.

Based on the city's position, DuPont signed a lease in September 2022 for a space at the Wilshire Boulevard location, with

plans to open the following October.

However, according to the complaint, Douglas Emmett and the

See **Lawsuit** page 21

Police prepare after flash mobs target stores

■ Caruso condemns incidents at Americana, Topanga mall

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Law enforcement agencies are increasing patrols around local shopping malls and stores in response to smash and grab burglaries committed by large groups of suspects known as flash mobs.

The groups swarm inside stores and steal as much merchandise as

possible in a couple of minutes before fleeing. On Aug. 15 around 7 p.m., eleven suspects wearing ski masks entered the Ksubi clothing store at 132 S. La Brea Ave. and stole merchandise valued at \$100,000, police said. A Nike store in East L.A. was targeted in a smash and grab burglary on Aug. 13.

A group of approximately 30 suspects stole \$300,000 in merchandise on Aug. 12 from a Nordstrom department store in the Westfield Topanga Shopping Center, accord-

ing to the Los Angeles Police Department. A similar group of approximately 20 suspects entered and stole merchandise on Aug. 8 from the Yves Saint Laurent store at the Americana at Brand shopping mall in Glendale.

"Those who committed these acts and acts like it in neighboring areas must be held accountable," Mayor Karen Bass said. "The Los Angeles Police Department will continue to work to not only find those responsible but to prevent these attacks on retailers from happening in the future."

Authorities at the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division have increased patrols around shopping malls such as The Grove, Beverly Center and Beverly Connection. Lt. Mark Ro, with the Wilshire Division, said the incident at Ksubi was a robbery because one the suspects allegedly gestured to an unarmed security guard that he had a gun. The incident happened as the store was preparing to close at 7 p.m., Ro added.

Police obtained footage of a get-away vehicle and license plate used in the Ksubi robbery. The LAPD put out a bulletin and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputies pulled the car over in

See **Police** page 22



photo by Edwin Folven

A group of suspects swarmed inside the Ksubi clothing store on La Brea Avenue on Aug. 15 and stole merchandise valued at \$100,000.

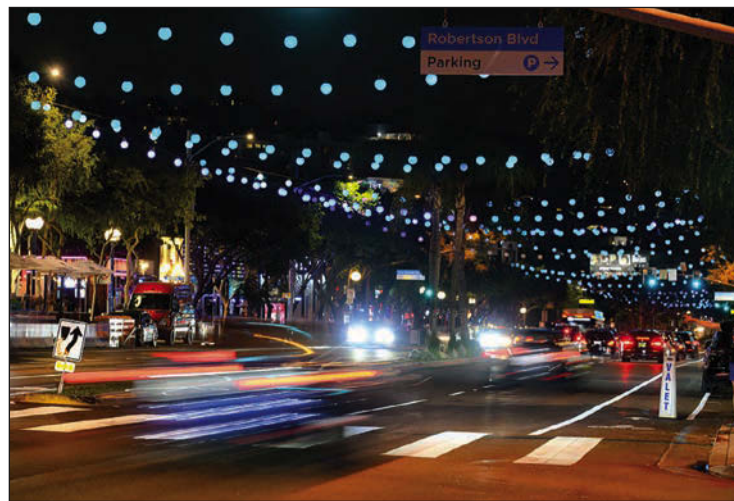


photo by Jon Viscott

Public safety in the nightlife districts of West Hollywood was discussed during a special city meeting on Aug. 14.

WeHo considers public safety at special study session

■ Recommendations include investing in advanced technology





BY RANCE COLLINS

The city of West Hollywood held a joint meeting between the City Council and the Public Safety Commission on Aug. 14 in

which the results of an extensive survey from the Center For Policing Equity were presented. The study concentrated on racial disparities in police stops, among other issues related to police interaction with minority groups.

Additionally, the council and commission received an update and provided feedback on tech-

See **WeHo** page 22



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photo by Rance Collins

The Writers Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers have resumed contract negotiations.

WGA back at the table with AMPTP

BY RANCE COLLINS

Over 100 days after the Writers Guild of America’s strike against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers began, the union is back at the negotiating table. On Aug. 11, the AMPTP delivered a counteroffer to the WGA, just one week after the first meeting between the two organizations since the strike began. The WGA had written an update to its members that indicated that the meeting had gone poorly, but some members expressed optimism after the WGA received the new proposal.

“I’m cautiously optimistic,” writer Amanda Barnes said. “I think there’s so much power that’s been demonstrated from the writers and actors and supporters, it inspires optimism.”

The details of the offer have not been fully revealed, but Bloomberg reported that the concessions from the AMPTP included language assuring artificial intelligence will not replace human beings in writers rooms.

The studios have also reportedly agreed to begin sharing streaming data, a longtime sticking point about streaming services which have largely kept viewership numbers secret. The information would help in the calculation of residual payments. The AMPTP is said to have agreed to some increases in residuals for writers.

“I think there’s so much power that’s been demonstrated from the writers and actors and supporters, it inspires optimism.”

-WGA member Amanda Barnes

“We started with a long list of basic core proposals that were fully ignored,” Barnes said. “So, the fact that we’re back at the table is positive, and those conversations are actually happening.”

The AMPTP’s counteroffer also allegedly addresses the preservation of writers rooms, one of the primary concerns for the union and something the AMPTP appeared unwilling to move on just a couple weeks ago.

SAG-AFTRA, which began its own strike against the AMPTP over a month ago, has not yet come back the negotiating table. As the two unions have largely been in lockstep with the respective strikes, it is presumed that SAG-AFTRA negotiations would follow the WGA.

“What makes me hopeful is walking the picket lines and seeing all of us,” SAG-AFTRA member Aaron LaPlante said. “As far as tables and negotiations go, I’m vigilant and unemotional. What needs to happen is as clear as day. There is no argument against people being compensated for their efforts and abilities. So, I’m staying observant and trying to throw good punches when I can.”

Jazz at Hammer Museum

JazzPOP celebrates its 16th season at the Hammer Museum with a performance by the Eric Revis Trio on Thursday, Aug 17, at 8 p.m. in the museum’s courtyard. As a composer and bandleader, Grammy-winning bassist Revis draws on diverse experiences to create original music that grooves with irresistible energy and dynamic interplay. The trio also includes Joshua White on keyboard and Tina Raymond on drums. Admission is free. 10899 Wilshire Blvd. hammer.ucla.edu.



YMCA Summer Soiree

The Anderson Munger Family YMCA will celebrate its ninth anniversary with a rooftop “Summer Soiree” fundraising dinner on Friday, Aug. 18, from 6-8:30 p.m. The event will honor Jane Gilman, former publisher of the Larchmont Chronicle; Scot Clifford, former Hollywood YMCA and Anderson Munger Family YMCA board member; and Michael Pak, founder of Koreatown Run Club. Proceeds will support the YMCA’s programs. Tickets start at \$125. 4301 W. Third St. ymcala.org/events/summer-soiree-dinner-fundraiser.

Jazz at Los Angeles Theatre

Enjoy “An Intimate Jazz Age Evening at the Los Angeles Theatre” with the Art Deco Society on Friday, Aug. 18, at 7:30 p.m. The downtown Los Angeles Theatre’s “Unusual” speakeasy will open its clandestine doors to the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles and friends for a decadent evening of hot jazz from Alex Mendham and His Orchestra. Enjoy cocktails from Sipsmith Gin, silent films and candlelight tours of the 1931 movie palace. General admission tickets are \$75. 624 St. Vincent Court. art-decola.org.

Los Angeles Filmforum

Los Angeles Filmforum presents “The Wyvernwood Chronicles: Part 2” on Sunday Aug. 19, at 2 p.m. at 2220 Arts + Archives. Filmmaker Diego Robles’ work features an eclectic collection of short films focused on a group of residents in a community just east of the Los Angeles River in Boyle Heights, where many attempts by the city to displace the residents from 2007-15 were challenged. Tickets are \$12. 2220 W. Beverly Blvd. link.dice.fm/Vcc22d8036f8.

TAG Gallery

TAG Gallery is holding a reception on Saturday, Aug. 19, from 5-9 p.m. for exhibits by Robert Zent Chew, Shirley Asano Guldemann, Giana Vargas and David Weeks. The exhibitions run through Saturday, Sept. 9. Meet the artists and enjoy wine and refreshments at the reception, which is free and open to the public. 5458 Wilshire Blvd. taggallery.net.

‘Heroes of the Fourth Turning’

Rogue Machine’s production of Will Arbery’s “Heroes of the Fourth Turning” runs from Saturday, Aug. 19, through Monday, Oct. 2, at the Matrix Theatre. On a dark night in the middle

CALENDAR

of America, four young conservatives gather to toast the newly inducted president of their tiny Catholic college. The reunion spirals into chaos and clashing generational politics, becoming a vicious fight to be understood. Arbery’s haunting play speaks to the heart of a country at war with itself, offering grace and disarming clarity. The play stars Roxanne Hart, Evangeline Edwards, Samuel Garnett, Stephen Tyler Howell and Emily James. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Monday, 3 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$45. 7657 Melrose Ave. (855)585-5185, roguemachinetheatre.org.

Verdi Chorus auditions

The Verdi Chorus is holding auditions on Saturday, Aug. 19, at the First Presbyterian Church in Santa Monica for the chorus’ fall 2023 concert. The Verdi Chorus is celebrating its 40th anniversary and is planning gala concerts on Nov. 18-19 at the church. Under the direction of founding artistic director Anne Marie Ketchum, the chorus presents four concerts each year as well as other collaborative events. Positions are open for all voice types. To request an audition, visit verdichorus.org/audition-for-chorus.

Friends of Beverly Hills Library

Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library is holding its Half-Off Art and Cookbook Sale from Sunday, Aug. 20, through Sunday, Aug. 27, at the library. The organization operates the Friends Bookstore in the library offering new and gently used books, collectables and out-of-print books. Funds raised support programs at the library. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday; noon-4 p.m., Sunday. Beverly Hills Public Library, 444 N. Rexford Dr. friendsofbhpl.org.



LACMA art tour

Join a LACMA docent for a 30-minute tour of “Matthew Barney: REPRESSIA (decline)” on Sunday, Aug. 20, from 1-1:30 p.m. in the Resnick Pavilion. The room-sized sculptural installation features “Radial

Drill” (1991) and “Blind Perineum” (1991), two videos in which Barney performs strenuous acts of athletics with unorthodox outcomes. The central space features sculptural components that draw from the exercise equipment and materials used in wrestling. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.

Holocaust talk

Visit the Holocaust Museum Los Angeles for “Descendants of Remembrance: 3G Survivor Talk with Amy Conroy” on Monday, Aug. 21, from 1-2 p.m. Conroy will share the remarkable story of her grandfather Nathan Rosenblatt’s resilience and survival during one of history’s darkest periods. Rosenblatt was sent by the Nazis to five different concentration camps and by a miracle was liberated by the U.S. army. RSVP is requested. 100 The Grove Drive. holocaustmuseumla.org.



Kara Alloway book signing

Former Allure Magazine editor and reality TV show producer Kara Alloway, who appeared on “The Real Housewives of Toronto,” will sign and discuss her book “Most Hated” on Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble at The Grove. Alloway gives viewers an inside look into the “Real Housewives” world with her debut novel. 189 The Grove Drive. Ste. K 30. stores.barnesandnoble.com/event/9780 062158751-0.

Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills

Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills will present seven classic horror and suspense films on Labor Day Weekend from Friday, Sept. 1, through Sunday, Sept. 3. The series includes a 35th anniversary screening of “Child’s Play” on Sept. 3 at 4 p.m. with a special appearance by the film’s star Catherine Hicks. Other films to be shown include “Alien,” “We Need To Talk About Kevin,” “Psycho” “Rosemary’s Baby,” “An American Werewolf in London” and “The Thing.” See schedule for showtimes. Tickets are \$10 for each film. 8556 Wilshire Blvd. fineartstheatrebh.com.

THE MUSIC MINUTE

GET THE SKINNY ON THIS GREAT CONCERT

SMOOTH JAZZ AND R&B ARTIST BONEY JAMES

Nicknamed by bandmates while on tour in Oslo, Norway, after jokingly threatening to starve himself on a threadbare per diem, Boney or Bones or Boneman (though his wife calls him Jimmy) has put in his proverbial 10,000 hours as a musician, performer, writer and producer.

During his 30-year career, Boney has earned four Grammy nominations (“I’m not gonna lie... I’d still love a statue,” he says), two NAACP Image Award nominations and a Soul Train Award, while a dozen of his albums have landed at #1 on Billboard’s Contemporary Jazz Album chart. His collaborators in the past include a who’s who of R&B and soul: Raheem DeVaughn, Faith Evans, George Benson, George Duke, Dwele, Al Jarreau, Philip Bailey, Anthony Hamilton, Jaheim, Eric Benét, Dave Hollister, Stokley Williams, Kenny Lattimore and Angie Stone.

For the inimitable Boney James, life begins at 60. The cat in the hat is back and better than ever, enjoying life with his wife of 37 years, actress/director Lily Mariye. “What drives me is my love of making music and my desire for people to hear what I’ve made,” he says. “I still love the communal aspect of playing live. There’s nothing else like it.”

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Geese perish after landing at La Brea Tar Pits

■ Two of the 15 birds were rescued and are recovering

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A flock of 15 Canadian geese landed in the lake at the La Brea Tar Pits on July 31 and a majority of the birds got trapped by the tar and perished.

Staff at the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum notified animal care authorities and the International Bird Rescue removed seven of the birds, which were taken to the non-profit's Los Angeles Wildlife Center in San Pedro. Only two of the geese survived.

"It's heartbreaking to see accidents like this occur," International Bird Rescue CEO J.D. Bergeron said in a statement posted on the organization's website. "Birds in a

changing world face dwindling natural habitat and lack of habitat is a big problem for the wild animals that call Los Angeles home. It is natural for animals to become trapped in the tar, but in a huge city with little wildlife habitat, the lake can look very attractive to animals.”

The geese became trapped by tar just below water on the surface of the lake. The birds struggled to free themselves, causing myopathy, or stress on their muscles, according to the International Bird Rescue. The tar also caused burns on the birds' skin. One of the seven geese that were rescued sustained a broken leg from struggling to free itself from the tar.

The lake at the La Brea Tar Pits is located along Wilshire Boulevard in front of the museum. It is fenced to prevent people and animals from entering, but there is no cover above to prevent birds from flying in and

landing on the lake. The La Brea Tar Pits and Museum is part of the Los Angeles History Museum of Los Angeles County.

"It is an unfortunate and distressing situation when wildlife becomes entrapped in the natural asphalt seeps at the La Brea Tar Pits. This particular situation is a rare occurrence, but animals occasionally getting stuck in the tar is a process that has been happening here for over 60,000 years," NHM spokeswoman Amy Hood said. "Rescuing animals from the Lake Pit is difficult and dangerous and best left to those with specialized training. In this case, we contacted Los Angeles Animal Services, who mobilized SMART (Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue Team). Seven of the entrapped birds were rescued and taken to Bird Rescue's Los Angeles Wildlife Center for care."

“Bird rescue consults with



photo by Kadi Erickson/International Bird Rescue

Staff at the International Bird Rescue removed tar from the surviving geese that landed in the lake at the La Brea Tar Pits.

Wildlife Responsibility partners to deter wild birds from these types of threats.” Bergeron added. “The best case scenario is to prevent these

injuries from happening. Until then, we rely on public support to pay for extensive medical care and costly treatments.”



photo by Joey Waldinger

City officials said the union has ignored requests to reduce noise in the early morning hours during the strike.

Beverly Hills targets striking union in noise complaint

BY JOEY WALDINGER

Attorneys for the city of Beverly Hills filed a noise complaint on Aug. 15 against the Unite Here Local 11 labor union, which has been holding intermittent protests at hotels across Southern California since early July as part of an ongoing strike for better benefits and higher wages.

According to Beverly Hills City Attorney Laurence Wiener, the

union begins their protests as early as 5:30 a.m., banging drums and blaring megaphones waking up hotel guests and nearby residents.

City officials have tried to work with the union to persuade picketers to not make noise until after 8 a.m., and they decided to file a formal nuisance complaint after union leadership refused, Wiener said.

The complaint asks them not to make “excessive noise” between

10 p.m. and 8 a.m., and the city will file for a temporary restraining order if the union ignores the complaint, Wiener said.

"It doesn't mean they can't protest," Wiener added. "They can still protest, they just can't create such noise that it is going to wake up neighbors across Wilshire."

Wiener said the union has not responded to the complaint, and a union spokesperson did not respond to requests for comment.

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A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a grey suit, white shirt, and a dark tie with white polka dots. He is standing with his hands clasped in front of him, looking slightly to the side.

Sex assault suspect faces multiple felony charges

■ Man allegedly drugged women in WeHo, L.A.

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 37-year-old man has been charged with 14 felonies alleging he sexually assaulted female victims after drugging them at locations in West Hollywood and Los Angeles.

The defendant, Andrey Thanh Nguyen, is charged with seven counts of rape by use of drugs, three counts of sexual penetration by anesthesia or controlled substance, one count of forcible rape, one count of oral copulation by anesthesia or controlled substance, one count of sale, transportation or offer to sell a controlled substance, and one count of sexual battery. He pleaded not guilty on Aug. 10 and is scheduled to return to court on Aug. 30.

The charges against Nguyen, who is known by the alias Cosmo, stem from a joint investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles Police Department. Sgt. Belen Lemus, with the Sheriff's Department's Special Victims Bureau, said very few details are being released due to the ongoing investigation. Authorities believe there may be more victims, and are asking them to come forward.

"My office is committed to working tirelessly to prevent sexual assault, support survivors and hold abusers accountable," Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón said. "We encourage any additional victims of Andrey Thanh Nguyen to come forward."

Nguyen was arrested on Aug. 9 at an undisclosed location in the East Los Angeles area. The Los

Angeles County District Attorney's office released the criminal complaint against Nguyen outlining crimes against five separate victims. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is investigating incidents that were allegedly perpetrated against three women in West Hollywood on June 13, 2023, Lemus said. The LAPD is investigating alleged crimes that occurred on Sept. 26, 2021, involving two women in Los Angeles. The locations of the assaults were not specified.

The charges allege that Nguyen sexually assaulted the women when they were under the influence of a controlled substance, but the criminal complaint does not cite the substance. Lemus also declined to provide the names of locations or any information about where the crimes allegedly occurred, and declined to state whether the victims were drugged in public or at a private location.

"Right now we can't release info, and that's why it is so vague," she added. "There is still so much work [investigators] are doing. Right now, we are hoping anyone who is a victim will come forward."

Nguyen was described as biracial. He is 6 feet tall, 205 pounds and has brown hair and eyes. He is being held on \$1.2-million bail.

Anyone with information or who believes they were a victim is urged to call the sheriff's department's Special Victims Bureau at (877)710-5273.



Andrey Thanh Nguyen

Clarence Avant remembered on Walk of Fame

■ Recording industry pioneer passes away at 92

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A wreath was placed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame star of music industry mogul Clarence Avant, who died on Aug. 13 at the age of 92.

Known as the "Godfather of Black Music," Avant enjoyed a long career in the recording industry, working with legends such as Quincy Jones, Michael Jackson and Bill Withers. He started Sussex Records in Hollywood in 1969 and signed Withers, who became known for hits such as "Just the Two of Us" and "Ain't No Sunshine." Avant later founded KAGB (Avant Garde Broadcasting), one of the first Black-owned radio stations in Los Angeles market, and established Tabu Records, which produced albums for the S.O.S. Band, Brainstorm and Alexander O'Neal. He also promoted Jackson's "Bad" solo world tour.

Avant was known for serving as an inspirational figure to young Black executives in the entertainment industry, offering advice that helped guide their careers. He was also well-known in political circles, supporting leaders such as Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and President Barack Obama. Many paid tribute following news of Avant's death.

"Clarence Avant was one of our favorite people. He exemplified a certain level of cool and street smarts that allowed him to move confidently into worlds that nobody had prepared him for, never doubting he could figure it out," Obama said in a post on X, formerly Twitter. "Clarence was part of a generation that served as a bridge from



photo by Edwin Folven

Flowers were placed at the star of Clarence Avant, who died on Aug. 13.

a time when there was very little opportunity for Black people to a time when doors began to open. He demanded the world make room, and paved the way for the rest of us. Michelle and I will always be grateful for Clarence's friendship and wise counsel."

"Clarence Avant leaves a legacy that will inspire music and culture forever. Mr. Avant gave so much to Los Angeles – producing a sound that influenced generations while ceaselessly fighting for civil rights and equal treatment under the law," Mayor Karen Bass said. "I had the great fortune to have been able to engage Mr. Avant in insightful and valuable conversations about the top issues that our city and nation were facing and I will always be grateful for the time we shared. Mr. and Mrs. Avant changed

Los Angeles with their vision, their spirit and their philanthropy. My thoughts are with the Avant family and all who mourn this massive loss."

Avant lived in Trousdale Estates with his wife Jacqueline, who was tragically murdered in 2021 by a parolee who burglarized their home. The suspect was arrested, convicted and sentenced to 190 years in prison. The murder, which made international headlines, occurred a month after Clarence Avant was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Avant received his Walk of Fame star on Oct. 7, 2016, at 6363 Hollywood Blvd. He is survived by his daughter Nicole, a film producer and former ambassador to the Bahamas, her husband Ted Sarandos, co-CEO of Netflix, and his son Alex Avant, a talent representative.

City attorney files lawsuit over short-term rental violations

Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto has filed a civil lawsuit against Ultimate Host, LLC, doing business as The Nightfall Group, a limited liability company based in Beverly Hills, for alleged violations of L.A.'s short term rental ordinance.

The lawsuit also targets The Nightfall Group's owner and operator Mokhtar Jabli and three property owners who are alleged to have actively facilitated Nightfall's illegal conduct. The complaint alleges glaring and persistent violations of the short-term rental ordinance and party house ordinance.

Feldstein Soto alleges that Nightfall – through the hundreds of properties it rents on a short-term basis – is a considerable contributor to problems involving party houses. Within the last two years, the Los Angeles Police Department has been called to Nightfall-associated properties more than 250 times in the Hollywood area alone, Feldstein Soto said. A residence at 9010 Hopen Place in the Hollywood Hills

was the subject of 31 party-related calls for police assistance over the last two years, according to the complaint.

"These party houses have deleterious and serious effects on the quality of life for our city," she added. "They disrupt communities, violate noise ordinances until the wee hours of the morning, clog evacuation routes and take valuable housing off the market. I expect this is the first of the enforcement actions we will need to bring."

According to the complaint, Nightfall is a hosting platform as defined by the city's short term rental ordinance, charging as much as \$16,000 per night for a short-term rental. Unlike other similar platforms, Nightfall and its principal leased hundreds of properties and offered them as short-term rentals, the complaint alleges.

Leasing properties and offering them as short-term rentals is a violation of the ordinance, which limits a person to operating only one short-term rental property at a time, and

requires the property to be the person's primary residence. Additionally, operators of short-term rentals must register with the city's Planning Department and include a registration number on all advertised listings. Nightfall repeatedly violates the provisions, the city attorney said.

The complaint also alleges that Nightfall allows other people to frequently use the short-term rentals as party houses, which greatly impacts quality of life in neighborhoods. Feldstein Soto said short-term rentals offered by the company are a threat to public safety, and that Nightfall is engaging in the type of conduct the City Council sought to prevent by approving the party house ordinance. The City Attorney's Office is seeking to enjoin Nightfall and the property owners from further harming the public through the continued violation and public nuisances. The City Attorney's Office is also seeking penalties of up to \$2,500 for each violation of each ordinance.



photo courtesy of Streets Are For Everyone

The first Ghost Tire Memorial was created in remembrance of Raymond Olivares, who was killed by a street racer on Feb. 19.

Ghost Tire Memorials honor victims of fatal collisions

Streets Are for Everyone, a non-profit that advocates for traffic safety measures, placed the first Ghost Tire Memorial on Aug. 12 at the site of a fatal February collision that claimed the life of a 27-year-old man.

The memorial is the first in a series of many that will be placed at the sites of fatal collisions throughout the city by Streets Are for Everyone, which was founded by Damian Kevitt in 2013 after he was struck by a car and severely injured while riding his bike in Griffith Park.

Ghost Tire Memorials consist of a white painted tire that is placed on the side of a road with the name and date of the person killed by a speeding driver. The initial memorial was placed at 13322 Avalon Blvd. in South Los Angeles at the site where Raymond Olivares was struck and killed by a street racer on Feb. 19.

Families who would like to have a Ghost Tire Memorial installed for a loved one are encouraged to email info@streetsareforeveryone.org. For information, visit ghosttire.org.

WeHo residents sought for sheriff's community academy

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's West Hollywood Station has announced details for the annual Community Academy, which will take place over six consecutive Wednesday evenings from Sept. 6 to Oct. 18.

The Community Academy offers West Hollywood residents an inside look at the operations of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

Attendees will gain a comprehensive knowledge of patrol operations and learn how the station's specialty teams address mental health challenges in the community. Participants will be introduced to specialized units including SWAT and the K9 unit, and will experience firsthand what it's like to work in the field during a ride-along with a deputy.

The Community Academy is also

an opportunity to connect with personnel from the West Hollywood Station and engage with fellow West Hollywood residents.

The Community Academy has limited space. Those interested are encouraged to contact Sgt. Jason Duron by email at whdcit@lasd.org or fill out an application by visiting lasd.org/whd-community-academy-2023.



**Preservation
of Urban
Open Space**

**Community
Access**

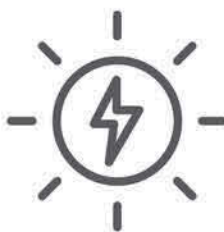
**Water
Conservation**



There are a lot of good reasons why
so many community members support
Harvard-Westlake River Park.



**Public Tennis
Facility**



**Solar
Power**



**Native
Trees
and Plants**



**Safety
Improvements**

Yaroslavsky stays focused on homelessness, housing

■ Councilwoman intends to better involve constituents

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

After taking office in mid-December, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, has deeply immersed herself in the city's efforts to get people off the streets and into housing. She said addressing homelessness has consumed a majority of her time during the first eight months in office, and she knows it is only the beginning given the extent of the problem.

"I dream about units, I dream about homeless housing. When I ran, I talked about this exact kind of [interim] housing. We need new beds," Yaroslavsky said. "Public safety and homelessness and affordability are paramount to me and to my constituents. So it's where we're spending a lot of our time."

Yaroslavsky has been working to get people off the streets in a variety of ways, including partnering with Mayor Karen Bass to house people through the Inside Safe program. Inside Safe allows the city to clear encampments after housing is found for people, and they are provided with services until permanent housing is identified.

An encampment behind LACMA and the Academy Museum on Sixth Street near Fairfax Avenue was removed in February after housing was found for people living at the site. Another encampment on San Vicente Boulevard between Wilshire and La Cienega boulevards was cleared in May under the Inside Safe program.

Yaroslavsky is also working on long-term solutions to homelessness including interim housing, which provides places for people to stay while they are connected to permanent units. The Inside Safe program primarily houses people in hotel rooms rented by the city, which is expensive and cost-prohibitive over the long-term, Yaroslavsky said. Creating interim housing and temporary housing in sites the city already owns is a more viable and sustainable solution, she added. To that end, Yaroslavsky has proposed an interim housing project with 30 beds on a city-owned parking lot at Pico Boulevard and Midvale Avenue in Westwood.

The Midvale Avenue proposal has been controversial, with a group of opponents disrupting an Aug. 3 meeting with Yaroslavsky and Bass at Temple Isaiah. Opponents claim they were blind-sided with a project that is essentially a done deal, and were not allowed to provide input about potential negative impacts the

interim housing may have on the surrounding community. The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, which represents 14 neighborhood councils on the Westside, sent a letter to Yaroslavsky and Bass on Aug. 15 stating that not enough time was given to the community to consider the Midvale project. The letter also urged city officials to always work cooperatively with neighborhood councils and the community when projects are proposed.

Yaroslavsky said there will be more opportunities for the public to receive information, provide input and participate in the planning process in the coming weeks. The public can also email input on the project to councilmember.yaroslavsky@lacity.org.

She added that homelessness is a crisis that has been declared an emergency by the city and county, and there is an urgency to finding housing. Interim housing must be created somewhere, and locations like city-owned parking lots are cost-effective, she said.

"We don't have years. It's obvious, I think to all of us, that we need solutions and housing of all kinds right now," Yaroslavsky added.

The city is also looking at buying buildings and working with the private sector to create housing. Few interim housing sites exist in the 5th District because of the high cost of real estate, she said.

"The fastest way to bring housing online is just to buy already built buildings, so we're working with the mayor's office on some potential bulk sites that would be paid for with state money that could be used for some sort of interim and more permanent supportive housing, because we need the interim beds in different parts of the city," Yaroslavsky said. "We need the permanent supportive housing, and then we need affordable housing, because not everyone needs 24/7 wraparound services. We're coming up with a portfolio and we will find out whether or not we're getting funding for buildings and things like that."

While addressing homelessness consumes much of Yaroslavsky's time, she is working on many other issues, such as lowering crime. The councilwoman said she is proud to have secured \$150,000 in the city budget for the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles' community security initiatives. The federation works with synagogues, schools and Jewish facilities throughout the

city to help them make their buildings safer. The funds for security initiatives followed the shootings of two Jewish men leaving temples in the Pico-Robertson community in February.

"It's not nearly enough, but it's a good start. The hope is to make a permanent increase year over year," Yaroslavsky said. "And we're also working with the federation to extend the programming to the [Asian and Pacific Islander] community. We represent a lot of API constituents and there are similar issues around hate crimes."

Yaroslavsky said restoring economic vibrancy is also an important part of her work, particularly in the Miracle Mile, where many businesses are closed and boarded, and subway construction has had a major impact. The subway is scheduled to open at the end of 2024, at the same time the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's new building spanning Wilshire Boulevard will be complete, and Yaroslavsky said she plans to work with all entities involved on Wilshire Boulevard to make the Miracle Mile a more desirable destination. She suggested creating a business improvement district in the Miracle Mile, which in partnership with the city and the museums could guide the revitalization.

"It's easy to forget that we're still coming out of Covid and the economic effects of that, and the property damage that was done during the protests in 2020. A lot of that



photo by Edwin Folven

Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, shown at an Inside Safe operation on Sixth Street in February, said ending homelessness remains a top priority.

part of the city hasn't come back yet," she said. "One of the challenges in the post-Prop. 13 world is that our budget was slashed across the board, and street services is one of them. The idea of business improvement districts [helps] cover some of that gap. We have a clean team of three people who are out every day picking up trash, [doing] weed abatement, some tree trimming, things like that. But you know, that's not enough, given how big this district is."

Proposals have been made to potentially add more council districts and reduce the size of the districts. Yaroslavsky backed away from that idea.

"I think the issue is resources rather than the number of council members. If I had more people, we could get more done," Yaroslavsky said. "I don't think that increasing

the size of the council solves for these things necessarily, unless the resources that come with it are increased. I mean, look at Chicago, which has what 50 aldermen. Increasing it results in better constituent services only if you have a commensurate number of people."

Yaroslavsky said she will continue to work on the myriad problems facing the city, and remains committed to doing everything possible to end homelessness, which she said is a crisis that affects many other areas such as business and the economy.

"There's a lot we can be doing that we are starting to do," Yaroslavsky added. "We're having lots of conversations about how best can we support [businesses] given the constraints and realities of the city. We want the businesses and constituents to be involved."

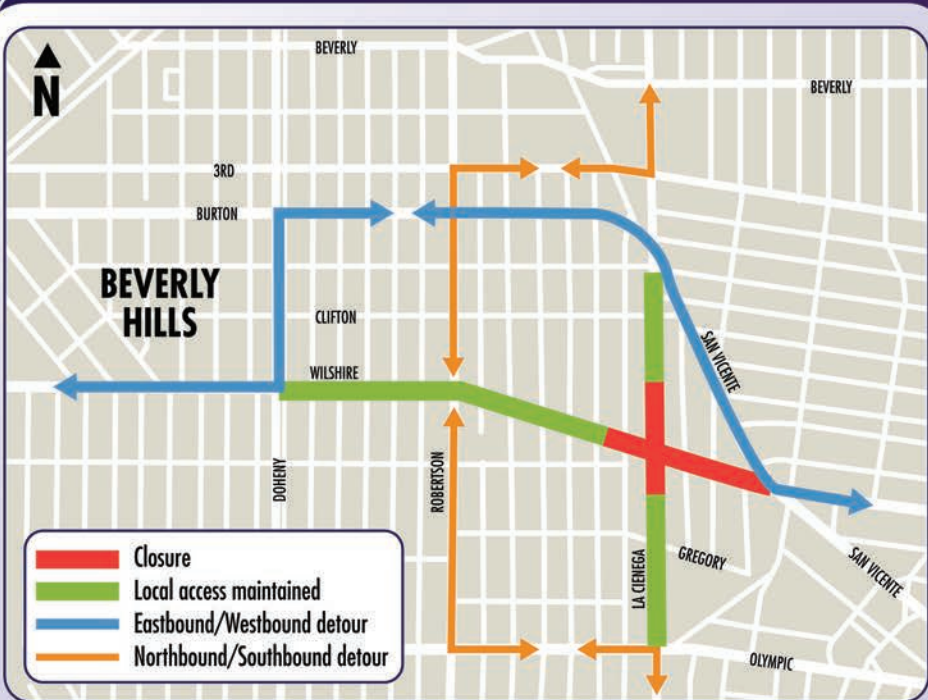


photo by Edwin Folven

Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky helped plant trees in the Melrose District in May. She is working to improve streets throughout the district.

PURPLE (D LINE) EXTENSION TRANSIT PROJECT

La Cienega Station (Sec 1) - Deck Removal Phase 2
Weekend Closures of Wilshire Blvd./La Cienega Blvd.



TRAFFIC ADVISORY

The closure may resume as early as the weekend of August 4th and will continue each weekend (excluding holidays) through early September 2023 due to the Metro Purple (D Line) construction taking place.

Full Street Closure on Wilshire Blvd between La Cienega Blvd and San Vicente Blvd, and La Cienega Blvd closed at the intersection of Wilshire Blvd.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE 24/7 METRO HOTLINE AT (213) 922-6934.

Beverly Hills takes new approach to combat homelessness

■ Council approves \$14 million contract for housing

BY JOEY WALDINGER

The city of Beverly Hills is investing more than \$14 million in a new contract to provide permanent housing and other support services for unhoused residents. On Aug. 15, the City Council approved a 10-year, approximately \$14.178 million contract with Step Up On Second, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Santa Monica, to provide 30 units of permanent supportive housing and motel stays for up to 20 individuals annually.

This effort grew out of an earlier proposal to the Unhoused Services Ad Hoc Committee, which called for 40 units of “scattered-site” permanent housing over the initial 10-year period, according to a staff report.

After many conversations, staff determined it would be more effective to devise a more complete program that addressed both the chronically and non-chronically homeless populations.

Over the course of the program, Step Up on Second expects to assist 230 individuals, permanently hous-

ing 30 of the most chronically homeless individuals and moving 200 non-chronic homeless individuals into temporary housing with case managers and other support services.

“It’s important to take a look at the characteristics of people in our communities that are experiencing homelessness,” human services administrator Christopher Paulson said.

Non-chronically homeless individuals are typically people experiencing a catastrophic life event, and require short-term solutions like rapid rehousing, Paulson said.

For the chronically unhoused, who make up the largest proportion of the city’s homeless population, their best chance at finding a home comes with permanent supportive housing, he added.

“For these chronically homeless individuals, housing retention is the focus due to their existing disabilities,” Paulson said. “The ability to establish a trajectory of independence from supportive housing is often unlikely as they’re focusing on managing their abilities.”

The Step Up on Second proposal attempts to offer solutions for both populations.

Under the scattered-site model, chronically unhoused tenants will be placed in 30 units owned by

independent landlords. Step Up on Second will act as the “housing authority,” making rental payments directly to the property owner and ensuring that tenants pay their share (30%) through available means including Social Security and disability payments.

The organization has secured 30 units in a Hollywood building, according to the report.

To address the non-chronically unhoused population, the program allocates \$42,000 annually, enough to house 20 individuals a year at an average rate of \$150 per night.

“I think ... we have to do this,” Gold said. “Other cities around use are doing this and the general expectation is that we’re all going to assist in solving this crisis, or at least in slowing it down.”

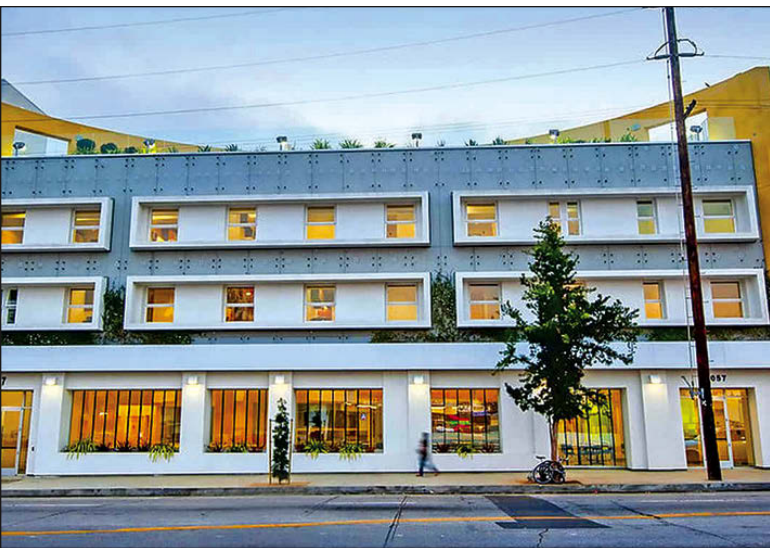


photo courtesy of Hollywood Community Housing

Step Up on Second will utilize a mix of permanent and temporary housing options to reduce homelessness in Beverly Hills.

Jewish Federation security initiative helps apprehend suspected white supremacist

Los Angeles is home to one of the largest populations of Jewish people in the United States and tragically is also home to an alarming rise in antisemitic incidents. The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles’ study of Jewish L.A. revealed that an estimated 1 in 5 L.A. Jews have experienced anti-semitism in some form. The federation’s partners at the ADL have also recently reported on the record high rate of antisemitic incidents in Los Angeles. The threats are real, and they are here.

With the July 27 arrest of a Reseda man with white supremacist ties, the federation’s Community Security Initiative continues to help alleviate these threats.

According to the U.S. Attorney’s Office Central District of California Office, between 2021 and January 2023, the suspect posted online messages and photographs documenting his use of a 3-D printer to manufacture firearms, as well as calling for the

mass murder of Jews. Law enforcement deemed this a very real and credible threat towards Jews in Los Angeles and were able to arrest the suspect.

The CSI first identified the subject’s alleged online activity in March 2022. From then into early 2023, CSI provided two detailed suspicious activity reports to law enforcement and government partners. These reports detailed the threatening nature of the suspect’s online comments and alleged activities. Many of these comments included neo-Nazi propaganda, violent calls to action against the Jewish community, and the alleged use of a 3-D printer to manufacture firearms parts. CSI continued to monitor the suspect into 2023.

By doing this work, the CSI enables the Jewish community of Los Angeles to continue being Jewish and living Jewishly.

For information, visit jewishla.org/program/community-security-initiative/

Blood donors sought by American Red Cross amid summer shortfall

The American Red Cross has seen a shortfall of about 25,000 blood donations in the first two months of the summer, which makes it hard to keep hospital shelves stocked with lifesaving blood products. By making an appointment to give blood or platelets in August, donors can keep the national blood supply from falling to shortage levels.

The Red Cross especially needs type O negative, type O positive, type B negative and type A negative blood donors, as well as platelet donors. For those who don’t know their blood type, making a donation

is an easy way to find out this important personal health information. The Red Cross will notify new donors of their blood type soon after they give.

Throughout August, all blood donors will get a \$10 e-gift card to a movie theater of their choice.

To schedule an appointment, call 1(800)733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org.

There are upcoming donation events on Aug. 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Robertson Plaza, 120 N. Robertson Blvd., and on Aug. 21 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Hollywood Pantages Theatre, 6233 Hollywood Blvd.

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Yee-haw! WeHo rec expo makes a splash

BY RANCE COLLINS

It’s been a year since West Hollywood opened its aquatic and recreation center at 8750 El Tovar Place, and on Aug. 19 the space will host one of the city’s largest community events since its opening. The annual WeHo Rec Expo will bring together people of all ages for a variety of activities, including demonstrations and giveaways.

“The event is free and residents of all ages will have an opportunity to learn more about the city’s recreation programs and events,” Councilwoman Lauren Meister said.

A rodeo-themed swim will be one of the main events, and registration is required for the limited-space activity. Visit weho.org/pool or call (323)848-6308 to sign up.

Last year, the WeHo Rec Expo coincided with the opening of the recreation center on Aug. 13, 2022. The event saw the City Council members take a first jump into the new pool, opening the 75,000-square-foot building. The multi-sport complex also includes indoor facilities for volleyball, dodgeball and basketball. Additionally, several community meeting rooms, a Tiny Tot program, a public access TV studio and a conference room are on site. The adjacent West Hollywood Park includes areas for dog owners, outdoor courts, walking paths and a playground.

“The city of West Hollywood has some of the best recreational programming for families in L.A. County, and we have the rec expo going on this weekend to highlight

all of those programs and everything that we have to offer,” Mayor Pro Tempore John Erickson said. “Most of the time our classes are sold out and space is very limited. We’re not only going to be highlighting [those classes] but also encouraging people to get involved and sign up.”

Parking will be available at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., next to the West Hollywood Library. For information, call (323)848-6497 or email recreation@weho.org. The free event will start at 11 a.m. and wrap around 1 p.m.

“It’s another great free source of programming or low-cost programming to the community for families and all of those that love recreational sports and recreational activities to get involved,” Erickson said.



photo by Jon Viscott

The West Hollywood City Council cut the ribbon on the city’s aquatic and recreation center just over a year ago on Aug. 13, 2022.

Tents near schools removed in Hollywood

■ Encampment cleared under Inside Safe program

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The city of Los Angeles moved 61 people into housing on Aug. 11 from an encampment located near two schools in the 6600 block of Selma Avenue in Hollywood.

It was the 24th operation under Mayor Karen Bass’s Inside Safe program, which allows for tents to be removed once interim housing is located for people living in an encampment. The encampment on Selma Avenue was located across the street from Selma Avenue Elementary School and Larchmont Charter School. Bass, Los Angeles City Councilman Hugo Soto Martinez, 13th District, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, partnered on the operation.

“We are working every day, across Los Angeles, to urgently confront the homelessness crisis. We will not let up,” Bass said in a statement on Aug. 11 after the Inside Safe operation. “Inside Safe continues to bring people inside who were living on the streets and in encampments and help connect them with housing and services. I want to thank Councilmember Soto-Martinez for his strong partnership to bring Inside Safe to Hollywood and for supporting this year’s city budget, which makes our work possible. Thank you also Supervisor Horvath, LAHSA and our county partners who continue to lock arms with us. Together, we

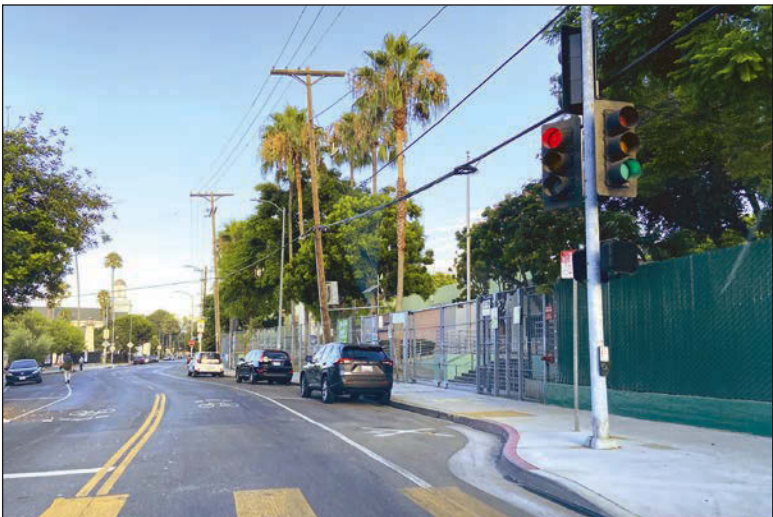


photo by Edwin Folven

The sidewalks near Selma Avenue Elementary and Larchmont Charter School remained clear on Aug. 16.

are helping people start new chapters of their lives.”

Previous Inside Safe operations were held at Hollywood Boulevard and El Centro Avenue in the 13th District, and near Sixth Street and Fairfax Avenue and Wilshire and San Vicente boulevards in the 5th District, which is represented by Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky. Bass said Inside Safe has resulted in more than 1,400 people being moved indoors. The mayor’s office worked extensively with Soto-Martinez on the Aug. 11 Inside Safe operation.

“Our homelessness team has been working to house people in this encampment for months, and this is yet another step forward in our efforts,” Soto-Martinez said. “Partnering with the mayor’s office, service providers and our county partners to help even more people

off the streets and on the path to permanent housing is exactly the type of work we city leaders should be doing.”

Inside Safe moves people into temporary housing and provides services for them while permanent housing is identified. It is part of the city and county’s comprehensive approach to addressing homelessness.

“From Hollywood to Chatsworth, the city and county of L.A. are partnering to bring our unhoused neighbors inside and to connect them with critical life-saving services,” Horvath said. “We are moving forward together with the urgency this humanitarian crisis deserves. The county will continue to join Mayor Bass, Councilmember Soto-Martinez and all of our local leaders to implement lasting solutions to homelessness.”

Women’s Equality Day set to be celebrated in WeHo

The city of West Hollywood and its Women’s Advisory Board will present the city’s annual celebration of Women’s Equality Day honoring the optimism, tenacity and unrelenting spirit of the people who worked to secure women’s right to vote and to illustrate how much can be achieved in a democratic society by the collective efforts of citizens committed to political reform.

Women’s Equality Day – WeHo Takeover is a pop-up experience featuring signage and giveaways celebrating women mobilizing for equal rights and recognizing the anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote in 1920. The pop-up will take place on Saturday, Aug. 26 from 6-8 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Monica and N. San Vicente

boulevards in West Hollywood.

The celebration will also highlight the centennial and relevance of the Equal Rights Amendment, which was first introduced in 1923 and ratified in 2020 but remains unpassed to this day. Community members can participate in the event by picking up free sashes, buttons, voter information and more, as well as by taking photos to share via social media promoting voting rights, pay equity for women and support for the Equal Rights Amendment.

West Hollywood businesses are invited to participate in the Women’s Equality Day – WeHo Takeover by displaying signage, sharing messaging and offering themed promotions. Participants are asked to post to social media

using the hashtag #WomensEqualityDay. For information, visit weho.org/19th.

In addition to the Women’s Equality Day – WeHo Takeover, the West Hollywood City Council will issue a proclamation and West Hollywood City Hall and the city’s lanterns over Santa Monica Boulevard will glow in the colors of purple and yellow in recognition of the women’s suffrage movement.

For more than two decades, the city of West Hollywood has commemorated Women’s Equality Day in a variety of ways.

For information, contact Larissa Fooks, community programs coordinator at (323)848-6413 or at lfooks@weho.org. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, please call TTY (323)848-6496.

Cities mobilize to support victims of devastating Maui wildfires

The cities of West Hollywood and Beverly Hills are supporting victims of the devastating wildfire on the island of Maui.

The city of Beverly Hills lowered its flag to half-mast. Mayor Julian Gold called for a moment of silence at the Aug. 15 City Council meeting in memory of those who lost their lives in the fires.

“This tragedy of the fires in Maui and the cost of human life and property are beyond anything we can imagine. Our thoughts and prayers are with the survivors and those who lost so much, so quickly,” Gold said. “We know that the people of Hawaii are resilient and that the city of Lahaina will be rebuilt and stand strong once again.”

The city of West Hollywood, through its West Hollywood Responds program, is encouraging community members to donate to organizations supporting relief efforts in Hawaii. For a list of organizations, visit weho.org/wehoresponds.

Personnel from the Los Angeles County Fire Department were sent to Maui on Aug. 13 as part of a Federal Emergency Management

Agency mobilization of nationwide resources. Three Los Angeles County Fire Department’s urban search and rescue canine teams were deployed, including Capt. Celina Serrano and dog Prentiss, firefighter and paramedic Edward Ruiz and dog Harper; and firefighter and paramedic Nicholas Bartel and dog Six.

“The Los Angeles County Fire Department sends our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the families who have lost loved ones, to the injured and to all who have been displaced, lost homes and businesses due to the wildfires that have ravaged the beautiful island of Maui,” Los Angeles County Fire Chief Anthony C. Marrone said. “We send our Maui ohana strength and our support during this difficult time.”

The Hawai’i Community Foundation is working to support communities affected by the wildfires through the Maui Strong Fund, which is providing resources for disaster response and recovery. For information and to donate, visit hawaiicommunityfoundation.org.



photo by Joey Waldinger

Beverly Hills lowered the city’s flag to half-mast in memory of victims on Maui.



photo courtesy of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Jerry Moss received a star on the Walk of Fame in 1999.

Legendary record producer Jerry Moss dies

Jerry Moss, the co-founder of A&M Records, has died at age 88. “Jerry Moss was a Hollywood mainstay and very committed to the Hollywood community where he ran A&M Records, which was the home of artists such as Janet Jackson, Peter Frampton, Carole King, The Police, The Go-Go’s and many other popular performers,” Walk of Fame producer Ana Martinez said. “We proudly dedicated Mr. Moss’ Walk of Fame star on May 7, 1999. His star is next to the star of his good friend and record label partner Herb Alpert.”

“Jerry was an incredible inspiration for artists and had a keen ability to help them explore and hone their craft,” president and CEO of the Music Center Rachel S. Moore said. “His remarkable talent and his partnership with Herb Alpert led to the creation of one of the record industry’s most successful labels. The Music Center is very grateful for the longstanding support of Tina and Jerry Moss and honored to name our expansive plaza as Jerry Moss Plaza in 2020. Jerry was dedicated to giving back to the community by supporting arts experiences

that resonate in the hearts and minds of all Angelenos and meaningfully impact their lives. His artistic influence and business savvy, along with the opportunities he provided for numerous extraordinarily talented artists, changed the course of music forever. That was his gift to us all. We offer our heartfelt sympathies to Tina and the entire Moss family.” In tribute to music executive and Walk of Famer, flowers will be placed on his star, located at 6933 Hollywood Blvd., Thursday, Aug. 17 at 11:30 a.m.

Swifties drove increase in Metro rail riders

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced that more than 150,000 additional Metro Rail boardings were made in early August during Taylor Swift’s six-night concert tour in Los Angeles. The numbers represent a nearly 25% increase in Metro Rail system ridership over same days in 2023, shattering post-pandemic ridership records. Also, Metro’s special event shuttle bus service had more than 30,000 additional boardings, bringing the rail and bus total to over 180,000 boardings during the concert series. The largest increase came on the K Line, which saw a nearly 250% increase in ridership, with nearly 5,000 additional trips taken each night over same day averages. This was the first time a SoFi Stadium

Express route was added on the K Line at Downtown Inglewood Station, and fans took advantage of the 1.7-mile trip from the rail line shuttle stop to SoFi Stadium. Metro also saw ridership grow each night of Swift’s concert dates. On the C Line, Metro offered the 5.1-mile SoFi Stadium Express route from Hawthorne/Lennox Station and saw nearly 35% more rail boardings, with nearly 6,000 additional C Line trips taken each night. Both SoFi Stadium Express shuttle routes and extra Line 117 buses from LAX-area hotels provided more than 5,000 shuttle boardings on average per night, or more than 30,000 boardings during the concerts. The Hard Summer music festival in Exposition Park on Aug. 5-6 also contributed to an increase in Metro

ridership. Boardings on the Expo Line increased 50% over regular weekend boardings. More than 20,000 additional customers rode the Expo Line during the music festival. “We are thrilled Swifties and Hard Summer festivalgoers chose to take Metro to fuel their passion for music,” Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins said. “Introducing young people to the benefits of using public transit is a priority for Metro. Also a priority [is] building our capability to provide service to large-scale entertainment and sports events across the region, particularly as we see the strong growth in Metro’s weekend ridership.” Average weekend ridership on Metro is currently at 91% of overall pre-pandemic levels, and 76% of average weekday pre-pandemic



photo courtesy of Metro
Many Taylor Swift fans rode Metro to the concerts at SoFi Stadium.

level. “We will continue to focus on learning about our customers and their needs – no matter when they ride – and improve their experience so it exceeds their expectations for

convenience, reliability, safety and cleanliness,” Wiggins added. “It’s the only way we can become Angelenos’ first choice in transportation.” For information, visit metro.net.

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A poignant pause as wedding nears

Our kids play our hearts like harps. Honestly, I never thought there'd be so much to ponder – the comings, the goings, the tuitions, the breakups, the weddings.

We pulled out the big stash of family photos the other day, the same stash we rely on for funerals and graduations. We rake the pile of photos with our fingers. We study an aging print, smile, then flip it back into this puddle of memories.

There must be a better way to honor these old snapshots than storing them away in a giant Tupperware bin under my bed. Perhaps a scrapbook? Or frame them for the wall?

Truth is, we already do those things. These are the leftovers, the moments that didn't quite make the cut.

I love this puddle ... yeah me, the man with the razor-wire soul.

There are the snapshots from Halloween, the ones from soccer, from Indian Princesses, a father-daughter scouting cult whose name probably wouldn't pass muster anymore. Like the Washington Redskins, it probably requires re-branding.

To have a daughter these days is to always be corrected in some significant little way. Some days, you

by
Chris
Erskine



don't even want to open your mouth.

I once got in trouble with the little red-haired girl for standing on the sidelines – her coach, her chauffeur, her agent – and yelling, “HEY, DON'T BE A STATUE OUT THERE!!!”

Now, she is moving all right. To the altar. Or what passes for an altar in that glitzy Chicago wedding venue. It's so close to Lake Michigan that we'll probably smell the alewives, the kielbasa, the baked lifeguards. Yum.

All in all, a very nice spot to launch the rest of your life.

Rapunzel asked Smartacus and me for a few baby photos the other day, so we are raking this stash, looking for buried treasures that we can send along.

And hence, the poignant pre-wedding pangs begin.

This wedding prep began on the morning she was born 32 years ago. In the past weeks, it seems to have escalated, like a romantic smash-and-grab.

Smartacus has been whitening his teeth, as per the bride's orders, and Catty Cakes is practicing being the flower girl, walking around the house tossing scrap-paper blossoms high into the air.

Here comes the bride! Watch your feet, please! Here comes the bride!

There are so many wild cards to a wedding. What will the weather be like? How's the band? Is the Schlitz cold enough?

Will Catty Cakes show up in costume, as Ariel or Jasmine? Or Taylor Swift?

When Cakes first sees the crowd – her eyes glistening, her dress just so – will she pivot on her patent-leather shoe and scamper for the exits? “I'm outta here,” she'll think. “Hope the Cubbies are in town.”

Whatever happens, Cakes will own the moment.

As will the bride, her Aunt Rapunzel. And the groom, Uncle Truck.

You know, weddings have changed a lot. The cakes are smaller, the bands bigger, and the bride and groom usually skip that racy thing with the garter belt.

But a lot of good stuff remains. The funny uncles drinking beer. The first father-daughter dance.

Honestly, I've yet to recover from her big sister's weddings (one during Covid, a celebratory encore later).

Now along comes yet another bittersweet moment.



photo by Chris Erskine

The stash of old family photos, with keepsakes from holidays, scouts and soccer, bring memories flooding back.

“One request,” I told Rapunzel over dinner the other night.

“What Dad?”

“When they do your makeup, can they leave a few freckles showing?”

“Sure, Dad.”

“One freckle, maybe two,” I say. “That's all I ask.”

I'm trying not to think about it all too much. Too many names to remember. Too many friends to thank. Too many sweaty summer handshakes.

Meanwhile, I got fleeced again the other night on the west side, in this trendy Venice restaurant Rapunzel really likes, the one with the dirty martinis (\$15), the mushroom appetizer (\$17), and the too-small moo burger (\$22).

American Beauty is an excellent joint, in a creamy courtyard setting.

When you win the lottery, be sure to go.

Complain? Not me. I have better things to worry about. I hear the Gulf Stream is now flowing backwards, and the Pac-12 is circling the drain.

If you saw either of those events coming, please take a bow. You're Nostradamus.

And dear gawd, I hope I don't botch the wedding toast. At this late stage of my life, I'm usually pretty OK at quippy little dinner speeches.

Yet, as every parent knows, sometimes there are no words.

Because our kids play our hearts like harps.

For past stories on weddings, graduations and other milestones, please go to ChrisErskineLA.com.

Notable Quotes



photo courtesy of Hayner Public Library

“Every newspaper sees its defeats and its victories, and the wise newspaperman has learned not to gloat over his fallen adversary, for the fallen may rise to wreak vengeance, either with coals of fire or vindictive measures.”

From the 75th anniversary issue of the Alton Telegraph, 1911.

The Alton Telegraph was founded in 1836 in Alton, Illinois. Another newspaper, the Alton Observer, was founded by Elijah P. Lovejoy around that time. As a publisher and presbyterian minister, Lovejoy was a fervent abolitionist. While championing freedom of the press and his anti-slavery views, he was murdered by a pro-slavery mob on Nov. 7, 1837, and his printing press was thrown into the Mississippi River.

The event has been characterized as “a martyr ro freedom of the press,” and “the first battle of the civil war.”

Lovejoy's memory and his ideals were kept alive by the Telegraph. A portion of Lovejoy's printing press was found and pulled from the river in 1915. It was later returned to the Telegraph where it was displayed in the newspaper's lobby until 2018. It now resides at the Hayner Public Library in Alton.

Beverly Press and Park Labrea News publisher Karen Villalpando began her journalism career as Karen Hauck at the Alton Telegraph at the age of 21 in 1983.

*sources: “Coals of Fire, the Alton Telegraph Libel Case,” 1988; The Alton Telegraph; Hayner Public Library

L.A. and LAUSD partner on school safety

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Alberto Carvalho announced a series of actions taken on Aug. 14 – the first day of LAUSD classes – to improve school safety.

“We must do more in order for the students of Los Angeles and their families to feel and stay safe,” Bass said. “I am working with Superintendent Carvalho to ensure that we confront and address the vehicular tragedies, substance abuse and other incidents that we have seen near and in our schools. We are taking significant action to protect our students from unacceptable harm, and we will continue to do more to promote student safety.”

“I am thankful for the partnership with the city of Los Angeles and Mayor Karen Bass to address student safety and safe passages through a variety of traffic calming measures,” Carvalho added. “Last year, our students and families faced unsafe pedestrian passages to and from our campuses – some experiencing injuries and others loss of life. Walking to school should not become a traumatic experience for our students. Los Angeles Unified will continue to work to ensure that our students can make it to school safely, so they are ready to learn. As we start the 2023-24 school year, we look forward to the continued collaboration with the mayor and the city of Los Angeles to prioritize safe passages.”

The city has expedited the hiring of crossing guards, filling 77 guard positions during fiscal year 2022-23. The city's fiscal year 2023-24 budget, signed by Bass on May 26, will create up to 93 additional crossing guard positions.

The city is improving traffic safe-



photo courtesy of the LAUSD

LAUSD Superintendent Alberto Carvalho welcomed students at the Coldwater Canyon Elementary Dual Language Program on Aug. 14.

ty through investments in the Safe Route to Schools program, including speed humps and project to slow traffic in school zones. On Aug. 4, the Los Angeles City Council directed the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to provide recommendations for the

prioritization of additional traffic safety projects at schools.

The city of Los Angeles also deployed resources during summer to combat violence through the Summer Night Lights program at school-adjacent recreation facilities.

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Letters to the Editor

Both gas and electric leaf blowers cause major pollution

Re “WeHo reminds residents about gas leaf blower ban,” Aug. 10 issue

Gas-powered leaf blowers have never gone away despite being illegal in Los Angeles and Beverly Hills.

It is the responsibility of the homeowner to make sure their gardener is in compliance with the law and to remind neighbors to also comply. Keep in mind that homeowners are breaking the law as well by permitting leaf blower use and are subject to a fine along with their gardener. It should be noted that while electric blowers are legal, they create some of the same problems as the gas-powered ones.

In terms of your garden, leaf blowers do far more damage than you imagine. They rob the soil of proper mulch, blow off valuable topsoil and generally “fry” your plants and lawns with a continuous blast of high pressure air blowing away any beneficial insects that are helping your plants thrive. The damage to your health is far greater. To get an idea of how much pollution is generated, the South Coast Air Quality Management District estimates that leaf blowers in Southern California spew 5.6 tons of hydrocarbon emissions in the air per day. According to recent studies, one single leaf blower spews as much pollution in one hour as one car driven from New York to Washington, D.C.

On a personal level, when a leaf blower is used near your home, the air you are breathing is a highly toxic mix of dust and dirt particles, dried animal (and sometimes human) feces, airborne pesticides and fertilizers, as well as asbestos dust from various vehicles. Breathing this mixture is the health equivalent of going outside and licking the street. If you wouldn’t lick your street, why would you breathe the same mixture every day?

Yet, people still subject themselves in their own homes to the highly toxic fumes and byproducts of leaf blowers on a regular

basis unaware of the negative impact on their health. The really sad part of this situation is that the long-term health consequences to the gardeners are bleak. Their lives will be cut short and families left without loved ones as county and private hospitals fill up with lung and respiratory patients. Particulate matter kicked up by leaf blowers goes right through any mask and imbeds itself in the lungs. Once in, it never comes out except at autopsy.

People have maintained beautiful gardens for centuries without leaf blowers and at the same time, have enjoyed the peace and quiet of their homes and neighborhood. Take control of your home environment. Instruct your gardener that you want to obey the law and protect their health as well as your own.

Say no to gas powered leaf blowers. We will all breathe easier.

*Rodney Kemerer
Beverly Hills*

More ticketing needed for gas leaf blowers

So now there have been two articles about gas leaf blowers, one in the Hancock Park area and one in the West Hollywood area. I have been hearing about them banning these gas leaf blowers for years and years but nothing ever happens.

I live in West Hollywood and they’re everywhere. Years ago, I called West Hollywood Code Compliance about them, but nothing ever really works. No one seems to really enforce the law. So I, Denise McCanles, hereby volunteer myself to go around and ticket gas leaf blower offenders. This offer is at no cost to the city. I will be doing my part for climate change.

*Denise McCanles
West Hollywood*

Problems persist with idea for interim housing in 5th District

Re “Opponents voice concerns over 5th District housing,” Aug. 10

issue

We all agree we need more homeless housing but this project, in this location, is bad for the struggling businesses on Pico and bad for the residents in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The councilwoman ambushed us with this project and is trying to ram the project through, without meaningfully engaging with the neighborhood or listening to our concerns. She wants us to just “trust” her that this shelter will be successful and won’t cause chaos in our community (like in NoHo or Venice). But trust is earned, and she has yet to earn it. The community wants to work with [Councilwoman] Yaroslavsky to find a better location nearby for this project that will not threaten businesses and the safety of kids and families. Will you work with us or against us?

*Elizabeth “Lizzy” Chapman
Los Angeles*

Solving homelessness requires intervention

The idea that these mentally ill and drug/alcohol addicted people are somehow entitled to live on the streets that hard working and tax paying people and their children live, work and travel is ludicrous and must not be accepted as OK by anyone. The billions of dollars wasted in this so far proves that it is a failure. Anyone who says it isn’t is benefitting from this waste of taxpayer money.

They do not see that they are enablers and part of the problem. The only solution is to create army-style tent cities in the desert areas of L.A. County where these people can be segregated by issues, isolated and provided the services they need to get their lives together. Involuntary intervention is the only chance they and we have. The money is there. The honesty, conviction and determination are not. Tough love is not rocket science.

WeHo celebrates historic preservation in Plummer Park

The city of West Hollywood’s annual historic preservation celebration “Plummer Park Through the Years” will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, at 11 a.m. in Plummer Park’s Fiesta Hall, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

The event will celebrate the stories, events and memories that have unfolded within the historic buildings of Plummer Park. Admission is free and open to the public; refreshments will be served.

In addition to the city’s annual historic preservation celebration, West Hollywood has partnered with the California Preservation Foundation for its second annual “Doors Open” event. Great Hall, Long Hall and Fiesta Hall will be open from noon-3 p.m., and attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about the groups that have played a pivotal role in foster-



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

West Hollywood will celebrate the history of Plummer Park on Sept. 9.

ing community unity within the historic buildings.

West Hollywood, which was incorporated in 1984, recognizes and values the importance of preserving its cultural resources. The city’s Current and Historic Preservation Planning Division works with the Historic

Preservation Commission to identify and protect historic resources in West Hollywood. The city adopted its historic preservation ordinance in 1989 and has designated more than 100 structures as cultural resources.

For information, visit wehopreservation.org.

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood Historic Preservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following item:

LOCATIONS:	9101 SUNSET BOULEVARD, West Hollywood, California
REQUEST:	Proposed designation of an existing commercial building as a local cultural resource. (Gil Turner’s Fine Wine & Spirits)
PERMIT(S):	Cultural Resource Designation, and any other required permits.
APPLICANT(S):	Black Equities Group, Darren Weinstock
TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:	Regular Meeting Monday, August 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Plummer Park Community Center, Rooms 5 and 6 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90046
ZONES:	SSP (Sunset Specific Plan)
ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:	Categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Sections §15331 (Historical Resource Restoration/Rehabilitation)

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Thursday, August 24, 2023, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page at www.weho.org

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

If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call, or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6800 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Laurie Yelton, Associate Planner in the Community Development Department at (323) 848-6890; or via email at: lyelton@weho.org

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.

RESTAURANT NEWS

by Jill Weinlein

La Cantina Hour at The Hideaway

Daily from 3 to 6 p.m., the picturesque bar inside The Hideaway celebrates La Cantina Hour. Guests can order a \$12 Tommy margarita and Paloma Especial to enjoy with \$12 corn empanadas, Wagyu flautas and pork chicharrones. The \$25 ground tri-tip and short rib Hamburguesa a la Hideaway is served with fries. 421 N. Rodeo Drive, (310)974-8020.

Yappy Hour at Sofitel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills

On Friday, Aug. 25 from 5 to 7 p.m., Sofitel's Aviary patio is hosting National Dog Day Happy Hour and puppy adoption. Enjoy

tasty bites and refreshing cocktails while playing with puppies from Wagmor that are up for adoption. Guests can bring their own dogs to enjoy this special event. 8555 Beverly Blvd., (310)278-5444.

Dinner and 'Peter Pan Goes Wrong'

While the show "Peter Pan Goes Wrong" performs at the Ahmanson Theatre, two of the newest DTLA dining destinations at the Conrad Los Angeles hotel are offering "dinner and a show" tickets through Thursday, Sept. 7. It's available on select Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday performances. Arrive for dinner at 6 p.m., to make the show at 8 p.m. Reservations are required at both José Andrés Agua Viva or his fine-dining San Laurel. Both venues offer either sweeping views of downtown Los Angeles or the Walt

Disney Concert Hall. Just choose your dinner reservation and click how many people will attend dinner and the show. Use the code DIN-INGCONRAD. Park at The Music Center for \$10 and walk one block away to The Conrad. This offer is available online only. 100 S. Grand Ave., (213)349-8585.

Special guest chef series at KA'TEEN

Chef Wes Avila is kicking off a brand-new guest chef series on Aug. 23, welcoming Chef Roberto Alcocer to cook in his kitchen for a special six-course chef dinner. Chef Roberto Alcocer is the executive chef of the newly Michelin-starred Valle in Oceanside, California, as well as Malva, his long-acclaimed culinary destination in Valle de Guadalupe. As a trailblazer at the forefront of Baja Mexican cuisine, his partnership with Chef Wes Avila will bring highly inspired cuisine to KA'TEEN. Both chefs will prepare three items each. Highlights include mini potato taquito and wild mushroom soup, smoked eel and caviar, plus lobster and heir-



photo courtesy of Sweet Angeles

Beverly Hills has a new location for delectable baked goods at Sweet Angeles.

New Sweet Angeles Bakery Cafe on Rodeo

Today, Aug. 17, baker Ruby Davids opens her Sweet Angeles Bakery Cafe at Rodeo Collection Plaza. A ribbon-cutting ceremony with the mayor of Beverly Hills. Come in to meet

Ruby and see how she makes a wide range of decorated cupcakes with edible sugar images, beautiful flowers and accessories. 421 N. Rodeo Drive, Unit 11, (424)777-8080.

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loom tomato salad to tantalize your tastebuds. Tickets are available on RESY for \$95 per person. resy.com/cities/la/venues/kateen/events/kateen-guest-chef-series-roberto-alcocer-x-wes-avila-2023-08-23?date=2023-08-14&seats=2. 6516 Selma Ave., (323)410-6360.

BellaLina Gelato at The Bloc DTLA

A new retail gelato shop at the open-air entertainment destination in Downtown Los Angeles, The Bloc is open. BellaLina Gelato is located on the Plaza level, from the creators of Café Balzac. Enjoy exotic gelato shakes and smoothies using a rotating selection of gelato and sorbetto flavors. It's the perfect complement to Café Balzac's collection of gourmet coffee and espresso drinks, sweet and savory crêpes and curated pastries. 700 W. 7th St., (213)454-4926.

Pedals and Pints

Two of South Bay's favorite activities include bicycling along designated bike paths along the beach and sipping craft beers. Every Saturday and Sunday through Sept. 4, BALEENkitchen Beer Garden on the Marina at The

Portofino Hotel in Redondo Beach offers complimentary beer tastings from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Complimentary VIP bike parking access is also available to all attendees. Another favorite summer activity is boating. The El Rey Catamaran is docked along a Redondo Beach peninsula and available for special occasion cruises. The two-story 62-foot vessel has an onboard kitchen, comfortable indoor seating and fresh-air outdoor seating and space. It's ideal to rent for a birthday party celebration, baby or bridal shower, or end of the summer party for up to 50 people. There is a customized food and beverage menu for a captivating sunset cruise. Email sales@hotel-portofino.com 260 Portofino Way, (310)798-5856.

Ladies of STK DJ Tour 2023

From Thursday, Aug. 24 to Saturday, Aug. 26, from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. is the last STK DJ Tour in Los Angeles. Enhance your dining experience at STK with a special chef's tasting dinner, while listening to the sounds of all female DJ artists. Marissa Sardar, Kasey Berry, Chinatown Shani, Ree De La Vega, DJ Vida, L1 and SAVASHA will perform throughout the evening. Each DJ performs a 45-

minute back-to-back set. Guests can vote for their favorite DJ via QR code or on the STK website to receive a grand prize. Giveaways will be given to guests attending the three-evening tour. stksteakhouse.com/venues/los-angeles and stksteakhouse.com/DJ-Tour. 930 Hilgard Ave., (310)659-3535.

Fat Sal's late night eats

Those seeking a late-night snack, doors at Fat Sal's are open daily until 2 to 3 a.m., depending on the location. Celebrate National Bacon Lovers' Day on Aug. 20, with a Fat Jerry and innovative creations like the bacon cheeseburger fries and the comforting chicken bacon ranch. 972 Gayley Ave., (310)452-3220 and 1300 N. Highland Ave., (323)433-0573.

UOVO opens a new location in Pasadena

Enjoy handmade fresh pasta made in a kitchen in Bologna, Italy by a "sfogline." They use eggs that are only available in Italy and traditional methods of sheeting and cutting. This pasta is sent overnight and arrives to every UOVO location. Menu items include three

Beverages will be available for sale; no outside alcoholic beverages are allowed. The Music Center is located at 135 N. Grand Ave. For information and to RSVP, visit musiccenter.org/liveatthemusiccenter.



photo courtesy of Abernathy's

Abernathy's is hosting a complimentary Puppy Yoga event at The Music Center on Aug. 20.

Free yoga with your puppy at Abernathy's

On Sunday, Aug. 20, Abernathy's is hosting a complimentary Puppy Yoga event on the Jerry Moss Plaza at The Music Center from 3 to 4 p.m. Afterward doing downward dog with your furry buddy, celebrate while enjoying executive chef Brad Willits new "Toni's Menu." Inspired by Willits love for his dog, Rigatoni "Toni," this pet menu includes egg souffle

and biscuits. It's available for dine-in or to-go. A special happy hour human menu includes chilled mussels, tempura fried squash blossoms, Basque cheese-cake and an assortment of Ashland Hard Seltzers for \$10, \$9 Modelo and \$10 sangria. Free dog treats will be offered to dogs who come to this event with their humans. 220 N. Hope St., (213)972-8088.

antipasti plates that includes yellowtail crudo and insalata arugula. Popular pastas include Tagliatelle al Tartufo; Carbonara; Cacio e Pepe and Tagliatelle Carciofi. Be sure to finish with a tiramisu. The UOVO Pasadena is their sixth location. Other UOVO pasta bars include Mid-Wilshire, Marina Del Rey, Santa Monica and Studio City. All restaurants open at 11:30 a.m. UOVO Pasadena is located in the

courtyard at the Pasadena Commons offering both indoor and outdoor dining experiences. Sit at the intimate 18-seat oak bar top to be entertained. 6245 Wilshire Blvd., (323)642-6386; 4635 Admiralty Way #105, (424)334-9336; 1320 2nd Street Ste. A, (310)425-0064; 146 S. Lake Ave, Suite 103, (626)556-7948; and 12833 Ventura Blvd., Suite 157, (747)212-2690.

The Music Center grooves with La Marisoul and Eliades Ochoa

For the second consecutive summer, Angelenos are invited to a free public concert to be performed as part of the Live at The Music Center series.

Grammy-winning artists La Marisoul and Eliades Ochoa will take the stage on the Jerry Moss Plaza at the Music Center on Saturday, Aug. 19, at 8:00 p.m., performing Latin, bolero and big-band jazz music. The free all-ages concert is made possible by a gift from longtime Music Center patron and recording industry executive Moss.

"At the heart of the Music Center is our desire to make accessible fantastic artistic experiences to Angelenos of all ages and backgrounds. We are thrilled to present two fantastic Latin music artists on the same stage – for one night only – under the stars," Music Center CEO Rachel S. Moore said. "We thank Tina and Jerry Moss and the Moss Foundation for supporting free concerts at the Music Center so that every Angeleno can enjoy these incredibly talented artists and create new memories."

La Marisoul will perform select songs with the Love Notes Orchestra. Taking cues from bolero singers Olga Guillot and Toña La Negra, as well as jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald, the "La Marisoul and The Love Notes Orchestra Vol. 1" album pays tribute to the complexities of love by offering reinterpretations of Latin love song classics. La Marisoul's soaring voice, backed by the 14-piece orchestra, will transport audiences through a musical journey of love, past romances and healing from heartbreaks.

Ochoa, who initially was scheduled to perform solo as part of the Music Center's Summer Sound Waves concert series, is one of the most important Cuban soneros of all time. He is one of the stars of the historic album "Buena Vista Social Club," which is celebrating 25 years. Ochoa makes his Music

Center debut alongside the release of his new album "Guaajiro."

"We are thrilled to welcome back La Marisoul, one of the most outstanding Latin music voices today, who most recently electrified audiences in 2022 at the Music Center's Summer SoundWaves concert series. This time she returns with a big band and a gorgeous, old school romance sound that will sweep you off your feet," said Josephine Ramirez, executive vice president of TMC Arts, the programming arm of the Music Center. "Making his Music Center debut, Eliades Ochoa is sure to build on his already enormous fan base with his distinct style and infectious rhythms rooted deep in Cuban tradition. You'll leave enthralled, energized and wanting more. Join us on Aug. 19 with these extraordinary artists and get ready to have a blast."



photo courtesy of the Music Center

Eliades Ochoa will perform during a concert on the Music Center's Jerry Moss Plaza on Aug. 19.

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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 Aug. 6 and Aug. 12. 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

Aug. 6

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8300 block of Wilshire at 1 a.m.

At 9:50 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 400 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9400 block of Brighton at 12:20 p.m.

Aug. 7

At 4:10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8300 block of Wilshire at 4:40 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 100 block of N. Cañon.

Aug. 8

At 3:17 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of N. Cañon.

Aug. 9

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo at 5 p.m.

At 8:12 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

Aug. 10

At 2:28 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 600 block of N. Foothill at 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 11

At 1:40 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9800 block of Santa Monica at 12:10 p.m.

Aug. 12

At 12:02 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9600 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 8:44 a.m.

At 3:23 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9600 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 500 block of N. Rodeo at 6:20 p.m.

At 7:58 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

Aug. 6

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of N. Hayworth at 1:30 a.m.

At 6:45 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

Aug. 7

At 1:15 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8900 block of Rosewood at 8:35 p.m.

Aug. 8

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Kings at 5:16 a.m.

At 4:50 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8700 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. La Brea at 10:43 p.m.

Aug. 9

At 2:35 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.

Aug. 10

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1100 block of Hacienda at 1:30 a.m.

At 2:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1200 block of Havenhurst.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Vista at 11:30 a.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1000 block of N. Laurel.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7900 block of Norton at 11:30 p.m.

Aug. 11

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7400 block of Santa Monica at 2 a.m.

At 3:26 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 800 block of N San Vicente.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8000 block of Santa Monica at 3:48 a.m.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7300 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1000 block of N. La Brea at 2:43 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7900 block of Santa Monica.

Aug. 12

At 7:50 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 500 block of West Knoll.

Los Angeles Police Department

Aug. 6

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 8100 block of Waring.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of N. Mansfield at 2 a.m.

At 2:15 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1300 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a

burglary in the 300 block of N. Flores at 4 a.m.

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a bicycle in the 400 block of N. Norton.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 700 block of Vine at 4 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 700 block of N. Vine.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 200 block of S. La Brea at 9:30 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle near Wilcox and Willoughby.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Larchmont at 11:30 p.m.

Aug. 7

At 2:35 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 6600 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of S. La Brea at 3:40 a.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of N. La Jolla.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 6300 block of Hollywood at 11:05 p.m.

Aug. 8

At 3:25 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of S. La Brea.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 700 block of N. Kings at 9:20 a.m.

At 10:40 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 5400 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Fourth and Detroit at 4 p.m.

Aug. 9

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7400 block of Rosewood.

Aug. 10

At 2 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 300 block of N. Sycamore.

An unknown suspect committed a

burglary in the 500 block of N. Lucerne at 3:55 a.m.

At 4:30 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 7000 block of Lanewood.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8500 block of Beverly at 10 a.m.

At 10:35 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7600 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of De Longpre and Vine at 12:40 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 6300 block of Sunset.

Aug. 11

At 10 a.m., an attempted robbery was reported in the 6700 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1300 block of N. Orange at 12:30 p.m.

At 2:50 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1200 block of N. Lodi.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 300 block of S. Doheny at 7 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 300 block of N. Orange.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Orange at 10:30 p.m.

Aug. 12

At 8:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of S. Detroit.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 700 block of N. Citrus at 9:10 a.m.

At 5:15 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 6000 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 700 block of N. La Cienega at 7:45 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1600 block of N. Vine.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Santa Monica and Cole at 11 p.m.

At 11:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of S. Lorraine.

Health officials warn about xylazine in illicit drugs

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is warning about the presence of the drug xylazine, commonly referred to as tranq, in illicit drug samples tested by the department. Authorities are concerned that people are ingesting xylazine without knowing it when using illicit drugs such as fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff Department’s Scientific Services Bureau has detected xylazine in limited quantities of illicit drugs seized by local law enforcement in Los Angeles County, signaling that the substance is present in the local drug supply. Xylazine is a veterinary anesthetic that is not approved by the FDA for human consumption. The drug can cause dangerously low blood pressure, a decrease in breathing and heart rate, and dam-

age to tissue. Xylazine usage can lead to skin wounds, large sores and ulcers when consumed by people.

Public health officials stressed that the findings show that the illicit drug supply in Los Angeles County is dangerous and consumption can increase overdose deaths. The Los Angeles Department of Public Health first released a health alert on March 8, 2023, indicating that xylazine is being mixed with illicit opioids and pressed into counterfeit pills of Norco, Percocet, Vicodin and Xanax. Xylazine is used as a cheap additive to increase the effects of the drugs, authorities said.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health officials warns people to avoid using illicit drugs. To minimize the risk of overdose for people who are using drugs, the department urges people to never use substances alone. Using with

another person increases the chances of lifesaving interventions such as the administration of naloxone in instances of an overdose. People are also encouraged to start with small “tester” doses to reduce the risk of an overdose if a substance is contaminated with fentanyl or xylazine. The effects of combining substances may be stronger and more unpredictable than using one drug alone, authorities said.

Carrying Naloxone, which can reverse an opioid overdose, is recommended. However, xylazine is not an opioid and Naloxone does not reverse its effects.

The sheriff’s department crime lab analyzed 4,608 controlled substance samples and detected xylazine in 13 samples. All samples that contained xylazine also contained fentanyl. For information, visit publichealth.lacounty.gov.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station plans Aug. 18 DUI checkpoint

The West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station will hold a driving under the influence checkpoint on Aug. 18, from 6 p.m.-2 a.m. at an undisclosed location in the city.

DUI checkpoints are held in locations where impaired driving-related crashes have occurred in the past. The sheriff’s department is seeking to promote public safety and take suspected impaired drivers off the road.

“Impaired drivers put others on the road at significant risk,” Sgt. Michael Lennig said. “Any prevention measures that reduce the number of impaired drivers on our roads significantly

improves traffic safety.”

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department reminds the public that impaired driving can also be caused by prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs and cannabis. Drivers charged with a first-time DUI face an average of \$13,500 in fines and penalties, and a suspended license.

Funding for the program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For information, visit lasd.org/west-hollywood and ots.ca.gov.

Plant Food + Wine opens in Beverly Hills

Executive chef Matthew Kenney’s acclaimed vegan restaurant Plant Food + Wine on Abbot Kinney in Venice Beach has relocated to the iconic Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills. “We were at Abbott Kinney for 10 years, and when our lease was up ... we have always had a great relationship with Four Seasons, they are amazing operators,” Kenney said during the opening night of his new restaurant. “I found that we are good at being innovators and creative, yet we are nowhere near as strong and as impeccable as Four Seasons is as operators, so we wanted to focus on what we do best and put the two partners together, and create something for the next generation of Plant Food + Wine and what we see as the future of food.”

Chef Kenney and Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills have collaborated through the years offering multiple culinary events. He produced a Folia plant-based menu for the hotel’s Wellness Floor. He is anticipating his new creative vegan menu at Plant Food + Wine will appeal to all.

“Our patrons will now be able to sip and savor Mathew Kenney’s elevated, plant-based cuisine surrounded by the property’s natural beauty. This partnership also proves to be a milestone for the brand’s continued emphasis on wellness offerings,” said David Wilkie, general manager of Four Seasons Hotel

Los Angeles at Beverly Hills.

The restaurant is located on the fourth floor on a garden-like patio, next to the hotel’s spa and rooftop swimming pool. Natural wood finishes, white marble and verdant plants create a tranquil ambience.

Chef Kenney is a superstar in the vegan world and is known for “crafting the future of food.” After attending the French Culinary Institute to learn classical culinary techniques, he worked in various kitchens in New York, before opening his own Matthew’s in New York. Food + Wine Magazine named him Best New Chef in 1994, and a James Beard Rising Star Chef in America in 1995. With his creative kitchen skills and success, he has operated over 50 restaurants in more than 12 countries.

Not only does this entrepreneur specialize in plant-based cuisine, he is also an author and educator encouraging and enlightening people about the benefits of a healthy plant-based diet.

“The menu still embraces local and seasonal ingredients, while applying the multiple techniques we have developed in our test kitchen over recent years,” Kenney said as a few of his starter plates were delivered to the table. “We have developed a large portfolio of breakfast, lunch and dinner items and are very excited to share them with restaurant patrons and hotel guests.”

Starters on the menu include large green olives in citrus oil; fen-



nel pollen almonds; and crispy saffron arancini with tomato jam.

An imaginative Napa cabbage leaf wrapped around kimchi rested on top of red kimchi foam with sweet pea shoots and tendrils, and a sprinkling of white and black sesame seeds. I enjoyed the savory flavor and creative presentation.

Diners can pair the food with a variety of botanical cocktails and naturally curated wines. I selected an orange 2022 Giornata Orangetango wine to enjoy with the entrées. Inspired by Italy, yet crafted in Paso Robles, California, this orange wine is a blend of Vermentino, Fiano and Arneis white grape varieties fermented in their skin. It offers a fresh and clean almost creamsicle nose and hint of peach marmalade and tea with each sip. The texture is soft and supple with a subtle tannic structure. The wine paired well with a bright yel-



photo by Jill Weinlein

Rolled potato flatbread, curry leaf yogurt and herbs is an ideal summertime dish.

low saffron vegetable rice that was the base for brick red harissa and perfectly cooked cauliflower, tender and flavorful. It was topped with fried caper Tahini and a variety of herbs and greens.

Grilled potato flatbread rolled into a flauta shape, next to curry leaf yogurt topped with chunks of avocado and a handful of herbs. Thin white sprouts and thinly sliced white floral shaped root vegetables decorated the top of the greens.

The last entrée was a dramatic looking dark sesame mole sauce topped with a sweet, charred corn cake. On top of the corn cake were chopped chipotle glazed maitake mushrooms. A few herbs and a tangle of thin and long root vegetables added a sense of

theatrics to the plate. The dish had a perfect balance of savory and sweet flavors with each bite.

We finished with two chocolate cake triangles topped with two scoops of frozen pistachio and rose water, that looked and tasted just like ice cream. On top of the cake were thin brittle-like tiles to give a satisfying crunch.

Other desserts include a vegan banana cream pie; stone fruit creamsicle with vanilla gelato and peach granita; and an olive oil panna cotta with summer berries.

Matthew Kenney’s new Plant Food + Wine is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. \$\$ 300 S. Doheny Drive, (310)273-2222.

Academy Museum shares details about upcoming gala

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures announced details on Aug. 15 of its third annual fundraising gala, which will be held on Oct. 14.

The Academy Museum Gala will

celebrate the museum’s two-year anniversary and will honor three-time Academy Award-winner and 21-time Academy Award-nominated actor Meryl Streep, award-winning actor, producer and director

Michael B. Jordan, Academy Award-nominated actress and producer, author and global media leader Oprah Winfrey, and Academy Award-winning and three-time Academy Award-nominated filmmaker and actor Sofia Coppola.

As a fundraiser, the event has been approved to move forward by WGA and SAG-AFTRA. The evening will help raise vital funds to support museum exhibitions, education initiatives and public programming, including screenings, K-12 programs and public access initiatives. The gala is co-chaired by Academy Award-nominated director Ava DuVernay; Academy Museum trustee, physician, producer, philanthropist and entrepreneur Dr. Eric Esrailian; Academy Award-winning actor and Academy Museum supporter Halle Berry, and Academy Museum trustee and screenwriter, director and producer Ryan Murphy.

“We are excited to gather again at

our third annual Academy Museum Gala to celebrate the power, global impact, and indelible importance of cinema. I am truly honored to recognize four artists, Meryl Streep, Michael B. Jordan, Oprah Winfrey and Sofia Coppola, whose creativity and passion have inspired and shaped our culture in such powerful ways,” said Jacqueline Stewart, director and president of the Academy Museum.

The four awards presented at the Academy Museum Gala reflect the museum’s continued mission to advance the understanding, celebration and preservation of film and to contextualize and challenge narratives around cinema. Streep will

receive the Icon Award, celebrating an artist whose career has had a significant global cultural impact. The Vantage Award, presented to Jordan, honors an emerging artist or scholar who is helping to contextualize and challenge dominant narratives around cinema. The Pillar Award, which will be presented to Winfrey, acknowledges exemplary leadership and support for the Academy Museum. The Visionary Award, presented to Coppola, honors an artist or scholar whose innovations have advanced the art of cinema.

The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit academymuseum.org.



photo by Andy Kitchen

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures will hold its third annual gala on Oct. 14.

Zev Yaroslavsky appears at Book Soup signing

The city of West Hollywood and Book Soup present a special evening with former Los Angeles City Councilman and Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky discussing and signing Zev’s “Los Angeles: From Boyle Heights to the Halls of Power.”

The event will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. at the city of West Hollywood’s Council Chambers/Public Meeting Room, located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. The discussion is free. Books will be for sale by Book Soup for an after-event signing with Yaroslavsky. To RSVP and for information, visit eventbrite.com/e/zev-yaroslavsky-discusses-zevs-los-angeles-tickets-676183642477.

Yaroslavsky became one of Los Angeles’ most powerful and conse-

quential elected officials, taking on established power brokers and sparking major reforms in policing, transit, land use and fiscal policies. In a Los Angeles political career spanning four decades (Los Angeles City Council 1975-1994, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors 1994-2014), Yaroslavsky played a central role in shaping America’s largest metropolitan areas. Health care, transportation, arts and culture, the environment and fiscal policy were his domain.

For information, contact Jennifer Del Toro, city of West Hollywood community and legislative affairs supervisor, at (323)848-6549 or at jdeltoro@weho.org. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, please call TTY (323)848-6496.



photo by Edwin Folven

Zev Yaroslavsky spent nearly 40 years in government, serving on the Los Angeles City Council from 1975-94, and on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors from 1994-2014.

Kirk Douglas opens ‘Our Dear Dead Drug Lord’

“Our Dear Dead Drug Lord” by playwright Alexis Scheer, directed by Center Theatre Group Associate Artistic Director Lindsay Allbaugh, and produced in association with IAMA Theatre Company, will be at the Kirk Douglas Theatre from Aug. 20 to Sept. 17.

For its 2019 Off-Broadway WP Theater/Second Stage production, it was cited with the John Gassner Award, Kilroy’s List, LTC Carnival of New Latinx Work, and was a Relentless Award semifinalist. The cast is Ashley Brooke as Zoom, Samantha Wynette Miller as Squeeze, Coral Peña as Kit, and Lilian Rebelo as Pipe, with additional roles played by Aliyah Camacho and Juan Francisco Villa.

In this fierce and feverish comedy, a gang of teenage girls gather in an abandoned treehouse to summon the ghost of Pablo Escobar. Are they messing with the actual spirit of the infamous cartel kingpin? Or are they really just messing with each other?

“As our country continues to demonstrate its disdain and desire for control over my body, this play feels more important now than ever,” Scheer said. “I’m thrilled to bring it to Center Theatre Group and radically center the hearts, guts and brains of teen girls who are in hilarious and horrifying pursuit of power and catharsis.”

“For my directorial debut at Center Theatre Group, I knew that I wanted to focus on a story that centered on young women, was written by a woman, and brought a diversity of voices to the stage. When I read this play, I was on pins and needles,” said Center Theatre Group associate artistic director Lindsay Allbaugh.

Tickets for “Our Dear Dead Drug Lord” are currently on sale and start at \$30. They are available through centertheatregroup.org, Audience Services at (213) 628-2772 or in person at the Center Theatre Group Box Office at the Kirk Douglas Theatre (open 2 hours prior to curtain) at 9820 Washington Blvd., Culver City.

BroadStage reveals new season

BroadStage artistic and executive director Rob Bailis has announced the 2023-24 BroadStage Season headlined by the United States premiere of Akram Khan Dance Company’s “Jungle Book Reimagined” (Oct. 26-28), a new multimedia dance work from one of the world’s most influential choreographers – a reimagining of young Mowgli caught in a world devastated by climate change.

The season also includes the beginning of a three-year residency by jazz master Stanley Clarke including concerts with Hiromi (Sept. 23) and Stanley Clarke N•4EVER, his current band (March 30); “A Weekend with Pablo Picasso” in the artist’s private studio as he is preparing new work, written and performed by Herbert Sigüenza of Culture Clash (March 15-16, 2024); the score of the classic film “Birdman” Live performed to the film by the composer, percussionist Antonio Sánchez (April 20, 2024); the long-awaited West Coast debut of Lise Davidsen (Sept. 17) is a highlight of the Celebrity Opera Series, generously supported by Lloyd E. Rigler – Lawrence E

Deutsch Foundation; and the Los Angeles premiere of Book of Mountain and Seas (April 10-14, 2024) from producer Beth Morrison composed by Huang Ruo and directed by puppeteer extraordinaire Basil Twist in a co-presentation with LA Opera.

“It is wonderful how the BroadStage team creates a welcoming ambience, generating a sense of community among the artists and audiences,” BroadStage board president Jennifer Diener said. “I am excited by this season’s thoughtful juxtapositions of performers – long established, newer and those in their stride, as well as local and international, and what we expect will be the extraordinary – ‘Jungle Book Reimagined’ and ‘Book of Mountains and Seas.’ We look forward to welcoming Los Angeles audiences to performances.”

Sunday Morning Music returns for a second year – an engaging chamber music series bringing together distinguished artists and enthusiastic audiences including post-show chats with artists over complimentary food and drink,

curated by Antonio Lysy, musical director of the Tuscany Incontri in Terra di Siena Chamber Music Festival.

The series starts with area-favorite Hershey Felder narrates Stravinsky’s “The Soldier’s Tale” (Oct. 15, The Plaza) with a septet of musicians from the LA Phil. SMM curator Antonio Lysy and Friends (Dec. 17, East Wing) perform a program that includes Alchymia, a new clarinet quintet by Thomas Adès. Led by violinist Etienne Gara, the delightful Delirium Musicum (Jan. 21, 2024, East Wing) plays Vivaldi, Shostakovich, and Francesco Geminiani/Corelli. Finally, Jens Lindemann, one of the world’s most celebrated trumpeters (June 9, 2024, East Wing) leads in an ensemble that will include Gara and Lysy.

The very popular Blackbox evolving series of jazz and blues artists curated by Reverend Shawn Amos includes Amos himself with The Brotherhood (Oct. 7, East Wing); tenor saxophonist Mando Dorame evoking early Americana with Carl Sonny Leyland and the Boogie Woogie Boys (Sept. 30) and Queen Esther (May 11, 2024) with Jeff McLaughlin, performing selections from her alt-country, jazz and Black Americana repertoires.



photo courtesy of BroadStage

The new season at BroadStage will bring shows like “Jungle Book Reimagined” from Oct. 26-28.

The season is completed with four offerings from National Geographic Live – “Wild Cats Revealed” with Sandesh Kadur (Oct. 19) highlights India’s lesser known felines to help protect their future; “Life on Thin Ice” (Feb. 1, 2024) in which Nat Geo’s first Indigenous speaker Kiliii Yüyan takes the audience on a journey to understand the native peoples of the Arctic North and their relationship to a frigid land and its animals. Paleontologist Dr. Lindsay Zanno talks about the iconic apex predator of North America 66 million years ago in “Rise of T. Rex” (March 7, 2024) and in Untold Story of

Sharks (April 18, 2024); and Dr. Jess Cramp narrates her study of the National Geographic archives to discover the work of pioneering women in shark science, before she dives into her work on the frontier of shark research and conservation.

Tickets are now on sale at broad-stage.org or (310)434-3200. Due to the limited capacity of many performances, audiences are encouraged to buy early for the best seating and prices. Please note that “The Book of Mountain and Seas” can only be purchased separately the laopera.org. BroadStage is located at 1310 11th St., Santa Monica.

‘Eternal Medium’ to open at LACMA



photo courtesy of LACMA

From Aug. 20 to Feb. 11, 2024, visitors to LACMA can see “the world in stone.”

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art will present “Eternal Medium: Seeing the World in Stone,” an exhibition that focuses on the role of the imagination in perceiving images in the natural markings of stones, starting Aug. 20.

The product of a collaboration between LACMA, the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Collection, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, this exhibition brings

together objects that utilize the natural features of stones and places them alongside similar works in other mediums for context and comparisons.

Featuring a robust selection of 125 works, ranging from historical to contemporary, the exhibition is drawn from LACMA’s collection with loans from the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Collection on loan to the V&A and the V&A’s own collections, as well as public and private collections in California. The exhibition is curated by Rosie Mills, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation Associate Curator, Decorative Arts and Design.

“External Medium” will run through Feb. 11, 2024. For information, visit lacma.org/art/exhibition/eternal-medium-seeing-world-stone.

HollyShorts screen in Hollywood

This year the documentary shorts race at HollyShorts has heated up, with the winner taking home an Oscar-qualifying prize for the first time. There are 36 documentaries covering subjects like trauma, cults, queer photographers and a skateboarding trans woman. The festival is ongoing and will continue through Aug. 20 at TCL Chinese 6 Theatres.

The annual Academy Awards-qualifying HollyShorts Film Festival brings together top creators, industry leaders and companies and has launched many filmmakers into the next stages of their careers. HollyShorts also engages its community and spotlights short films year-round through monthly

screenings, panels and networking events.

HollyShorts Film Festival will hold its annual awards gala on Aug. 20. For information, visit hollyshorts.com. TCL Chinese 6 Theatres is located at 6925 Hollywood Blvd.

Thirty-six documentaries, including “The Hidden Dimension,” are screening at HollyShorts this year.

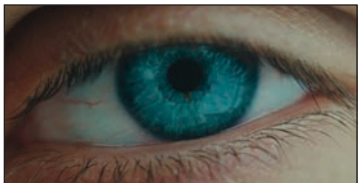


photo courtesy of HollyShorts

Go to a galaxy far, far away at TCL

Dress as Luke Skywalker, Han Solo or Princess Leia and head to the TCL Chinese Theatre for the special screening of “Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back” on Aug. 30, at 7 p.m. The TCL Chinese Theatre screening benefits the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation, a longtime industry charity supporting a multitude of national health and social service programs and providing financial assistance to members of the motion picture community.

A special appearance will be made by the 501st Legion, an international costuming organization comprised of and operated by “Star Wars” fans that are committed to supporting communities, moviegoers and charitable causes nationwide. For this special charity screening, tickets will be priced at \$40 per person and 100% of all ticket sales will be donated to Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation. Each ticket includes complimentary popcorn, a bottle of water or small soda, photos with the characters and Funko - POP! Star Wars bobblehead giveaway.

Tickets on sale now at tclchinese-theatres.com. 6925 Hollywood Blvd., (888)994-3863.



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‘Talk to Me’ is clever but hardly scary

A good scare can come from the most popular horror flicks like “The Ring” or “The Conjuring” or obscure places like “The Descent” or “The Exorcist III.” The latest critical rave “Talk to Me” seems a likely candidate with marketing and critical reactions to support a memorable, jolting experience. But the latest horror movie from A24 doesn’t land more than a couple such moments. It sails as a compelling story, but it just ain’t that scary.

The premise is unique. On the second anniversary of her mother’s death, Mia (Sophie Wilde) attends a party with a notable conversation piece: a mysterious hand mold. It looks like a spooky Halloween

trick. Is it a real hand covered in porcelain? Did it once belong to a medium or a satanist? That’s unclear, but it has a special ability.

Hold the hand, say “talk to me” and you will see dead people. That alone should prompt a much bigger reaction, spark fear or fascination. Nope. Those stinking youths learn they can push their luck even more, get a new kind of fix, by inviting in the spirit staring back at them. This is possession for the TikTok era.

As long as partygoers follow minimal rules regarding time limits and blowing out a candle, they’re fine. For 90 seconds, whoever holds that embalmed hand looks like your average possessed victim – black-

ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

ened eyes, facial shifts, voice modulation, sometimes saying truly disturbing things.

Mia especially enjoys the experience. It serves as a release and a perverse way to connect with her deceased mother. Others simply find it pairs well with standard spirits and choice foreign substances. This is a classic mess around and find out. So prepare for things to go wrong. Half the fun is guessing how and where it all ends.

Horror is subjective, everyone’s threshold for various visceral reaction up for grabs. But this one isn’t scary by any measure. It sports some disturbing visuals and brief violent moments that fester long after such sequences end. But it just isn’t scary.

Then again, “Lord of the Rings” director Peter Jackson called it “relentlessly scary and disturbing – in the best possible way,” he told Total Film. And USA Today ranked “Talk to Me” No. 1 of the year, praising its “old-school frights.” Not sure what that means, but maybe it is amazing, at least for several critics and auteurs.



photo courtesy of A24

Sophie Wilde is great as Mia in Danny and Michael Philippou’s “Talk to Me.”



photo courtesy of A24

“Talk to Me” has a fun story about a mysterious hand mold, but lacks frightening moments overall.

Despite a lack of scares, it’s a fun ride, an enjoyable movie outing with a great concept. Wilde is a stellar lead star in a role that requires grief, pain, desperation, madness, even rage. She hits every mark, evoking empathy and frustration with her character’s many bad choices.

“Talk to Me” is especially winning for debut directors Danny and Michael Philippou, best known for their Australian YouTube channel RackaRacka. You haven’t lived until you’ve seen their epic Nerf battle. After years building an audience on social media – and some minor work on another Australian horror film, “The Babadook” – the Philippou brothers are set to build their own horror empire and likely

tackle something akin to all the major franchises they parodied for years. A prequel and sequel are already in the works. They’re sure to succeed.

“Talk to Me” is a fun, modest endeavor, at least based on A24’s usual horror standards (though they ain’t all winners). Compared to “Hereditary,” “Green Room,” “The Lighthouse” and “Midsommar,” “Talk to Me” feels like the production studio’s franchise attempt. It goes down easy, but hopefully what comes next is a bit more involved. The lore never quite expands. It’s all a big tease leaving few answers, just a clever twist at the end. Hopefully future installments expand rather than rehash, since this is too good a concept to let lie.

Academy gears up for new fall exhibits, film series

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures continues its extensive repertoire of public programming with an announcement of new film series, public events, and education programs to kick off the fall season. New programs include a screening of Gregg Araki’s “Teen Apocalypse Trilogy,” including the 4K restoration world premiere of “Nowhere” (1997); a conversation and book signing with production designer Joe Alves and author Dennis Prince for “Joe Alves: Designing Jaws” on Sept. 9; Fleischer cartoon shorts screened in

the David Geffen Theater every weekend in the fall beginning September 30; Home Movie Day in collaboration with the Academy Film Archive on Nov. 5; and in-gallery programming and family workshops focusing on Indigenous voices, location and set design, portraiture, animation and tactile filmmaking.

To celebrate the opening day of the exhibition “John Waters: Pope of Trash” on Sept. 17, the museum will present an ultra-rare silent screening of “Eat Your Makeup” (1968) with simultaneous live com-

mentary from Waters in person, as well as a 35 mm screening of “Serial Mom” (1994), a book signing and meet and greet with the filmmaker, and a drag queen story hour featuring a family friendly reading of scenes from Waters’s most iconic films.

Film programming limited series begin on Sept. 1 with Yasujiro Ozu in “Color: The Final Six Films,” a screening of Ozu’s six films shot in color. Additional series begin on Sept. 3 with “Enter the VardaVerse: Afternoons in Paris”; Sept. 6 with “New Italian Cinema/Nuovo Cinema Italiano”; Sept. 17 with “John Waters: Pope of Trash”; Oct. 6 with “Ennio Morricone: Essential Scores from a Movie Maestro.” These series join the museum’s ongoing film programs Oscar Sundays, Family Matinees, Branch Selects and Available Space. The Academy Museum also announced it will be offering free admission to all guests on Sunday, Sept. 30, to celebrate its two- year anniversary. Advanced reservations are encouraged, and walk-up tickets will also be available.

“This fall’s slate of programs at the Academy Museum are designed to tell immersive and dynamic stories of moviemaking for visitors of



photo courtesy of the Academy Museum

Kathleen Turner stars in “Serial Mom,” screening at the Academy Museum on Sept. 17.

Get ‘Goofy’ with ice cream party at El Capitan

Disney’s “A Goofy Movie” tickets are now on sale at El Capitan Theatre including a special Powerline Ice Cream Party event before select screenings. Before each screening, see the Disney classic short “How to Swim,” as well as an appearance by Max and Goofy live on stage.

Guests are invited to bring their autograph book and camera to make their own Ghirardelli™ Magical Sundaes with an appearance by Max and Goofy. Tickets are limited to select shows.

A fan event screening will

take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 1. Tickets are \$50 and include a reserved seat, Goofy and Max Orb Sipper, Power Lime Candy, beverage and event credential.

Daily showtimes for “A Goofy Movie” Sept. 1-7 are 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now at elcapitantickets.com and fandango.com /el-capitan-theatre-aacon/theaterpage or by calling 1(800)DISNEY-6. All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$16 for all ages. The El Capitan is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd.



photo courtesy of Disney

On Sept. 1, fans can enjoy a screening of “A Goofy Movie.”

all ages and abilities,” said Amy Homma, chief audience officer of the Academy Museum. “Visitors can experience the ‘John Waters: Pope of Trash’ exhibition, then join us for drag queen story hour to see kid-friendly live scene-readings from his films. Or visit the Director’s Inspiration gallery to view some of Agnes Varda’s personal artifacts before making their way to the theater to see the pieces

come together on the big screen. And of course, we’re also thrilled to continue our successful Weekend Shortcuts series with a new focus on Fleischer studio cartoons—a free and family friendly way to experience animated shorts made almost a century ago.”

For information, visit academy-museum.org. The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd.



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Educators seek new pathways to address teacher shortage

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond hosted a teacher recruitment summit on Aug. 14 and launched a coalition on the direct recruitment of teacher candidates statewide.

The summit brought together 350 attendees in-person at the state capital and online from teacher credentialing programs, school districts, county offices of education, AmeriCorps programs and the military.

“Teachers are the backbone of our educational system. They inspire, guide and shape the minds of our future leaders, thinkers, builders, innovators, writers, scientists and artists,” Thurmond said. “We stand in a moment that demands our attention and collective action, the need for a robust and diverse pool of educators to

propel our schools forward into the next chapter ... to take on the evolving needs of our students and school communities while we are pushing down the accelerator to grow our teacher pool.”

Attendees participated in working groups aimed at creating solutions to the current teacher shortage and developing recruitment strategies for retirees, out-of-state candidates, military personnel and their spouses or domestic partners, and classified personnel.

Thurmond was joined at the summit by Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, president and CEO of the Learning Policy Institute and president of the State Board of Education; Dr. Marquita Grenot-Scheyer, chair of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing; Jeff Freitas, president of the California

Federation of Teachers; Leslie Littman, vice president of the California Teachers Association; Dr. Travis Bristol, associate professor of teacher education and education policy at the Berkeley School of Education; Dr. Edgar Zazueta, executive director of the Association of California School Administrators; and Susan Markarian, president of the California School Boards Association.

“We have an education staffing crisis. We were seeing it coming like it was a weather pattern, and it is here. We have a lack of staffing – teachers, classified staff, fully certificated counselors, bus drivers and custodians. We have a shortage throughout California,” Freitas said. “Since the 1990s, housing costs in California have gone up 300%, but wages for school employees have not matched that even by half.”

Bristol reminded attendees of the importance of an ethnically diverse teacher workforce.

“Research and evidence are clear



photo courtesy of the California Department of Education

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond convened educators to identify ways to recruit teachers.

that when students of color have a teacher of color, they are less likely to be suspended, have higher achievement scores and have a better overall school experience,” Bristol said. “As we spend time thinking about recruitment, let’s not

lose sight of the importance of and pushing for recruiting, supporting and sustaining an ethnically diverse teacher workforce.”

For information on the statewide teacher recruitment coalition, email teachinca@cde.ca.gov.

GoPass offers free Metro rides to students

During the start of the new school year, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is encouraging students, families and school districts to participate in its GoPass pilot program, which allows students in K-12 and community colleges unlimited free rides on the Metro bus and rail systems.

The program, which is in its third year, currently has 274,915 registered students using GoPass. The program has helped Metro increase its student ridership by 43% over pre-pandemic levels.

All schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District offer GoPass to students, with activation codes available through the LAUSD student portal.

“We are excited to bring back the

successful and popular GoPass pilot program and make it available again for a third year to even more K-12 and community college students. I look forward to seeing how we can continue this program further,” said Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board chair Karen Bass. “Thank you to Metro and CEO Stephanie Wiggins for recognizing how important fareless transit is for our students and helping ensure that cost never stands in the way of getting to school.”

Participating schools distribute TAP cards and activation codes so students can activate their cards on the online GoPass portal or by calling (866)TAPTOGO. They also have the option of using a virtual TAP card on the TAP LA app.

In total, 1,441 schools are participating in the program, which has had more than 22 million boardings since October 2021.

“The GoPass pilot has helped hundreds of thousands of L.A. County students get to school, work

and extracurricular activities, while also reducing family expenses,” Wiggins said. “GoPass is central to our strategy to build transit ridership by introducing young people to the benefits of using transit long before they drive. We look forward to welcoming even more students

onto our system in the coming school year.”

GoPass participants can take unlimited free rides on Metro bus and rail, as well as on many municipal transit networks such as LADOT’s DASH. For information, visit metro.net/gopass.



photo courtesy of Metro

Schools are providing access codes that students can use online to receive a free GoPass.

LACDA throws ‘Bash’ for school year

The Los Angeles County Development Authority celebrated the end of the back to school season during the Back to School Bash at the Community Resource Center.

The festive evening included the distribution of school supplies, interactive games and resource booths for families.

At the event, 300 backpacks filled with notebooks, lined paper, pens pencils, markers, color pencils, and scissors were distributed to families. Families were also encouraged to participate in free haircuts from local vendor Comestica Latina and enjoy local resources available like the Delete the Divide Program, which offers

online training classes in topics like cyber security, information technology, and computer programming. The Whittier Area Literacy Council displayed information about their free one-on-one tutoring programs and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health distributed information about its health education programs.

“The LACDA is proud of the community connections we have built,” executive director Emilio Salassaid. “Thanks to the CRC’s hard work, we had a productive Back to School Bash and families were able to receive the supplies they needed to make the first day back to school a success.”



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Immaculate Heart welcomes students back to class

Immaculate Heart High School launched its 118th year of instruction with the first day of classes on Aug. 15. Students in Immaculate Heart Middle School started school the following day on Aug. 16.

Earlier in the week, the Immaculate Heart campus was filled with activity as teachers decorated classrooms, students toured buildings and the campus was prepared for the upcoming academic year. During the high school's orientation program, faculty and staff welcomed 115 freshmen and 17 transfer students in the 10th-12th grades. Dressed in shades of green to represent their freshman status, members of the class of 2027 enjoyed new friendships as they enjoyed their first lunch together. Each new high school student received a red rose and an official Immaculate Heart T-shirt.

During the middle school's orientation, teachers joined student leaders to welcome 78 6th graders, 18 7th graders and three 8th graders into the Immaculate Heart family. The event ended with each student receiving a stuffed Panda – representing Immaculate Heart's beloved mascot – and tossing them into the air and catching them in unison.

Immaculate Heart is planning to hold more community-building events in the coming weeks. The



photo courtesy of Immaculate Heart

Members of Immaculate Heart's freshman class of 2027 shared their first lunch together on Aug. 14 before classes started the following day.

entire school community will attend a Back-to-School Barbecue hosted by the Athletic Department and the Parents Booster Club on Saturday, Aug. 26. The Parent Council will host a Parent's Social on Saturday, Sept. 9.

Students will also spend the coming weeks preparing for Immaculate Heart's Welcome Day, a popular tradition featuring feature skits, songs and costumes in honor of new students. Fall sports are also already underway, and winter sports conditioning begins next week. Students will participate in a variety of community service projects and have an opportunity to

join the more than 30 campus clubs and organizations.

Starting in September, prospective students can sign up for "shadow" visits and other admissions events offered by the high school and middle school. For information and to register, visit immaculate-heart.org.

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

LAUSD looks ahead to new school year

On Aug. 14, Los Angeles Unified School District welcomed students, teachers, principals and school communities back into the classroom for the 2023-24 school year. Having established the critical foundation with systems, structures and coherence, the district will continue implementing the 2022-26 strategic plan and accelerate students toward success.

Los Angeles Unified implemented numerous programs and initiatives last school year to address barriers within the school community. Over 100,000 students took part in Summer of Learning 2023 where they accessed enrichment opportunities and credit recovery, every 4-year-old across in the district will have access to a life-changing, academically formative and socially enriching experience in

the Universal Transitional Kindergarten program beginning this semester; and the district made targeted investments to expand programs including early education, dual language, special education, SENI and BSAP.

But Los Angeles Unified is focused on the future and responding to the challenge at hand. Among many others, the district will launch new initiatives this year including the STEAM Lab Makerspaces, farm-to-school nutrition, Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tours, all while continuing to implement the Green Schools for All plan.

"Welcome back, students," LAUSD Board president Jackie Goldberg said. "The start of a new school year always brings excitement and anticipation. As we dive into this

year, let's remember that every challenge, lesson and experience add to the wonderful tapestry of our students' lives. Learning is a gift that continues to give, unveiling new facets about the world and ourselves."

Backpack drive prepares students as they return to classes

Churchome and Red Eye donated backpacks to more than 1,000 students on Aug. 12 at the Watts Empowerment Center.

In addition to donating backpacks filled with school supplies, the organizations fed more than 500 residents and provided 100 children with new sneakers through a partnership with Hav A Sole. Two barbers also gave students free haircuts.

The annual outreach event helps economically disadvantaged students start the school year with the necessary supplies. The drive also provides an opportunity for community members to volunteer. Churchome, a non-denominational global faith community for over 30 years, supports the Watts Empowerment Center. Churchome gathers on the last Wednesday of each month at the Saban Theatre, 8444 Wilshire Blvd.

For information, visit churchome.org.



photo courtesy of Churchome

Students received backs filled with schools supplies at the community backpack drive.

Music Center shines a spotlight on budding artists

The Music Center invites all Southern California high school students interested in the performing arts to apply for The Music Center's 36th Annual Spotlight, a free nationally acclaimed competition that provides more than \$100,000 in performing arts scholarships and artistic development through auditions, feedback, mastery classes taught by professional artists and arts administrators and performance opportunities at the West Coast's leading performing arts destination. Through a supportive environment, students can develop important life skills, including self-esteem, preparation and perseverance. To date, The Music Center has provided students with over \$2.8 million in scholarships. Applying for Spotlight is free, and students of all skill levels are

encouraged to apply.

The Music Center's Spotlight is part of the performing arts organization's commitment to help all students gain outstanding arts learning experiences in their schools and communities. Spotlight is designed to help students explore their professional goals and increase their confidence through the audition process. Spotlight alumni are performing with the world's best dance companies, top orchestras and leading jazz clubs; singing in the leading opera houses; and starring on Broadway. They are also major executives working behind-the-scenes in arts schools, non-profit institutions and businesses.

The Spotlight process consists of four rounds of auditions, and the application deadline is Oct. 16.



photo courtesy of The Music Center

Spotlight alumni have gone on to perform in the world's best dance companies, Jazz clubs, opera houses and Broadway shows.



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IAMA adds executive director

Cara Greene Epstein has transitioned into the newly created position of executive director at IAMA Theatre Company following a two-year stint as the company's director of education. In her new role, Greene Epstein will continue to work closely with artistic director Stefanie Black, associate artistic director Margaux Susi and producing director Lara Myrene to take Los Angeles' premier female-led theater company to the next level.

"As IAMA moves into a new phase of growth, we are so lucky to have found a dream partner in Cara," Black said. "Her passion, experience and expansive mind



photo courtesy of IAMA

Cara Greene Epstein is the first to hold a newly created position with the IAMA Theatre Company.

have already shown to be the perfect recipe for IAMA leadership. I couldn't be more thrilled to be in collaboration and co-leadership with her. Get ready L.A.: Cara has big ideas and IAMA is about to pop off."

Greene Epstein brings over 20 years of experience as an actor, director, producer and arts educator, as well as over 15 years of experience as a strategic marketing and creative process consultant for Fortune 500 companies and nonprofits, to her new role. She has worked with theater companies from coast to coast, including The Old Globe, Steppenwolf, Lookingglass, Writer's Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, Epic Theatre Ensemble, People's Light and the American Theater Wing.

In June of 2020, Greene Epstein delivered a now viral TED Talk from an empty Wrigley Field entitled "How Theater Weathers Wars, Outlasts Empires and Survives Pandemics." In the video, which had 1.31 million views, Greene Epstein provided historical context for the state of theater at that time and focused on how the theater community could use this pause to build a more just, representative, and creative world, both on stage and off.

In addition to her work in the theater, Greene Epstein wrote and co-directed the award-winning feature film "Dragonfly," currently stream-

ing on Amazon Prime. Additional TV and film work includes "Chicago Med," "Sky Burial," "Chaos Theory" and "They're Out of the Business." She is an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Screenwriting Fellow and holds an honors degree in Theater Arts from Cornell University, an MFA in Acting from The Old Globe/USD, an MFA in Television and Screenwriting from Stephens College and is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA.

"IAMA is a theater company and community of artists that I deeply respect and admire," she said. "For my entire adult life, I've pursued two careers simultaneously – one in arts and entertainment and one in the corporate world. The through line has been building community, empowering creativity, telling stories and making space for others to do the same. I'm so thankful to have found an artistic home at IAMA where I can continue to do that work."

Founded in 2007, IAMA is a Los Angeles-based ensemble of artists committed to cultivating new voices and creating new works that push boundaries and take risks, while fostering an inclusive community that inspires theater-makers of future generations. The award-winning company is dedicated to developing new plays and musicals by emerging and established playwrights, including over 25 world, West Coast and Los Angeles premieres.

For information about IAMA Theatre Company, visit iamatheatre.com.



photo courtesy of the Petersen Automotive Museum/Mitokino

Learn about the history of the Corvette at the Petersen's new exhibit, including the 1963 Grand Sport.

Corvette turns 70 at the Petersen

The Petersen Automotive Museum's newest exhibit, "Corvettes in Competition: Racing America's Sports Car," is now open. The collection revisits the history of the most iconic Corvette race cars in celebration of Corvette's 70th anniversary. The display showcases the evolution of Chevrolet's legendary sports car, from its milestones at Le Mans, Daytona and the IMSA SportsCar Championship.

The exhibit, which is held in Charles Nearburg Family Gallery and located on the museum's second floor, features more than 10 historically significant Corvettes,

including the 1995 Chevrolet Corvette Callaway LM, which won the 1996 SCCA Pro Racing World Challenge Series, the 2001 Chevrolet Corvette C5.R driven by Dale Earnhardt at the 2001 24 Hours of Daytona and the 2014 Chevrolet Corvette C7R that won its class at the 24 Hours of Daytona and 12 Hours of Sebring in 2015.

The exhibition will be open through Aug. 25, 2024. The Petersen Automotive Museum is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd. For information and to purchase tickets, visit petersen.org/corvette.



Local rabbi helps establish national Holocaust memorial



Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, center, was joined by Rabbi Juda Glasner and the rabbi's wife Deborah in the Aug. 9, 1979, issue of the Park Labrea News. Glasner, who lived on Burnside Avenue and was a member of President Jimmy Carter's Commission on the Holocaust, met with Begin and high-ranking officials in Israel. The commission, chaired by Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Weisel, was formulating plans at the time for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial and Museum in Washington, D.C., and toured Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial. Congress later approved plans for the memorial and museum in 1980 and dedicated 1.9-acres on the National Mall. The museum continues to follow its mission of Holocaust remembrance, confronting hatred and preventing genocide. For information, visit ushmm.org.

Music Center welcomes new board members

The Board of Directors of the Music Center has announced the appointment of six new members. Filmmaker Kristin Burr; entrepreneur, writer and arts supporter Elizabeth Khuri Chandler; health care management CEO and consultant Joan Herman; attorney Richard Kendall; nonprofit organization CEO Corinne Sanchez; and financier Michael Stockton are joining the Music Center Board.

As one of the nation's largest performing arts organizations, the Music Center presents dance performances, nationally recognized K-12 arts learning programs and

digital arts experiences, as well as free and low-cost public concerts and events. The Music Center also manages four theatres, Jerry Moss Plaza and Gloria Molina Grand Park on behalf of the county of Los Angeles.

"Each leader of our newest cadre of board members has been positively impacted by the arts throughout their successful lives and storied careers. Some have immersed themselves fully in the arts as performers, while others serve on the boards of some of our arts organization peers. Their rich experiences with the arts, coupled with their professional

expertise, will be a tremendous benefit for the Music Center's continued growth and evolution," board chair Cindy Miscikowski said. "These six new appointees make the Music Center's Board of Directors 48 members strong. All of us are ready to lead the Music Center into its next era as we prepare for its 60th anniversary in 2024 and look ahead to many more years of enriching the lives of Angelenos through the arts."

The Music Center is located at 135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles. For information, visit musiccenter.org.



10 Reasons Why I Don't Want An Estate Plan

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6. I like family fights – especially unnecessary ones.
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Lawsuit filed over clinic in Beverly Hills

From page 1

city worked to stymie the clinic’s opening, until Douglas Emmett sent the clinic a June 12 letter “purporting to rescind the lease.”

The lease does not allow Douglas Emmett to issue a rescission letter, and the “letter did not properly rescind the lease – it simply sets forth Douglas Emmett’s improper grounds for breaching the lease,” according to the complaint.

The complaint also alleges that Beverly Hills Mayor Julian Gold and City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey were copied on the rescission letter.

“Providing such a letter to any city government is extremely abnormal in routine landlord-tenant matters. There was no reason, whatsoever, for Douglas Emmett to inform the city of its decision, except to notify the city that it had done what the city instructed it to do,” the complaint states.

DuPont attorneys claim that the city conspired with anti-abortion activists to block the clinic from opening, bowing to pressure from groups that spent months protesting at City Council meetings and in front of the building.

In a 181-page complaint against Douglas Emmett, DuPont attorneys allege that city officials delayed the clinic’s permits, pressured Douglas Emmett into rescinding the lease and brokered agreements at secret meetings with the activists, even after the lease was rescinded.

The lawsuit lists Douglas Emmett as the defendant, but DuPont plans to sue the city as well, according to an online statement.

“The hypocrisy of Beverly Hills is astounding – a city that issued a proclamation and lit up City Hall in pink in support of abortion rights following the fall of Roe, yet allows an abortion clinic to be blocked from opening,” the statement read. “We cannot allow anti-abortion extremism to stand in this country, and we will not let elected officials remain complicit. The DuPont Clinic is taking Douglas Emmet to court and putting the city of Beverly Hills on notice that we will be suing.”

In a statement, a DuPont spokesperson said the clinic sent the city a letter indicating its intent to file on Aug. 14, and the city has 45 days to respond to the letter.

Mayor Julian Gold could not be reached for comment, but in an

email, Deputy City Manager Keith Sterling said the city had diligently reviewed the permits to ensure they complied with state law, and denied that the city had any role in Douglas Emmett’s decision.

According to Sterling, the permits were issued, and officials anticipated the clinic would open later this year.

“However, the city received correspondence on June 12 from the attorney [for Douglas Emmett] notifying us that DuPont Clinic would no longer be taking occupancy and the lease had been rescinded,” he said. “The city of Beverly Hills has a clear record of supporting a woman’s right to choose.”

Representatives for Douglas Emmett declined to comment.

“Douglas Emmett has a well-established policy of refraining from discussing leasing matters with external entities. While we have not yet seen the complaint, we will respond following the legal framework,” a spokesperson said.

After signing the lease in September 2022, progress continued steadily at first, according to DuPont’s complaint. In October, DuPont and city officials held multiple discussions about the clinic, including whether it was required to obtain zoning and conditional use permits.

“The city expressly confirmed to DuPont that [it] approved of DuPont’s intended use of the premises, and DuPont began planning construction of the premises,” the lawsuit states.

The building was home to outdated medical offices, and the clinic hired architects and a general contractor to begin the process of demolishing the old facilities and building new ones.

Then, at the beginning of 2023, anti-abortion protesters began demonstrating at the building. DuPont organized meetings with Douglas Emmett, city officials and local and federal law enforcement to ensure the safety of patients and other visitors to the building, according to the complaint.

On April 18, the protesters began appearing at City Council meetings, calling the clinic a “murder mill” and asking the council to stand against a “Holocaust that has killed millions of babies,” and to put the issue on the agenda for the following meeting.

The council never addressed the activists’ complaints or scheduled a discussion of the clinic on a meeting agenda.

“The City Council is prohibited from substantively discussing subjects addressed during the ‘non-agenda item’ period of public comment,” Sterling said.

The lawsuit alleges the city conceded to the protesters by withholding the clinic’s permits.

As of April 24, the city had placed a “hold” on the building permits, with City Attorney Laurence Wiener writing in an email that the city had some questions about whether the abortion services provided at DuPont would violate state laws, according to the complaint.

“In late April,” the city asked Douglas Emmett for a meeting to discuss the clinic’s permits, and “directly asked Douglas Emmett representatives if there was any way to avoid the opening of DuPont’s clinic,” according to the complaint.

“Douglas Emmett representatives later told DuPont that city officials were visibly upset upon learning that Douglas Emmett could not simply prevent DuPont from opening its clinic on the premises,” the complaint states.

Sterling claimed that the meeting was intended to discuss “public safety plans as the clinic prepared to open.” He stated it would “require additional time to research” why the city waited so long before issuing the permits.

After the permits were issued in May, the city doubled down on its efforts to prevent the clinic’s opening, DuPont alleged.

Beverly Hills Police Chief Mark Stainbrook sent a draft letter that would have alerted other tenants to security concerns resulting from the protesters, which DuPont claimed was an intimidation tactic.

On June 5, officials from DuPont, Douglas Emmett, the BHPD, Federal Bureau of Investigation and security firm Allied Universal walked through the building to ensure adequate security for building tenants, according to the complaint.

The complaint further states that on June 8, a Douglas Emmett executive called DuPont officials, making it clear the real estate company did not want the clinic to open. On June 12, the company sent DuPont a letter rescinding the lease, copying Gold and Hunt-Coffey, according to



photo by Joey Waldinger

In a statement, DuPont did not specify if it still plans to open a clinic in Beverly Hills.

the complaint. Sterling said city officials may be copied on such matters “as information only.”

According to DuPont, this letter violated the terms of the lease.

Even after the rescission letter, protesters continued their pressure campaign, according to the complaint.

Protesters returned to speak at the July 18 City Council meeting and organized a July 29 protest in front of the Wilshire Boulevard offices that drew approximately 100 people, according to BHPD Lt. Reginald Evans.

During the protest, an anti-abortion leader claimed that following the July 18 meeting, he secured a private meeting with Gold, where “we came to an agreement,” according to the complaint.

The activist, Tim Clement, read an email from Sterling at the protest: “Per our conversation yesterday morning, this email is to confirm that the attorney for the landlord at 8920 Wilshire Boulevard has notified the city that DuPont Clinic will no longer be taking occupancy and the lease has been rescinded,” according to the complaint.

Sterling said that Clement requested a meeting with the mayor at the July 18 meeting, and during a subsequent phone call on July 26, “we simply shared ... that the city was notified that the lease had been rescinded and we sent the [above] email the next day.”

“The information shared with Mr. Clement was public information that had been communicated to the city from the landlord’s attorney,” Sterling added.

Though the clinic stated that it remains committed to expanding health care services to “the people

of Los Angeles and those across the country living in restrictive states,” it did not indicate whether it still intends to open a location in Beverly Hills.

DuPont representatives declined to comment, and referred to public statements and court documents.

In an interview, a practicing OBGYN from Beverly Hills, who declined to have her name published, said the landlord’s decision could impact women across the country, as the clinic likely would have served patients who crossed state lines to receive care deemed illegal where they live.

She added that third-trimester abortions offered by DuPont are typically performed after “very rare fetal anomalies that are not diagnosed until later in the pregnancy.” Though such situations are incredibly rare, they can be fatal if not properly treated, the doctor said.

“They are a fraction of abortions sought out, and they are usually very difficult cases medically, emotionally, psychologically,” she said. “This clinic was so unique because it had doulas ... and multidisciplinary systems to help women in situations no one could ever imagine being in.”

By appearing to influence Douglas Emmett’s reversal in a state and city that projects a pro-choice image, the anti-abortion activists have logged a big win, she added.

“It’s a feather in their cap showing they had power to shut down a clinic literally on the brink of opening,” the doctor said. “It really does dishearten me ... the precedent this might set for other clinics that want to open up in liberal parts of the country.”

Council takes stance against hotel project

From page 1

Santa Monica Mountains from this hotel,” Yaroslavsky said. “I am deeply grateful to my colleagues for their support.”

Bulgari announced its plans to build the luxury hotel in 2018, touching off a years-long struggle to block the proposed development. The proposal has divided residents and lawmakers, eliciting hours of heated public comment during two meetings that both ended in deadlocked votes.

The motion does not stop the project from going forward, but asks the director of City Planning to reverse the initiation of a general plan amendment that would rezone the land to allow for construction of the hotel.

While Yaroslavsky argued that the project should not even be considered in such a sensitive ecology, support-

ers of the project, including developer Gary Safady, have argued that adopting the motion would be a failure of due process and will discourage developers from investing in the city.

The general plan amendment has not yet been adopted, and an environmental impact report on the project has not yet been released.

“The simple truth is we do have an environmental review process that’s not complete. I just want it to be complete before I take a position on this project, so that’s why I will be voting no,” Council President Paul Krekorian said.

Krekorian was joined by Councilman Kevin de León, 14th District; Councilwoman Heather Hutt, 10th District; Councilman John Lee, 12th District; Councilman Curren Price, 9th District; and

Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, in voting against the motion.

Yaroslavsky was joined by Councilman Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District; Marqueece Harris-Dawson, 8th District; Eunisses Hernandez, 1st District; Tim McOsker, 15th District; Traci Park, 11th District; Nithya Raman, 4th District; and Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District in voting for the motion.

The council had previously considered the motion on May 16, but after a 7-7 vote, the matter was continued until Aug. 16.

Park voted against the motion in May, but changed her mind after speaking with hillside constituents who impressed upon her the importance of preserving the city’s natural areas, she said.

“Our canyons and hillsides and the wildlife there are critical assets that belong to all of Los Angeles, and the reality is when they’re gone, they’re gone,” Park said.

Before the vote in May, the motion went before the council’s Planning and Land Use Management Committee in March. The vote was tied, and the motion was sent to the council without a committee recommendation.

According to a 2021 Bulgari press release, the resort would include 58 rooms and suites, eight private estates, a restaurant, a 10,000-square-foot spa and state of the art gym.

There was no public comment made during the Aug. 16 vote, but in May, Safady said the project would be an environmentally friendly model for others to follow, and he touted the many good-paying union jobs it would provide.

Yaroslavsky and others opposed to the project, however, argued that a

different kind of bad precedent would be set if the project went forward. The project would open some of the city’s most sensitive areas to future construction, exacerbate hazards in a high-fire zone and demonstrate to constituents that lobbyist dollars outweigh their concerns, Yaroslavsky said.

She also raised concerns of ethicality, noting that one of the earliest paid lobbyists is married to the planning deputy of her predecessor, Councilman Paul Koretz, who initially supported the project before deciding to oppose it.

“Simply put, it is the wrong project in the wrong location, and shouldn’t have gotten this far in the first place,” Yaroslavsky said on Aug. 16. “This motion is about taking a stand together as a council and saying we don’t believe ... in a project that goes against everything we’re doing from a land use perspective, a climate perspective and a public safety perspective.”

Police stay vigilant against flash mobs

From page 1

Carson on Aug. 16. A 17-year-old juvenile suspect was arrested and booked for the robbery at Ksubi, Ro added. Police are searching for the other suspects and are working to see if the suspect in custody is connected to other smash and grab burglaries.

Ro said police are also proactively working with business owners to ensure they are taking preventative measures.

“We continue to correspond with our business communities, which includes the stores at the major shopping centers,” Ro added. “For a while, we have been discussing and encouraging hardening the target and crime prevention strategies with them.”

Rick Caruso, owner of the Americana and The Grove, condemned the smash and grab burglaries. The Nordstrom store at The Grove was targeted by a flash mob who broke in and stole merchandise on Nov. 22, 2021.

“The time has come to demand that our elected officials change the laws to hold criminals accountable and start enforcing the laws in a fair and equitable manner. Retail busi-

nesses and small and large shopping areas are experiencing an alarming increase in smash and grab robberies,” Caruso said. “I have heard directly from small business owners who feel defeated by the lack of accountability for criminals. Families say their local streets do not feel safe and their residential neighborhoods and quality of life have been impacted. We must elevate their voices, bringing Angelenos together to find a new approach so merchants and shoppers alike are fully protected, criminals are held accountable and our economy thrives. Common sense and clear thinking must prevail for us to have a safe, productive and livable community.”

According to a media report, Caruso met with Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón at The Grove on Aug. 14. Spokespeople for Caruso and Gascón did not confirm the meeting occurred. Gascón said in a statement that he is committed to holding people accountable for the crimes.

“The brazen organized retail thefts that have been reported in Glendale and Topanga are unacceptable, out-

rageous and harm our entire community,” Gascón said. “My office is in contact with the Los Angeles and Glendale police departments, and have offered the support of our Organized Crime Division and Bureau of Investigation. We will continue to work collaboratively with our law enforcement partners to hold the individuals involved with these crimes accountable.”

Lt. Reginald Evans, with the Beverly Hills Police Department, said officers and private security guards have maintained a high-profile presence throughout the city, including in the Rodeo Drive shopping area. He said the shopping district’s configuration helps officers stay proactive in preventing smash and grab burglaries.

“One difference in the locations that were hit are the avenues of escape,” Evans added. “Malls typically allow for numerous avenues of entry and escape. Rodeo Drive during a high traffic time of day does not.”

The LAPD and Glendale Police Department are continuing their investigations into the smash and grab burglaries. Anyone with infor-

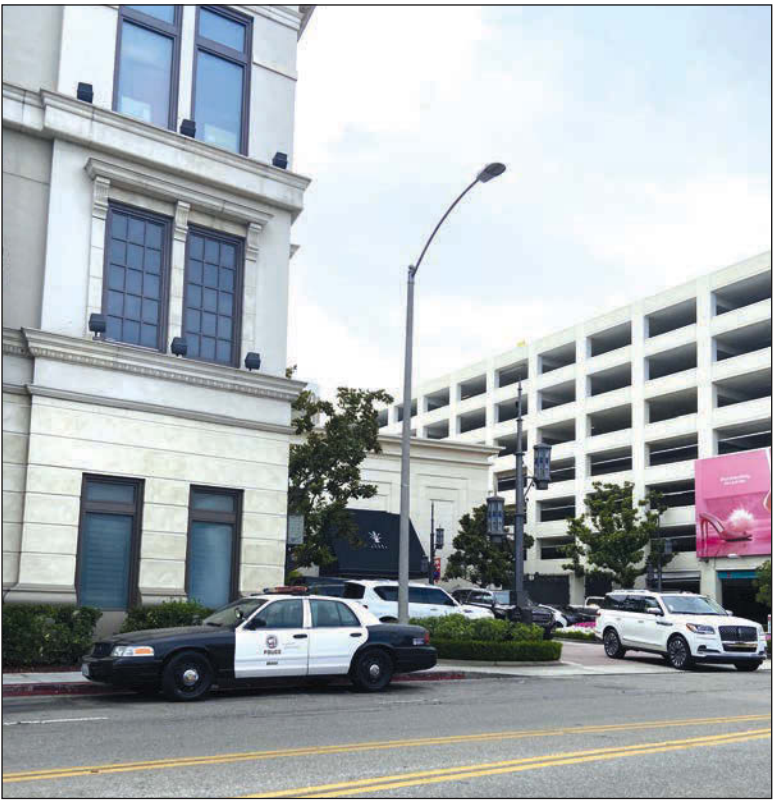


photo by Edwin Folven

Police are maintaining a high-profile presence around shopping malls including The Grove due to smash and grab burglaries.

WeHo considers public safety measures

From page 1

nology and security enhancements aimed at improving community safety.

“Public safety should be – must be – the city’s top priority,” Councilwoman Lauren Meister said. “I am willing to make the investment needed to pilot new technology to keep our community safer.”

Some of the potential measures discussed included security cameras, the use of drones and other advanced software that could cut down on the need for law enforcement’s intervention in low level offenses. Facial recognition technology could also aid in the ability to catch criminal offenders.

While no final decisions were made on what new implementations the city will make from the survey and recommendations, the City Council directed staff to formulate concrete proposals.

“I’m hopeful that we’ll be able to implement some of these, like the cameras, real time watch center, emergency communications and drone [technology], sooner rather than later,” Meister said.

Mayor Pro Tempore John Erickson said he had some concerns about the way the survey was conducted.

“One big disappointment I did have was that [the Center For Policing Equity] are unable to look at LGBTQ specific data and as a predominantly LGBTQ city, that information is tantamount to how we even look at policing equity as a whole,” Erickson said. “And so that is why I encourage them to reexamine how they do this type of work. But at the end of the day, we have and are trying to address all of these facets [of public safety] and make sure that anyone and everyone who lives here that comes to play here or work here in West Hollywood is safe.”

The results of the study showed that a disproportionate number of Black people were pulled over in comparison to other demographic groups. While only just over 4% of the West Hollywood population is Black, 31% of the people cited by deputies are Black, according to the study. Public Safety Commissioner George S. Nickle expressed concern that the demographics were inaccurate due to the large influx of visitors the night life in the city brings along Santa Monica and Sunset boulevards.

“I was hoping that you would not use population benchmarking for West Hollywood, because it seems flawed to me,” Nickle said. “We are a city that thrives on people visiting us. We’re also city that just has a lot of people driving through it ... people come from all over the world to come to West Hollywood.”

In 2018, the West Hollywood Travel + Tourism Board estimated that 3.59 million people visit the city annually.

While Public Safety Commission Chair Tod E. Hallman commended the Center of Policing Equity, he also said that many of the results of the study should be “common sense.”

“I am somewhat perplexed,” Hallman said. “Shouldn’t a lot of this be common sense in how people should be equally treated? As a

Black man – 61 years old – I’ve always had to be on guard. However, why should I be on guard compared to a white male? Why am I treated differently than a white male? I’ve been stopped while driving while Black. So ... as great as this [study] is, and as much as I commend the city for working with [the Center for Policing Equity], this should be something that law enforcement should be doing already.”

The recommendations to counter and deescalate profiling by law enforcement included cutting down on responding to lower-level traffic offenses, including broken tail lights and expired registration tags. It was acknowledged during the discussion that these issues could be addressed by cameras, drones and other safety enhancements, and the citations could be mailed.

The safety technology would cost the city roughly \$2.1 million, Erickson stressed that any decisions that would be made would need to be thoroughly examined from all angles.

“We are not the city of Beverly Hills, but we also need to utilize all the tools in our public safety toolbox to keep people safe. And while we can look at innovative technologies, we also then need to do the due diligence beforehand to develop policies, as well as public transparency, to ensure that people who are being watched by cameras – facial recognition software or any other of the topics that came up on Monday – are addressed prior. Once we let the genie out of the bottle with this new tech, we’re not putting it back,” Erickson said.



photo by Edwin Folven

A survey by the Center For Policing Equity showed disparities in citations issued in West Hollywood.

Cedars-Sinai harnesses AI to advance care

Artificial intelligence is capturing the public imagination as the pace of innovation accelerates sharply and easy-to-use AI tools offer new possibilities to transform whole industries.

Building on a legacy of innovation, Cedars-Sinai is harnessing rapidly evolving breakthroughs in AI technology to enhance patient care, improve efficiency, advance scientific discovery and cultivate greater physician and staff wellbeing.

AI at Cedars-Sinai already is having an early impact on clinical and research initiatives. Investigators, for example, are using the technology to identify the earliest signs of pancreatic cancer, predict sudden cardiac arrest and uncover genetic predic-

tors of Alzheimer’s disease risk.

Cedars-Sinai leaders are excited by the possibilities afforded by AI, including the potential to reduce healthcare disparities and costs as they guide the organization through this dynamic revolution in healthcare.

“AI extends and augments human capabilities and intelligence,” senior vice president and chief information officer Craig Kwiatkowski said. “It holds the potential to transform the ways we envision, plan and deliver care. Because of the vast opportunities, we are moving deliberately in these early stages of the journey.”

Cedars-Sinai’s AI strategy is built on three foundational strategic pil-

lars: investing and planning, transitioning innovation into adoption, and supporting sound, ethical use of new technologies.

Through its first pillar, Cedars-Sinai is investing in state-of-the-art technology, infrastructure and services while fostering AI fluency across the workforce. The intent is to lay a foundation to meet the organization’s future healthcare needs.

The second pillar calls for the use of AI research and innovation to solve critical, real-world healthcare challenges by accelerating the integration of AI discoveries into clinical practice and delivering benefits to patients, physicians and the healthcare delivery system.

The third pillar focuses on the ethical and responsible use and governance of AI by adhering to regulatory requirements while ensuring that AI tools are used in fair and unbiased ways that protect patients and their privacy.

An essential component of success involves the creation of an Artificial Intelligence Council. It brings together cross-functional leaders-from patient care, research, data and technology teams-to review, guide and coordinate AI strategy. The council provides a forum for open dialogue and an ongoing exchange of ideas while setting priorities, evaluating the use of AI tools and identifying measures of success.

For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

Answers From Page 23

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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. Italian aloha
5. Scope
10. Help for the stumped
14. Love, Spanish-style
15. Tree, with silver!
16. Composer Siegmeister
17. Tasty desserts
20. Egg dish
21. Vigorous reprimand that's read
22. Football squad
25. Knots
26. Light source
30. Jamaican music
33. Warm welcome
35. "Total Eclipse of the Heart" singer,
Bonnie
36. S. American tuber
39. Chocolate desserts
42. Compass point
43. Honda model
44. Things to deck
45. Italian city
46. Shut down
47. "We ___ please"
51. Extended
54. Substituted (for)
57. Greek theaters
62. Sweet candy
65. Rock's Motley ___
66. Means of communication
67. '80s rock band

68. Snakes

69. Tricky jumps

70. Perchance

Down

1. Mexican resort
2. Arabic leader
3. Steak sauce
4. One type of evidence
5. Let up
6. Sound magnifier
7. "It's cold!"
8. Hit man
9. Restaurant type
10. In the know about
11. Homer's story
12. Heiress, perhaps
13. Hospital work
18. Cirque de Soleil equipment
19. Emperor
23. Classy
24. Kind of race
26. Shavers
27. Beer cousins
28. Turn
29. Fraternity letter
31. "Citizen Kane" actor Everett _____
32. Turner of TV channels
34. Pie preference
36. Neighbor of Mo.
37. Hive component
38. Gofer. abbr.

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40. Grade sch. class
41. Expression of delight
47. Pet protection org.
48. Cerebral canals
49. To dispose of
50. Has a few too many
52. ___ much (less)
53. Reasons for bowl cheers
55. ___ la Douce
56. Ariz. neighbor
58. List-ending abbr.

59. Seine tributary
60. Naval investigation show
61. Three-player card game
63. Suffix with glycer-
64. Common soccer score

answers on page 22

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