



L.A.'s recovery continues, six months after wildfires

■ Anniversary marked with commitment to rebuild

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

State, county and city leaders came together on July 7 to mark six months since the Palisades and Eaton fires devastated communities, claiming 30 lives and destroying or damaging more than 12,000 homes and businesses.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and Los Angeles County Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District, led a press conference at Pasadena City College near the Eaton fire zone, where leaders outlined recovery efforts and laid out plans for what lies ahead. Newsom signed an

See **Recovery** page 21



photo by Edwin Folven

Debris remains at some properties devastated by the Eaton fire, and rebuilding has yet to begin on many sites.

'Peace and Love' spreads in Beverly Hills for Ringo's 85th

■ Starr celebrates with a little help from his friends

BY TABOR BREWSTER

One quarter of The Beatles, Liverpudlian drummer, singer and songwriter extraordinaire Sir

Richard Starkey – better known as Ringo Starr – celebrated his 85th birthday in Beverly Hills on July 7, with a little help from his friends.

Hundreds of Beatlemania fans came together in Beverly Gardens Park to wish one of two living members of the Fab Four a happy birthday, and join Starr as he broadcast his emblematic motto of “Peace and Love” to the world.

Starr was joined by his family – including his wife, actress Barbara Bach, and son, drummer Zak Starkey – in addition to members of his All Starr Band and fellow musicians, who performed cover versions of tracks by Starr and The Beatles.

Molly Tuttle – a singer and songwriter from Palo Alto – performed “Octopus’s Garden,” a tune penned by Starr for The Beatles’ 1969 album “Abbey Road.” Tuttle was joined onstage by “Doctor My Eyes” singer Jackson Browne and members of the pop group Lucius, who delivered cheery covers of Beatles classics including “Yellow Submarine,” “With a Little Help

See **Ringo** page 22



photo by Tabor Brewster

Ringo Starr flashed peace signs in front of his “Peace and Love” sculpture in Beverly Gardens Park.

L.A., WeHo join lawsuit against ICE raids

■ Action follows military incursion in MacArthur Park

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The cities of Los Angeles, West Hollywood, Culver City, Santa Monica, Pasadena, Pico Rivera, Montebello and Monterey Park filed a motion on July 8 to join a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union against the federal government over ongoing immigration raids. The lawsuit seeks to stop the raids, which it alleges are unconstitutional because they are based on ethnicity and do not provide reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

“Immigrants are our family members, they are our neighbors, our coworkers, our classmates, our colleagues,” L.A. City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto said. “The scale of these raids and the tactics that are being used are not a response to any threat level. Local law enforcement for this kind of force would require a showing of real threat. That’s not what’s happening here. This seems to be designed to be aggressive, to instill fear, not [in response] to a threat.”



photo courtesy of Rep. Laura Friedman via X

Federal immigration agents swarmed in MacArthur Park on July 7.

The action by Los Angeles and the surrounding cities followed a month of ongoing ICE raids, the deployment of the National Guard in Los Angeles and an unprecedented militarization effort in MacArthur Park.

The public park is in the Westlake neighborhood, a majority Latino community with a large immigrant population. On July 7, See **Raids** page 21

Federal agents detain WeHo car wash workers

■ One employee deported after July 4 raid

BY SAM MULICK

Two workers at a West Hollywood car wash were detained on July 4 by what appeared to be federal immigration authorities.

Unmarked SUVs drove up to the Santa Palm Car Wash in the

8700 block of Santa Monica Boulevard around 11 a.m., according to Jason Coughlan, a West Hollywood resident who was at the scene. In a video shared with the Beverly Press, masked men and women in military uniforms appeared around the car wash and escorted workers away. Glen Rogers, owner of the car wash, confirmed at a July 7 West Hollywood City Council meeting that two workers were detained. He called on the City Council to

do everything within its power to stop the raids and alerted other business owners to the unannounced raid, where no agents identified themselves.

“The guys are hard working,” he said. “They’re not criminals. I’ve never seen people afraid to go to work, just wanting to do their job.”

Silvestre Jiménez Gómez, an employee at the car wash for more than 30 years, was detained and deported to Mexico, according to a video posted on social media by his son Edgar Jiménez. Gómez was the sole breadwinner for his family, and Jiménez set up a GoFundMe to support his mother in his absence. As of July 9, the GoFundMe has raised more than \$22,000. To donate, visit gofund.me/f0c942ea.

Jiménez said his father chose to be deported to Mexico rather than remain in ICE detention out of concerns for his health.

“He doesn’t want to be treated like a criminal when all he did was just come here for a better life,” Jiménez said. “He doesn’t deserve that. Nobody deserves that.”

A West Hollywood resident,

See **WeHo** page 22

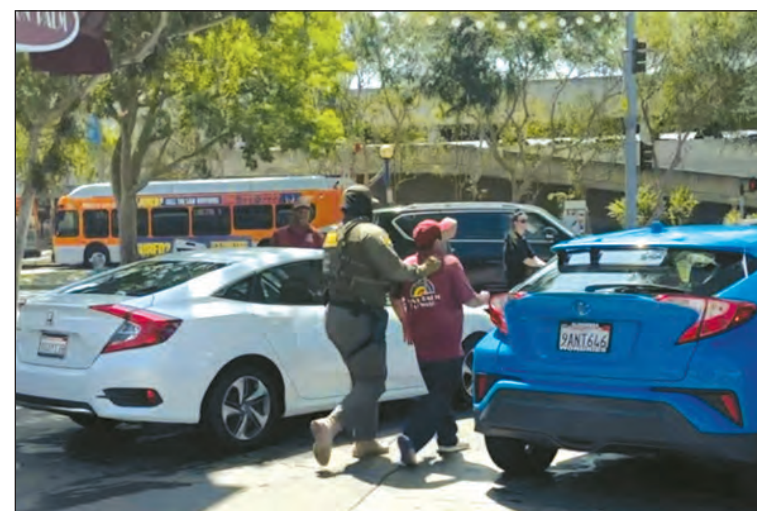


photo by Jason Coughlan

ICE agents led workers away from the Santa Palm Car Wash in West Hollywood on July 4.



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New Hollywood String Quartet

The New Hollywood String Quartet presents the Summer of Angels Chamber Music Festival from Thursday, July 10, through Sunday, July 13, in Rothenberg Hall at the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Gardens. The festival features four concerts of chamber music recorded by the original Hollywood String Quartet at Capitol Records in Hollywood. Special guests include Grammy-nominated pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, cellist Alban Gerhardt, violist Nokuthula Ngwenyama and pianist Olga Zado. Grammy Award-winning conductor Leonard Slatkin introduces the concerts. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m. on July 10-11; 5 p.m. on July 12-13. Single tickets start at \$70; \$30 for students. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. summerofangels.com.



Cinematic art of Ghana

Beyond the Streets presents “VHS Dreams: The Art of Ghana’s Mobile Cinema” from Friday, July 11, through Saturday, Aug. 23. The exhibition is an immersive celebration of Ghana’s hand-painted movie posters and the remarkable artists who have kept the form alive for more



than three decades. It showcases one of the largest collections of original hand-painted Ghanaian movie posters ever shown in a single space. An opening reception will be held on July 11 from 6-9 p.m. Regular hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. 434 N. La Brea Ave. beyondthestreets.com.

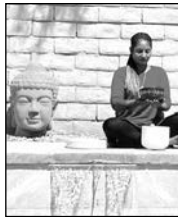
‘Classical Pride’

Enjoy “Classical Pride” on Thursday, July 10, at 8 p.m. at the Hollywood Bowl. Oliver Zeffman conducts the Los Angeles Philharmonic with vocalists Pumeza Matshikiza, Jamie Barton and Anthony Roth Costanzo and violinist Thorgy Thor. The celebrated event comes from London to the Hollywood Bowl. Bookended by the exuberant excess of Bernstein’s Candide overture and Tchaikovsky’s tragic and yearning ode to Dante’s Francesca – two composers who could not fully embrace their identity in their own time – the night is highlighted by a wide range of top musical talent in the LGBTQ+ community. Tickets start at \$13. 2301 N. Highland Ave. hollywoodbowl.com.



Meditation at Robinson Gardens

Devon Cunningham invites visitors to embark on a meditative journey through sound bowl healing meditation on Saturday, July 12, from 2:30-4 p.m. at the Virginia Robinson Gardens. Sound bowls activate and energize chakras within the body and work with individual needs and intentions to align and create a deeper internal connection. Benefits include relieving stress, anxiety and insomnia. Admission is \$35 per person. 1008 Elden Way, Beverly Hills. robinsongardens.org.

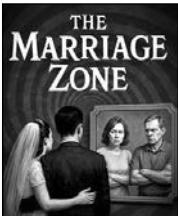


Lois Lambert Gallery

Lois Lambert Gallery presents “Charlotte Schmid-Maybach: Veiled Terrain” running from Saturday, July 12, through Saturday, Aug. 23. The exhibition features Schmid-Maybach’s photographs transformed from realistic landscapes to dreamy, melancholy assemblages using unexpected materials. She photographs natural and urban landscapes, most often in California and the Pacific Northwest. Each photograph is then printed on silk or kozo paper, a special kind of Japanese paper made from mulberry trees. Sometimes the images are stitched into a grid before the printed photographs are sewn on. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, July 12, from 6-9 p.m. 2525 Michigan Ave., Building E3, Santa Monica. loislambertgallery.com.

‘The Marriage Zone’

Don’t miss SkyPilot Theatre Company’s comedy “The Marriage Zone,” written and directed by Jeff Gould, running from Saturday, July 12, through Sunday, Aug. 31 at 905 Cole theater in Hollywood. What if you were a struggling 40-something couple who got a glimpse into the future and could see how it all



turned out? One evening, while selling their house, Beth and Cal are confronted with that opportunity as their past, present and future collide. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Saturday; 3 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$40. 905 Cole Ave. skypilottheatre.com.

Piano Spheres tribute concert

Piano Spheres is holding a concert in tribute to pianist, composer and educator Sarah Gibson on Monday, July 14, at 8 p.m. in Thayer Hall at the Colburn School. Gibson, along with Thomas Kotcheff, comprised the piano duo HOCKET, which joined Piano Spheres in 2019. Piano Spheres’ core artists Nic Gerpe, Aron Kallay, Thomas Kotcheff and Vicki Ray, with guest pianist Todd Moellenberg and violist Kate Vincent, will perform music by Gibson and pieces in remembrance of her profound artistry and generosity of spirit. General admission is 25.75. 200 S. Grand Ave. pianospheres.org/event/a-concert-for-sarah.

‘North to the Future’

Author Ben Weissenbach will discuss and sign his book “North to the Future: An Offline Adventure Through the Changing Wilds of Alaska.” on Tuesday, July 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Diesel, A Bookstore. Weissenbach – who had little prior wilderness experience – embarks on a series of scientific adventures across Alaska with some of the state’s most distinguished and audacious researchers. Book purchase required to reserve a seat. 225 26th St., Ste. 33, Santa Monica. (310)576-9960, diesel-bookstore.com.



photo courtesy of the office of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s office

The legislation comes after Gov. Gavin Newsom expanded the Film and Television Tax Credit Program to \$750 million.

Landmark legislation signed on film and TV production

After announcing the expansion of the Film and Television Tax Credit Program to \$750 million on July 2, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1138, the California Film and Television Jobs Act. AB 1138, authored by Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) and State Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), modernizes and strengthens California’s Film and Television Tax Credit Program – helping to retain and grow jobs, support small businesses and reestablish California’s competitive edge. “Today we’re setting the stage,

rewriting the script and getting ready for a comeback – a comeback for workers, a comeback for small businesses and a comeback for the beating heart of California’s creative economy,” Zbur said. “The passage of AB 1138 is something to be celebrated,” Allen said. “The steps taken today highlight our commitment to bringing the work back home, and I am grateful for all of the leaders and everyday folks who worked hand-in-hand to get this across the finish line.” For information, visit a51.asmdc.org.

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NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCIES

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION - Two Vacancies

Vacancy 1: Term begins upon appointment
Vacancy 2: Term begins upon appointment

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSISON - Two Vacancies

Vacancy 1: Term begins upon appointment
Vacancy 2: Term begins January 1, 2026

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION - Two Vacancies

Vacancy 1: Term begins January 1, 2026
Vacancy 2: Term begins July 1, 2026

Applicants may only apply for one commission opening per recruitment cycle.

Minimum of two-year Beverly Hills residency required at the time of filing an application. Terms are an initial two-years, with an option for another four-years pending City Council approval.

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For more information on the Commission positions and obtain an application online, please visit the City's website at www.beverlyhills.org/applyforacommission. Call the City Clerk's Office at (310) 285-2400 to obtain the application form by mail or e-mail. Selected applicants will be required to complete a background check.

Huma Ahmed
City Clerk

WeHo City Council puts brakes on speeding

■ Vision Zero action plan aims to reduce traffic collisions

BY SAM MULICK.

The West Hollywood City Council codified speed limit reductions on six residential streets and approved further speed limit surveys at the July 7 City Council meeting.

In December 2023, the City Council adopted the WeHo Target Vision Zero Action Plan, which aims to reduce traffic accidents and injuries in the city. During the July 7 meeting, the council codified speed limit reductions for six narrow residential streets, including Betty Way, Sherbourne Drive and Shoreham Drive, among others. The council also directed staff to conduct speed limit surveys on Almont Drive and

Harratt Street to possibly recommend further reductions. Conducting a speed limit survey requires a focused engineering and traffic survey to meet the requirements for additional speed limit reductions under state law, with each survey costing roughly \$3,000-\$5,000, according to the staff report.

Harratt Street is the location of West Hollywood Elementary School and often draws speeding complaints, despite it already having speed humps. A mandatory 15-20 mph school zone speed limit could be enacted for the street if the speed survey recommends it. The residential portion of Almont Drive south of Melrose Avenue is also suitable for a lower speed limit due to it having short blocks, already existing traffic calming measures and being closed to non-emergency vehicles on the north end.

There was no discussion of the item. West Hollywood resident Nick Renteria called on the council to do more to protect bicyclists and make streets safer after sustaining injuries from being hit by a car in 2023 while riding his bike at the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Heights Boulevard.

“[The] measure is performative at best,” he said. “A sign won’t change the way people drive. I was hit below a sign that read ‘Bikers may use full lane.’ We talk a lot about inclusion in West Hollywood, but our roads are exclusively designed for cars. We need to follow in the footsteps of cities like Santa Monica and build out a network of protected bike lanes.”

“I want to give our city credit by pointing out a huge success in street safety – the Design District,” Renteria added. “The city removed a lane of traffic both ways, widened

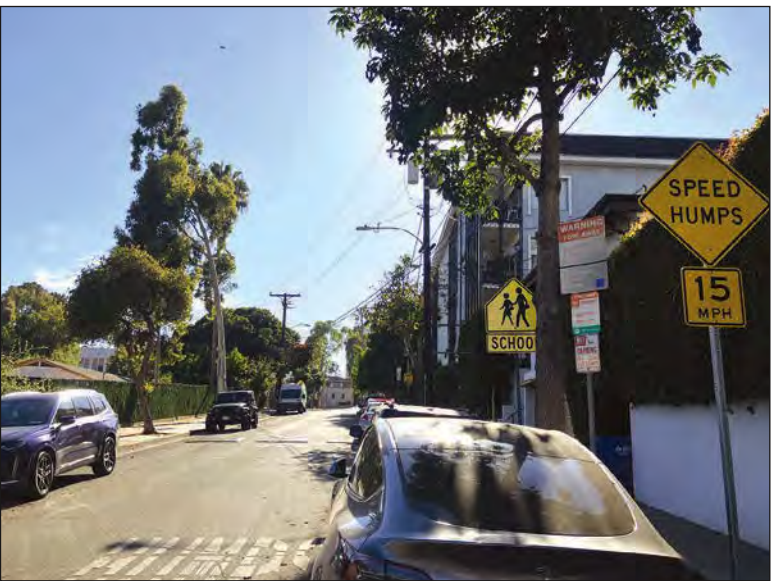


photo by Sam Mulick

The West Hollywood City Council approved surveying Harratt Street, where West Hollywood Elementary School is located, to possibly reduce the speed limit.

the sidewalk, installed high visibility crosswalks and transformed a street that used to be a cut-through into a safe, prosperous street. I think this should be a model for the rest of the city.”



photo by Willa Salam

Mayor Chelsea Byers spoke to attendees at the 2025 State of the City.

WeHo Chamber hosts state of the city meeting

The West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the city of West Hollywood, presented the 2025 State of the City, themed “Who’s in Your Orbit?” on June 26 at the 1 Hotel West Hollywood. The event explored the dynamic networks and relationships that shape West Hollywood’s vitality – from city government and business to health care, design and civic life.

Mayor Chelsea Byers and West Hollywood City Manager David

Wilson headlined the event with a keynote address reflecting the city’s strategic progress, economic development and community vision. Dr. Raja Sannidhi, chair of the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, shared insights on the chamber’s leadership in economic development and partnership building.

The featured panel discussion, “The Interconnected Ecosystem of a City in Motion,” explored the people, partnerships and networks

that shape the vitality of West Hollywood. The panel brought together leaders from civic government, business, health and economic development for a conversation about mutual uplift, shared responsibility and how the orbits of influence surrounding West Hollywood ripple through the region and beyond. The panel examined how collaboration, advocacy and human relationships are the drivers of systems change. For information, visit wehochamber.com.

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Miracle Mile homeowners on edge over residential burglaries

■ Concerns grow over cameras used to surveil properties

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Police are cautioning homeowners in the Miracle Mile area to be extra cautious and report any suspicious activity after a woman was recently seen trespassing on private property in the 1000 block of South Ridgeley Drive and left a power bank on a homeowner's windowsill.

The resident initially thought the device was a camera, based on reports about suspects in other parts of the city placing small cameras in yards to conduct surveillance on homes. While officers determined it was not a camera, they are still concerned that someone was trespassing and placed the power bank, which can be connected to a camera, on private property. Miracle Mile Residential Association vice president Kari Garcia said another Ridgeley Drive resident reported that he encountered the woman on his property on the same day and she told him she was looking for her cell phone. The woman picked something up in the yard and left, Garcia said.

"We thought they were cameras but determined one wasn't and were not sure about the other one. But the story is there was suspicious behavior and we are still unsure of why she left it," Garcia said. "We do know that since April there have been eight break-ins in the Miracle Mile. That's a lot for three months."

Garcia said the burglaries have occurred in the area between Fairfax and La Brea avenues, and Wilshire and Olympic boulevards. She is working closely with Senior Lead Officer Andrew Jones, from the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division, to ensure the burglary problem is being addressed, and wants residents to take precautions.

Lt. Mark Ro, with the Wilshire Division, said police have seen instances in the past where suspects placed cameras in yards, and said it is something criminals do in advance of committing burglaries. Suspects often disguise the cameras in a plant or leafy material. He said the best defense is to remain vigilant and to immediately report all suspicious activity so officers can potentially locate a suspect near the scene.

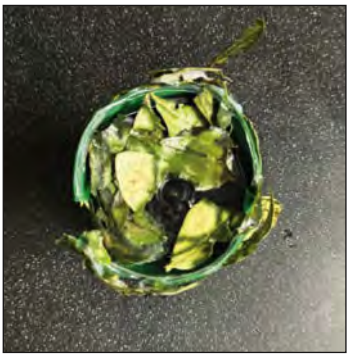


photo courtesy of the Alhambra PD
A camera camouflaged as a plant was recovered in a yard in Alhambra last June.

When the cameras are found, he said it has been difficult for law enforcement to determine the owners.

"It's usually a gardener who finds it, or sometimes a resident. They look like trail cameras, like the ones Cal Fire uses along trails to monitor fire activity. Some of the burglars are using them to see when people are coming and going," Ro said. "The cameras are pinged to somebody's phone, but it's been very difficult to track backwards and find out whose phone. We came and recovered [the power bank]. We'd like to see who this is."

Garcia said the incidents involving the woman and the power bank occurred within the last week. She added that the response illustrates the importance of the MMRA's neighborhood watch program. Garcia, who chairs the association's Neighborhood Watch Committee, has organized block captains throughout the area who share information with other residents.

"We need to be careful. The facts are that we have had this suspicious behavior reported by two neighbors and we have had an uptick in burglaries," Garcia said. "None of this would have been discussed if someone didn't say something about it, and someone else said, 'I saw her too.' It's important for the community to share information, it's important for you to report what you see. You need to have a plan and you need to keep your safety systems in place."

Anyone seeking information on crime in the Miracle Mile is encouraged to contact Senior Lead Officer Andrew Jones at (213)793-0782, or email 41719@lapd.online. To report information to the Wilshire Division, call (213)473-0476.

Store employee's death still under investigation

■ Autopsy results will determine if death was homicide

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Los Angeles Police Department investigators are awaiting the results of a medical examiner's report before moving forward with a criminal case against a female manager at a 7-Eleven store in the 5600 block of Melrose Avenue who had an altercation with a female employee who later died.

The altercation occurred on June 24 inside the 7-Eleven store in a strip-mall at Melrose and Rossmore avenues. Family members of the employee who died, Jessica McLaughlin, 24, said she was attacked by her manager at the store. Staff members called police and paramedics, who found McLaughlin unresponsive on the floor. She was hospitalized for eight days in critical condition until her family removed McLaughlin from life support on July 2.

Jessica McLaughlin's brother Sean started a GoFundMe campaign that raised more than \$39,000 as of July 9. Sean McLaughlin said in an accompanying statement on GoFundMe that the store manager held his sister down, "sat on top of her, and didn't let her breathe." He said the family stayed by McLaughlin's side throughout her stay in the hospital.

"After getting second opinions and doing everything we could, we have to make the impossible deci-



photo by Edwin Folven
A female employee died after an altercation on June 24 with a female manager at a 7-Eleven store on Melrose Avenue.

sion to let her go," he said.

The LAPD conducted an investigation at the scene the day of the incident, and later handed the case to the West Bureau Homicide Unit when the victim died. The fight was captured by security cameras inside the store. The manager fled by the time officers arrived.

Lt. Sean Kinchla, with the West Bureau Homicide Unit, said the case is classified as a death investigation while authorities await the final results of an autopsy. Police have not named the manager pending the outcome of the investigation. Kinchla said she is not in custody, and it is to be determined whether she will face criminal charges.

"It's a waiting game," he added. "We do know there was an alterca-

tion. We don't know if it caused the death or not. We can't make a judgement yet."

No timeline is available for when the results of the autopsy will be available.

Sean McLaughlin's said the family is going through an "unbelievably hard time." He described his sister as a kind person.

"Jessica had a way of making people feel safe, accepted and loved. You could come to her with anything and know you wouldn't be judged," he said. "She was the kind of person who rooted for the underdog, who lifted people up when they were down and who truly saw the good in everyone. She had such a beautiful soul and deserved so much better than the way her life was taken from her."

County expands CARE Court

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion on July 8 authored by Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District, and co-authored by Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District, to make improvements to the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment program, better known as CARE Court.

Launched in Los Angeles County on Dec. 1, 2023, CARE Court is a state-funded program that allows qualified individuals – such as a family member, spouse, roommate, emergency responder or licensed medical or mental health professional – to petition the court for an eligi-

ble individual with untreated schizophrenia or psychotic disorders to receive treatment and services. Among other improvements, the motion directs the county Department of Mental Health to develop expedited mechanisms for first responders to make seamless referrals for CARE Court, and to increase community awareness about the program.

In February, the board of supervisors approved a motion by Hahn that called on LACDMH to analyze the first year of the program, which identified areas needing improvement. For information, visit lacourt.org/care.

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7377 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood

LGBTQ+ matriarch Jewel Thais-Williams mourned

■ Nightclub founder created sanctuary for Black queer women

BY SAM MULICK

Jewel Thais-Williams, founder of the famous Black and queer nightclub Jewel’s Catch One in Los Angeles, died on July 8 at the age of 86. No cause of death was released.

Thais-Williams opened the Arlington Heights nightclub in 1973 after being excluded from other local nightclubs due to her race. The club was a sanctuary for Black queer women and went on to become a legendary place for the queer community to gather, featuring performances by Donna Summer, Madonna, Ella Fitzgerald and Whitney Houston through the years.

Thais-Williams was also a fierce advocate for the LGBTQ+ community during the AIDS epidemic, co-founding the Minority AIDS Project and serving on the board of AIDS Project Los Angeles – organizations that provide critical care and resources for queer communities of color. She also founded the Village Health Foundation in 2001, an organization that provided care and resources for the Black community.

Former West Hollywood City Councilman John Duran mourned her passing.

“Jewel and I met during the height of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s,” Duran said. “She turned her nightclub into a community services center to get access and education to Black gay men. We were

warriors in the trenches together at a most difficult time. She was brilliant, kind, generous and respectful. This is a very sad loss for the entire LGBTQ+ community of Southern California.”

Jonathan Wilson, founder of Dubb Value Creation and one of the few Black CEOs in West Hollywood, remembered first being introduced to Catch One when the LGBTQ+ scene in West Hollywood was less accepting to people of color.

“I couldn’t believe that there was a spot where I could be gay and not have to worry about fitting into the mainstream West Hollywood gay culture at the time,” he said. “I still remember driving to the club on Pico near Crenshaw, pre-Uber, squishing my car in the parking lot with people smoking cigarettes as you walk toward the entrance, the dark bar on the inside and being able to just dance the night away on a Friday or Saturday night. Jewel was a role model, straightforward and not one to mess with.”

“Jewel is such a legendary figure in Los Angeles and her memory will live on in the hearts and minds of so many here and beyond,” West Hollywood Mayor Chelsea Byers said. “Her leadership over the decades and her role in making safe havens for the Black and queer community was undeniably bold and visionary.”

Michael Niemeyer, the former owner of Micky’s West Hollywood, said Thais-Williams fought for local queer businesses when they were being raided by the Los Angeles Police Department in the 1980s.

“She was a fierce fighter for our rights when we battled the LAPD,” he said. “She will be sorely missed.”

Thais-Williams was also a volunteer for Project Angel Food, an organization that has delivered meals to critically ill individuals throughout Los Angeles County since 1989. During the height of the AIDS crisis, Project Angel Food delivered daily hot meals to Jewel’s Catch One, a distribution point where volunteers and client families picked up food for delivery.

“Jewel opened the space to prepare and deliver meals to those living with AIDS,” said Sunshine

Daye, a former Project Angel Food employee who coordinated the Jewel’s Catch One distribution. “Some clients even came to the club to pick up their meals because it was filled with so much love. We called ourselves ‘The Children,’ and Jewel was our chosen matriarch, our fierce protector and our steady light in a time of darkness.”

“If you knew her – you also realized she was brilliant, kind, loving and respectful,” Duran added. “I will miss our hugs whenever we would run into each other randomly. Leader. Matriarch. Businesswoman. She had many titles. To those of us who loved her, she is always Woman of the Year. Rest in peace, warrior.”



photo courtesy of Lindsey Byrnes

Jewel Thais-Williams fought for medical care for the LGBTQ+ community during the AIDS epidemic.



photo by Edwin Folven

Jewel Thais-Williams opened Jewel’s Catch One nightclub in 1973 on Pico Boulevard.

WeHo activates HIV/AIDS prevention donation program

The city of West Hollywood has activated the “West Hollywood Responds” program to encourage contributions to agencies and organizations that provide HIV/AIDS prevention efforts, health care and services. Recent federal budget cuts have impacted HIV/AIDS care and prevention in Los Angeles County.

The West Hollywood City Council on April 7 approved a resolution opposing efforts by the Trump administration to cut HIV prevention and treatment programs. Local organizations in Los Angeles County have been directly impacted by the federal funding reductions.

West Hollywood is raising awareness about the devastating impacts of the federal cuts and encouraging contributions to agencies and organizations that provide services.

The city assembled a list of organizations on its website that includes Access to Prevention, Advocacy, Intervention and Treatment, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, APLA Health, Being Alive Los Angeles, Bienestar Human Services, California Community Foundation, the Los Angeles LGBT Center, Men’s Health Foundation, Minority AIDS Project and Project Angel Food.

The onset of the HIV/AIDS epidemic had a significant impact in West Hollywood and the disease’s elevated infection rate among gay men caused a devastatingly high number of deaths in the city. West Hollywood was one of the first government entities to provide social services grants to local AIDS and HIV organizations. For information, visit weho.org/wehoresponds.



Margot McKinney.

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Cole’s French Dip closure sends shockwaves through restaurant community

■ Oldest restaurant in L.A. will close Aug. 3

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Cole’s French Dip, the oldest restaurant in Los Angeles and contested inventor of its namesake sandwich, will close on Aug. 3 after 117 years in business. The closure has deeply affected the city’s community of historic restaurants – whose owners say the closure sounded alarm bells.

“The litany of reasons for closing are not unique to Cole’s alone; they are affecting most independent restaurants in Los Angeles,” a statement from the restaurant read. “The global pandemic, the actors and writers strikes, overall crime, as well as the consistently rising costs of labor and goods, unsustainably high rents and mounting bureaucracy and legal exposure have all led to this unfortunate outcome. Many historical independent restaurants are struggling under the weight of these issues and have already closed, while those remaining are fighting to survive.”

The restaurant and bar opened in 1908 as Cole’s Pacific Electric Buffet in the main terminal of the Pacific Electric Railway, a major transit hub in Los Angeles. According to the restaurant, in 1908, chef Jack Garlinghouse invented the French dip sandwich after dipping a roast beef sandwich into au jus to soften it for a cus-

tomers with bad teeth. However, rival Philippe The Original also claims to have invented the French dip.

Regardless of the true inventor, fans of hearty beef sandwiches and cold beers in a pub-style setting have flocked to Cole’s for over a century. Following the announcement of the closure, many customers lined up outside the business for one last dip.

The news also came as a profound blow to L.A.’s restaurant community, which has suffered devastating losses in 2025 alone.

“Founded before Prohibition, Cole’s wasn’t just a restaurant – it was a fixture of downtown Los Angeles and a second home to generations of Angelenos. For 117 years, it served up comfort food, community and memories. It was the kind of place where you could find a warm meal, a good drink and a friendly face, even in the late hours of the night,” said Norm Langer, owner of Langer’s Deli, established in 1947. “As we’ve seen in recent years – through the pandemic, rising crime, increased operating costs and an ever-growing tangle of bureaucracy – independent restaurants have faced extraordinary challenges. Langer’s has felt those pressures too. I’m heartsick that Cole’s, with all its history and heart, could not only survive but continue to thrive.”

Richard Pink, owner of Pink’s Hot Dogs – founded in 1939 – called the news “shocking.”

“They say even icons have to answer to economic realities, that’s the way it is,” Pink said. “In the case of Cole’s, what is just unfortunate is that it’s located downtown, in an area that as a result of remote office use, no longer has the street traffic and the local businesses that can support that restaurant. In some ways, it’s not that surprising that a business cannot continue if the demand is not there, even if the product is absolutely excellent – which is the case with Cole’s.”

Pink said the closure underscores the severe economic state of the restaurant industry in Los Angeles in 2025.

“Even though it’s got all this history and this sentimentality, the realities of the business today, with rising costs and a changing location, has forced this wonderful business to close,” Pink said. “It makes all of us recognize how important it is that we have to adapt no matter how much history we have. In the case of Pink’s, it’s been around 85 years, but every day you have to think of it as the first day of business.”

Marc Canter, owner of Canter’s Deli – which opened in 1931 – echoed the concerns expressed by Cole’s, Langer’s and Pink’s.

“It is tough times right now,” Canter said, citing the trickle down effects of the writers strike, the January fires, rising cost of food, minimum wage increases, increased insurance prices and customers dining out less. Canter also



photo by Tabor Brewster

Many customers lined up for their last chance to enjoy Cole’s French Dip after the restaurant announced its closure.

cited recent immigration raids as having a negative impact on businesses across the city, instilling fear in both employees and customers who are worried just to step outside their homes, and a significant drop in tourism to Los Angeles this summer.

“You’ve got all these things together, and money burns a hole quickly,” Canter said.

Pink said that the city needs to do a better job listening to the concerns of local businesses for beloved restaurants to stay afloat.

“Whether it’s the political leadership, or whether it’s City Council, they need to take local businesses and how difficult it is to survive [seriously,]” Pink said. “These are not large chains, these are all mom and pop operations – all family-owned. The foundation of our city was built on the backs of local businesses, whether they were immigrants or somebody that was entrepreneurial. [They] need support in

order to continue to employ other people in our city, in our community.”

Cole’s French Dip will host a goodbye and farewell celebration on Aug. 1 at 9 p.m. featuring a “pickle party” and music by Kwame Moore, Olga Arteaga and Eddie B.

“We have cherished our time serving the downtown community, and will continue to craft great drinks and our renowned French dip sandwiches until we shutter,” the restaurant wrote. “We care deeply about our family of staff and are immensely grateful for our amazing guests who have supported Cole’s over the years. We invite you to come in to see us this month before our departure, to laugh, to cry, to raise glasses, to eat and to say your goodbyes right alongside us.”

Cole’s French Dip is located at 118 E. Sixth St. For information, visit colesfrenchdip.com.



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Trump's use of antisemitic slur prompts criticism

■ President says he doesn't view term as offensive

BY TABOR BREWSTER

During a rally celebrating his “Big Beautiful Bill” on July 4, President Donald Trump used a term that is considered antisemitic. Trump, referencing the budget reconciliation law’s \$15 million estate tax exemption per individual, used the term “shylock.”

“Think of that – no death tax, no estate tax. No going to the banks and borrowing from – in some cases, a fine banker – and in some cases shylocks, bad people,” Trump said.

The term “shylock” dates back to William Shakespeare’s play, “The Merchant of Venice.” In the play, Shylock is the name of a nefarious Jewish moneylender who serves as the antagonist. While historians have debated the intent of Shakespeare’s work, the figure has been utilized as an antisemitic trope since the play’s publication to generate hatred against Jews. The character of Shylock as a greedy and evil stereotype of Jews was frequently utilized in Nazi propaganda, according to literature critic and writer John Gross.

Responding to a question from a reporter following the rally, Trump defended his use of the term and said he didn't view it as antisemitic. "No, I've never heard it that way.

To me, a shylock is somebody that's a money lender at high rates. I've never heard it that way. You view it differently than me. I've never heard that," Trump said.

Trump's use of the word prompted responses from groups and leaders combatting antisemitism, including the Anti-Defamation League.

“The term ‘shylock’ evokes a centuries-old antisemitic trope about Jews and greed that is extremely offensive and dangerous. President Trump’s use of the term is very troubling and irresponsible,” a statement from the ADL read. “It underscores how lies and conspiracies about Jews remain deeply entrenched in our country. Words from our leaders matter and we expect more from the President of the United States.”

Sam Yebri, a nonprofit leader and former L.A. City Council candidate, said it is important to call out antisemitism on all sides of the political aisle.

“Antisemitic speech has become normalized across the political spectrum – from President Trump trafficking in antisemitic tropes about ‘shylocks’ to Zohran Mamdani refusing to condemn the call to ‘globalize the intifada,’” Yebri said. “We should all condemn antisemitism whenever we see it, no matter where on the political spectrum it comes from.”

Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian – who has made fighting antisemitism a core component of

her mayoral term through the “Never Again Is Now” campaign – characterized the incident as a learning moment.

"My understanding is that the president clarified his remark afterward and said he didn't realize the term was offensive," Nazarian said. "It's important that we allow space to educate one another and learn as we build a more united community."

The president has pledged to

combat antisemitism on college campuses in his second term in office, and has made clear his support for Israel amid the war in Gaza. However, Trump has also been accused of antisemitism throughout his political career. While running for president in 2016, Trump tweeted an image of Hillary Clinton that depicted her in front of large piles of money with a Star of David reading “most corrupt candidate ever.” The original image was later traced

to a white nationalist message board. In November 2022, Trump hosted Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes and antisemitic rapper Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, for a private dinner at Mar-a-Lago. During his 2024 campaign for president, Trump, referring to his support among Jewish voters, said, “I’m not going to call this a prediction, but in my opinion, the Jewish people would have a lot to do with a loss if I’m at 40%.”

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photo courtesy of Fever

The VR experience allows visitors to step aboard the Titanic.

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‘Parade’ resounds louder than ever

■ Touring musical portrays 1913 trial and murder of Leo Frank

BY SAM MULICK

It’s hard to put into words the exact feeling of watching an ensemble of actors belt out a call to honor the sanctity of “the old red hills of home” in reference to Confederate Georgia.

Powerful? Moving? Disturbing? Ironic? Hopeful?

“Parade,” the touring production of the 2023 Tony-winning best revival of a musical, concludes its run at the Ahmanson Theatre on July 12 as part of Center Theatre Group’s 2024-25 season. The musical is inspired by the 1913 trial of Leo Frank, a New York-born, Jewish pencil factory superintendent who was tried and convicted of murdering a young girl in his factory and later lynched. The production is a bare retelling of the musical that premiered in 1998 with a score by Jason Robert Brown and book by Alfred Uhry. Michael Arden, who won a Tony for his direction of the revival utilizes the stage as a makeshift courtroom, along with newspaper clippings and photographs from the actual event, to put Leo Frank on trial again – but this time in front of the audience. The production begs the question, “Is this still who we are?”

The play opens with a young Confederate soldier saying goodbye to his sweetheart, vowing to go and fight for “a way of life that’s pure, of the truth that must endure.” One by one, members of the town of Marietta, Georgia join to sing of the defense of their homeland, waving Confederate flags and brandishing shotguns. The Georgian townspeople serve as a contrast to Max Chernin’s Leo Frank – who navigates a community that is suspicious of him for his faith. His wife, Lucille Frank – played calmly and powerfully by Talia Suskauer – wonders early on if she made the right decision in marrying Leo

before later embarking on a journey to save his life.

The play begins during the Marietta’s Memorial Day parade, the night when 13 year-old Mary Phagan, an employee of Frank’s, is found dead in the basement of the pencil factory. Her murder riles the town. The county’s district attorney, played by Andrew Samonsky, determines that accusing a Black man of the murder would not satisfy the community’s thirst for revenge, casting aside the suspected factory’s janitor and instead setting his sights on Leo Frank.

Leo becomes the target of the town’s rage. One by one, Mary Phagan’s friends and coworkers go up on the platform to falsely accuse Frank of workplace abuse and sexual misconduct, coerced by the D.A. to weaponize Frank’s faith and turn the town against him. In one of the play’s most powerful moments, Leo Frank chooses to make a statement in his own defense – not on the stage’s main platform where all his accusers just came forth – but on the adjacent steps. Instead, Leo spends the entire intermission on that platform, sitting in his jail cell after he is convicted and sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit. Even when the house lights come up, the audience cannot escape.

The small details of Arden’s staging, the specific timing of the real-life trial photos and how it humanizes the characters presented, along with Brown’s epic and soaring score make for a deeply moving, unforgettable night in the theatre.

The second act depicts Lucille Frank’s clever and desperate plea to Georgia Gov. Slaton, played by Chris Shyer, to commute Leo’s sentence. Slaton weighs the political consequences of saving Leo at the cost of his political career. In a moment of self-doubt, his wife, played by Alison Ewing, tells him, “I’d a whole lot rather be married to

a fine ex-governor than be first lady to a chicken.” The line stopped the show and received a round of applause from the audience.

Perhaps it’s the lack of due process being afforded to immigrants in the U.S., military style operations of federal law enforcement on American soil or a recent rise in antisemitic hate crimes, Arden’s production resonates. During a time when elected officials believe themselves to be making America great again by removing “foreign threats” from the country, “Parade” reveals historical context of the same thinking, rooted in hatred and violence.

Lucille successfully convinces the governor to reduce Leo’s sentence, but her efforts were futile. An angry mob abducts Leo from his jail cell and he is publicly hanged. In his final moment, Leo proclaims the Shema, the Jewish declaration of faith in God, his final act of resistance to stay rooted in his faith. During this moment, harrowing photographs from the real hanging are displayed from the stage.

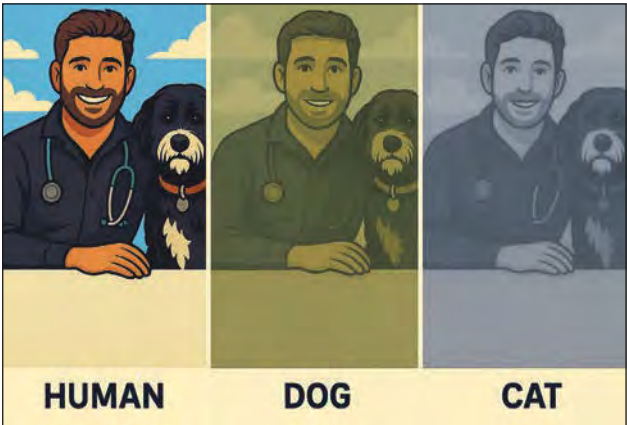
In 1986, the state of Georgia pardoned Leo Frank posthumously. In 2019, the Fulton County District Attorney reopened Frank’s case and as recent as April, the district attorney’s office said the case is still “under review.” As the play concludes, the ensemble assumes their positions from the opening number and belts out a stirring anthem “For the men of Marietta... who gave everything for Georgia and the old red hills of home.” The Confederate soldier and his sweetheart appear in modern day clothing. When the final note rings, the stage goes dark and the most recent detail of Leo’s case is displayed, which reads, “It is ongoing.”

“Parade” plays its last performance on July 12 at the Ahmanson Theatre, which is located at 135 N. Grand Ave. For tickets, visit centertheatregroup.org/shows-tickets/ahmanson/2024-25/parade.



photo courtesy of Joan Marcus

The touring production of “Parade” utilizes projections of timely newspaper articles to tell the story of Leo Frank, a Jewish man lynched in Georgia in the early 20th century.



Through a Pet’s Eyes: What the World Looks Like to Dogs and Cats

Ever wonder how your dog or cat sees the world? While many people assume pets are completely color blind, the truth is more nuanced. Understanding how their vision works offers insight into their behavior – and may explain why your dog can’t find that red ball in the grass.

● Color Perception: A Muted, Blurry World

Humans have three types of cone cells in the retina – responsible for detecting red, green, and blue light. This **trichromatic** vision allows us to see a full range of vibrant colors.

Dogs and cats are **dichromatic**, meaning they have only two cone types, tuned to blue and yellow light. As a result, reds, oranges, and greens blend into dull yellows or grayish browns. Dogs tend to see more yellowish-green tones, while cats may perceive slightly more bluish hues, especially in low light. That bright red toy? Your dog likely sees it as a beige smudge in the grass.

Adding to the challenge, both species are **mildly myopic** (nearsighted). Dogs typically see with the clarity of about **20/75 to 20/100** vision, and cats are similar. What looks sharp to us may appear soft or blurry to them, especially at a distance. Despite these limitations, dogs and cats are remarkably skilled at detecting even subtle motion.

☾ Night Vision: Ruling the Dark

Dogs and cats both have eyes adapted for low-light environments, thanks to a mirror-like structure behind the retina called the **tapetum lucidum**. This layer reflects incoming light back through the retina, enhancing night vision.

That same tapetum is what causes your pet’s eyes to glow **green** in flash photography. By contrast, humans lack this layer – so our red-eye effect comes from light reflecting off blood vessels at the back of the eye.

Cats take it a step further. In addition to the tapetum, they have **vertically slit-shaped pupils**, which allow for more precise control of light intake. These features give cats night vision up to **six times better** than humans.

● What This Means for You

If your dog loses track of a red toy or your cat seems indifferent to bright colors, they’re not ignoring you – they simply don’t see it like you do. Opt for **blue or yellow toys**, use **motion-based play**, and appreciate the beautiful, instinctive ways pets interact with their environment. Their world may be less colorful – but it’s rich in movement, scent, and connection. And from where they sit, that’s more than enough.

About Dr. Ameis

Dr. Ezra Ameis is an emergency veterinarian and the owner of Paw Priority in West Hollywood, a clinic providing general practice, urgent care, and acupuncture. He will be contributing weekly articles to this column. To suggest a topic or ask a pet-related question, email: hello@pp.vet



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West Hollywood seeks members for Business Task Force

The city of West Hollywood is accepting applications for the newly formed Business Task Force, a volunteer advisory working group dedicated to supporting the vitality of West Hollywood’s diverse business community.

The Business Task Force will serve as an advisory working group that will bring together business owners, industry professionals and community leaders to provide input on business recovery, economic development strategies and long-term economic resiliency.

The city of West Hollywood is committed to advancing economic opportunities for businesses and workers, ensuring that local enter-

prises are equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing economic landscape. The Business Task Force will be a key step in identifying actionable solutions to improve the local business climate and support entrepreneurship, innovation and workforce development.

The Business Task Force will be composed of nine individuals who represent a wide range of industries and business types in West Hollywood, including but not limited to restaurants and bars, hotels and tourism, retail, design, artists and arts organizations and personal care services. Business Task Force members will be selected through an interview process conducted by

city staff. The final composition of the Business Task Force will reflect the diverse voices, experiences and industries that make up West Hollywood’s business community.

The Business Task Force is a limited-time volunteer advisory working group. Meetings are tentatively scheduled to take place in-person on the second Wednesday of each odd-numbered month at 2 p.m. The dates are Sept. 10, Nov. 12, Jan. 14, March 11, May 13 and July 8.

The deadline to apply is Friday, Aug. 1, at 5 p.m. For information, visit go.weho.org/business-task-force.



photo by Edwin Folven

The deadline to apply for the Business Task Force is Aug. 1.

L.A. Jewish Health selects Lopez to guide technology systems

Los Angeles Jewish Health has announced the appointment of Rey Lopez as chief information officer.

Lopez comes to LAJH with two decades of experience strengthening information technology infrastructure in the medical field to enhance the delivery of high-quality patient care. Lopez will help LAJH build technology and business solutions to assist the organization’s growth, enable employees to be more efficient and safeguard residents’ health and wellbeing by protecting sensitive personal health information and data.



photo courtesy of LAJH

Rey Lopez will help LAJH use technology to enhance patient care.

“Whether it’s securing electronic health records, streamlining our payroll systems or reducing cost and boosting the performance of our data reporting systems, there are so many ways we can harness technology to be more nimble and to provide LAJH stakeholders with new pathways to success,” Lopez said.

Lopez joins the LAJH leadership team at a critical time in the health care industry, as emerging technologies play a growing role in the provision of vital care and as concerns grow about protecting data privacy. His knowledge and expertise will help drive LAJH’s strategic approach to effective data management.

“We are pleased to welcome Rey as a member of the LAJH family,” LAJH CEO and president Dale Surowitz said. “His commitment to

safeguarding the health and privacy of our residents makes him a perfect addition to our leadership team.”

Lopez has had a long tenure as CIO at Kern Medical in Bakersfield and was previously director of information systems at St. Joseph Medical Center at Providence Health & Services in Burbank. As a small business owner in Encino in the late 1990s, Lopez consulted on issues related to worker compensation and developed an interest in pursuing a health care career. His new position at LAJH further deepens his connection to the San Fernando Valley, where he was born, raised and currently resides.

“I’m so happy to be working in the Valley again, contributing to the community that I love,” Lopez said.

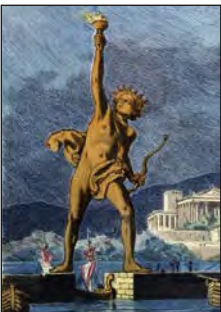
Notable Quotes

*“Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
‘Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!’ cries she
With silent lips. ‘Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!’”*

Emma Lazarus (1849-1887)
“The New Colossus”

A descendant of Sephardic Jews who immigrated to the United States from Portugal around the time of the American Revolution, Emma Lazarus was a Jewish American poet and translator. Her sonnet, “The New Colossus,” is inscribed on a plaque on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty monument. “The New Colossus” was first published in 1903 in The New York Times.

Source: poets.org



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A magic night in the land of milk and honey

NAPERVILLE, Ill. – “This land responds to good treatment,” goes the line from a Wendell Berry poem. And so do sons, so do daughters. Good treatment is sort of contagious, though you don’t want to make a habit of it, obviously.

In photos from a recent wedding, I noticed that neither Smartacus nor I could cinch a necktie. I taught him how, and I don’t do it well myself, really. This is exactly how family dysfunction is passed down, one generation to the next.

Honestly, Smartacus and I look like characters in a Cheever novel,

by
Chris
Erskine



racing to catch the late train to Connecticut after some poor and impulsive decisions.

And that’s how we looked before the wedding!

Love is in the air – again. It’s like a positive pandemic, this decade’s budding romanticism.

Perhaps I read The Atlantic too often, but I’m sensing that this fresh humanism, this romanticism, is a reaction to the isolating pressures of technology. Same thing happened in the 1920s, of course, after the Industrial Revolution.

Isn’t that interesting? No? Sorry. If you think that’s interesting, you’re probably an old coot like me, who lives for weddings, deli food and late-night games of cribbage.

Look, I’m partial to places that have fallen by the wayside: California and the Middle West. I find them both to be resplendent, yet the East Coast media still sneer at us, or at the very least hold us in unveiled contempt.

Truth is, we’re laughing back.

I’m also partial to places that get walloped by the weather. So, Smartacus and I have found ourselves in Naperville, Ill., set on lush land scraped pure and flat by three ice ages.

Remarkably, this western Chicago suburb is one of the most up-and-coming cities in America. Wins all sorts of awards for livability (3 bedrooms, one-acre lot, \$440k). Bob Odenkirk grew up here, as did Candace Parker and “Jeopardy” James Holzhauer.

Naperville is what American towns looked like before Walmart and Amazon ripped their guts out. Weathered brick, cozy bookstores, free and plentiful parking. I don’t know exactly how Naperville has pulled off this miracle, but it is a remarkable place, with vast parks set along a Huckleberry river.

Obviously, this land responds to good treatment.

“That’s the Nile,” I tell Smartacus of the gently rolling river.

“It is?”

“The Nile of the Heartland.”

These Candygrams to the Midwest must seem relentless. Every summer, I wallow in a Norman Rockwell bubble of sentiment and cheese shops. If you cut me open, you’d find a bunch of brats – mostly pork, some veal.

To get me back to the Middle West doesn’t take much. You mostly have to say, “Hey you, come here,” and I’m hopping the next freight train out of town.



photo by Chris Erskine

Canoes bob at a rental dock in Naperville, set along a Huckleberry river west of Chicago.



photo by Chris Erskine

At this former dairy farm, they now stage storybook weddings.

This time, we’re at my nephew’s wedding. Johnny is marrying Alexa, something that seemed like fate. Alexa was a soccer teammate of Johnny’s sister, Carrie. Alexa is one of those pint-sized Alphas that light up a soccer field, and a bar room, and a wonderful life.

Naperville is what American towns looked like before Walmart and Amazon ripped their guts out. Weathered brick, cozy bookstores, free and plentiful parking ... it is a remarkable place, with vast parks set along a Huckleberry river.

sons, brides and grooms, lazy rivers. Love. That’s the baseline ingredient here, love.

Ick, right? But it happens!

And it is happening here – quite gloriously, in fact – on an old dairy farm where they now stage storybook weddings. The lovely and patient older daughter is also here, draped in her summer hair, along with her handsome sidekick, Finn.

And out on the dance floor, mayhem. One young lass is dancing like an exploding bottle of Champagne. She is everything Newton described: action-reaction, particle dynamics. At one point, she pops a handstand, then gators to the floor, flashing a bit of birthday suit.

“Do you remember...the 21st night of September...”

By the way, do you know where the term “honeymoon” stems from? It is linked to the full moons of mid-summer, when the hives are overflowing. Some 4,000 years ago, ancients fermented this plentiful honey to make mead, among the very first wines.

So, a honeymoon is more than a celebration of lust and lingerie. It’s William Shakespeare, William Blake, Joni Mitchell, Leonard Cohen. It’s frilly dresses, happy tears and silky canoe trips across moonlit bays.

This time of year, we’re all kind of honeymooning, right?

Sip the moon glow. Pass me that honey wine.

Next week: It’s a girl!



photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

DJ Novena Carmel will perform as part of WeHo’s Summer Sounds.

WeHo Summer Sounds rocks on

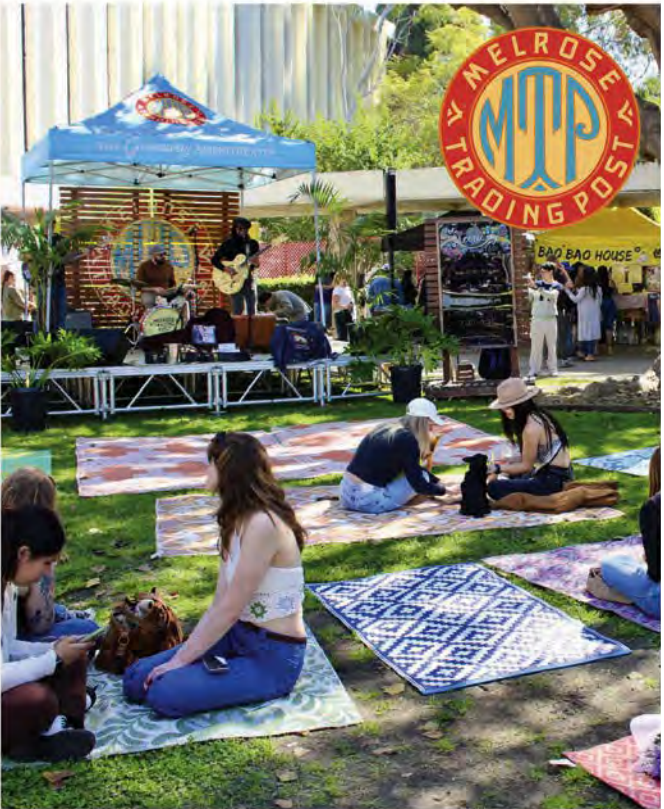
The city of West Hollywood invites community members to its Summer Sounds Free Outdoor Concert Series. Concerts will take place on select Sunday evenings beginning at 4 p.m. through Aug. 17 at Plummer Park, located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. The concert series is organized by the city’s Arts Division. Summer Sounds concerts are free to attend; RSVPs are not required but are requested. Reserved seating is not available. Attendees are encouraged to bring picnics, park blankets and low chairs. Food will also be available for purchase.

Buyepongo and DJ Jeremy Sole will perform on July 27 at 4 p.m. Brainstory and the Motown On Mondays L.A. DJs will perform on Aug. 17 at 4 p.m.

For information about Summer Sounds performers and details about the series, visit weho.org/summersounds.

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Metro work moves full speed ahead in July

Work on the D Line extension project is ongoing in July in anticipation of the subway line’s opening this fall. Metro is continuing street restoration work around the Wilshire/Western, Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax subway stations. Repaving is planned at the intersection of Wilshire/Western from Aug. 1-4, beginning at 9 p.m. on Friday and running through 6 a.m. the following Monday. Crews are also working on connecting the new and existing subway lines at the Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/Normandie stations,

which remain closed through July 25. Bus Shuttle 855 and Metro Lines 720 and 20 provide service on Wilshire Boulevard between the Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/Vermont stations. At the Wilshire/La Cienega station, street restoration work continues in July. A K rail work zone is currently in place along the north side of Wilshire Boulevard, and two lanes are open in each direction between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards. Beginning the weekend of July 18-20 and continuing for approxi-

mately four months, a K-rail work zone will be implemented on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. Work at the Wilshire/Rodeo station includes potholing and piling for future appendage structures, which are rooms and passageways adjacent to the main station. The potholing will occur for approximately one additional week and the sidewalk on the north side of Wilshire sidewalk will be closed between Beverly and El Camino drives. Two traffic lanes will be



photo by Edwin Folven

Lane reductions are in place on Wilshire Boulevard at Western Avenue, where repaving is planned for Aug. 1-4.

maintained along Wilshire Boulevard in the area. For questions and concerns about the D Line Extension project, call

the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6934, email the project team at purplelineext@metro.net, or visit metro.net.

Letters to the Editor

Dog owners eager for upgrades at Hart Park in WeHo

Re “Dog owners bark at Hart Park renovations,” July 3 issue

Over a period of more than 20 years, my spouse and I have had the occasional pleasure of being in Hart Park. It’s bucolic location and peacefulness have been a true treasure for many of us that live considerably east of San Vicente. We have eagerly responded to the multiple outreaches by the various groups seeking input about the suggested improvements to the park and appreciate these efforts. The dark bark surface is, in my judgement, a difficult substance primarily due to the defecation by

dogs that is rather impossible to see. The owners who do not pick up after their dogs accidentally or otherwise cause several problems. People walk on it; other dogs eat it and once it is ground into the bark it is difficult to remove. It then draws insects and unhealthy worms. We’ve become more aware of the environmental impact of artificial grass. It works beautifully at the San Vicente park and their maintenance schedule is quite regular and efficient. However, we’ve learned that if it may not be healthy for owners or dogs, some other solution seems to be investigated by your committee. Any veterinarian will advise you that the use of the common small water bowls at any dog park is a breeding ground for giardia. Dogs that are not properly treated annually will spread it through the

water features. Dogs contracting this will suffer diarrhea and expensive doctor, lab and medical costs ... as high as \$300 for a doctor’s visit, fecal testing, medication (if positive) and re-testing. This is not a vaccine and any dog can contract it almost immediately from unsanitary water which, in great part comes from untested dogs playing in the community water bowls with inattentive owners who fail to wash it out. Bringing your own water is an option although ineffective in a large group. Big dog and small dog areas sound like progress and we hope that this will help separate the two groups and protect the small dogs from being harassed. Lastly, the dog parks all over the city have had heated neighborhood meetings about the commercialization of these areas by professional dog

walkers with as many as five or more in tow. There should be a limit and some meaningful enforcement. In prior years, at a minimum, the surfaces of the concrete benches which were too filthy to sit on for many reasons, were power washed once a week. Perhaps with water restrictions and budget cutbacks, this practice has been suspended. It really improved sanitation. Thank you to everyone who is making a concerted effort to maintain and improve this wonderful area in our community. We love Hart Park. Thank you to the Beverly Press for regularly reporting on this and other matters not regularly reported by other outlets.

Short-term rentals should be banned in multi-unit buildings
Re “Beverly Hills will likely ban short-term rentals,” July 3 issue
They need to ban Airbnbs everywhere in Los Angeles that are rental buildings. The owners of rental buildings listing some Airbnbs I don’t have a problem with. But, I do have a huge problem with people who lease an apartment with the only intent to jack up the price to post it on Airbnb for profit. It is happening everywhere in L.A. and is a huge part of the problem contributing to the housing crisis.

Jeffrey Hersh
Los Angeles

Theo Osclan
Mid-Wilshire



NOTICE OF ORDINANCE SUMMARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting held on Tuesday, July 1, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, adopted Ordinance No. 25-0-2917 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING ARTICLE 3 (WASTEWATER SYSTEM) OF CHAPTER 1 (CITY UTILITY SERVICES) OF TITLE 6 (UTILITIES AND FRANCHISES) OF THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

AYES: Councilmember Corman, Councilmember Friedman, Councilmember Wells, Vice Mayor Mirisch, and Mayor Nazarian
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

The adopted ordinance is intended to improve clarity, eliminate confusion, streamline and update wastewater regulations in the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC). The ordinance makes the following amendments to Article 3 (Wastewater System) of Chapter 1 (City Utility Services) of Title 6 (Utilities and Franchises) of the BHMC:

- **Definitions** – amends definitions for clarity and to maintain consistent, streamlined terminology throughout Article 3 (Wastewater System); update terms throughout Article 3 in accordance with amended terms
- **Organization** – consolidates all regulations pertaining to the following topics into individual sections for clarity and ease of reference: (1) wastewater regulations applicable to all wastewater dischargers (proposed Section 6-1-307); (2) sewer connection regulations applicable to all properties (proposed Section 6-1-309); (3) regulations governing the discharge of industrial wastewater applicable to all properties (proposed Section 6-1-310); (4) all industrial waste permit requirements and regulations (proposed Section 6-1-311); and (5) all compliance and inspection reporting requirements for industrial waste dischargers (proposed Section 6-1-313)
- **Enforcement** – requires the City to issue a notice to cease and desist violations prior to pursuing any penalties except in cases of immediate danger to the public health, safety or environment

- **Recording Requirements** – designates the Director of Public Works as the personnel in charge of maintaining records for permit applications and permits issued for new construction of private drainage systems, work conducted on private sewer systems in the public right-of-way, and industrial discharges and designates the City Building Official as the personnel in charge of maintaining records of permit applications and permits for parts of private sewer systems up to the public right-of-way.
- **Wastewater Discharge Regulations** – amends wastewater regulations to clarify maintenance requirements for private drainage systems and City’s responsibility over the public sewer, requires a permit to perform maintenance or repair of private sewer laterals and industrial connection sewers that require work in the public right-of-way, encourages notice to City within one day of performing hydro-jetting and snaking, and require CCTV inspection for all pipe-lining maintenance work
- **Sewer Connection Regulations** – amends sewer connection regulations to impose new requirements for sewer capping in relation to the demolition or removal of structures and drainage of fixtures located below the next upstream manhole or below the level of the public sewer main
- **Industrial Waste Regulations** – clarifies that an industrial waste permit is required for the discharge of any amount and type of industrial waste into the City sewer system and updates the list of prohibited industrial wastes

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed ordinance was assessed for compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and City environmental regulations, and the City Council has determined the project is exempt from CEQA per Section 15378(b)(2) and (5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, which exempts from CEQA administrative activities and general policy-making that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. This summary has been prepared and published in accordance with the requirements of Government Code Section 36933. A certified copy of the entirety of the text of this ordinance is available for review during normal business hours at the Office of the City Clerk Office located at 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, Second Floor, Beverly Hills, California.

Huma Ahmed
City Clerk

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-1126 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.

RESTAURANT NEWS

Spend summer with Jeni’s ice cream

Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams new summer collection, “Super Fun Times,” is inspired by the feeling that only the first day of summer can evoke. With nostalgic delights like Pink Bubble Gum and Toasted S’mores, Jeni’s latest release captures the bliss of summertime with six limited-edition flavors.

The first six flavors in the collection are currently available online and in Jeni’s scoop shops.

On July 17, Jeni’s will launch their new Sundae Fudge Sauce in scoop shops nationwide. It’s a velvety chocolate sauce that, just like the Buttercrisp Waffle Cone, is made to specially pair with ice cream – rich and bittersweet with a sprinkle of sea salt that provides a sharp contrast to cool ice cream.

To celebrate, on National Ice Cream Day on July 20, customers can add sundae fudge sauce to any order for free. Giving ice cream

lovers just one more reason to indulge this summer. Try the sauce on Jeni’s limited-edition, drumstick-inspired sundae that layers Honey Vanilla Bean and Salted Peanut Butter with sundae fudge sauce and whipped cream in a Buttercrisp Waffle Bowl.

For information, visit jenis.com. Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams Beverly Hills is located at 445 N. Beverly Drive.

WeHo’s rooftop pools bring summer fun

Nothing says summer in West Hollywood quite like a rooftop pool. With year-round sunshine, panoramic skyline views and a laid-back yet luxurious vibe, West Hollywood offers one of the most iconic rooftop pool scenes in the country.

Whether you’re in the mood to sip craft cocktails under the palms, catch a live DJ set at sunset or

July means Tequila at Descanso

Descanso Restaurant is toasting to National Tequila Day with a month-long celebration featuring chef-inspired premium tequila pairings every Thursday in July at its Costa Mesa and new Los Angeles locations, culminating in the ultimate fiesta with live music on Thursday, July 24. Spend summer evenings in Descanso’s vibrant dining rooms or lively outdoor patios, sipping fine tequilas and savoring Descanso’s artisanal regional Mexican cuisine, highlighting a bespoke menu of fresh seafood, specialty tacos and indulgent desserts.

“Our chefs have crafted elevated pairings that play off of each other, enhancing the tequila’s flavor profile and bringing out the bold flavors in each dish,” Descanso owner Rob Arellano said. “Tequila has always been a central piece of our menu, and we look forward to showcasing chef-favorite menu items alongside it.”



photo courtesy of Descanso Restaurant

Descanso is highlighting tequila all month long.

On National Tequila Day, July 24, all menus and pairings will be available, offering guests the option to reorder their favorites or try something new while enjoying live music and soaking up the lively atmosphere.

Each tequila pairing dinner

offers a unique appetizer, entrée and dessert. Guests also have the option to order just the tequila flight for \$28. For more information and to make a reservation, visit descansorestaurant.com.

Descanso is located at 5773 Wilshire Blvd.

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Beverly Hills hotels celebrate ‘Clueless’

Through September, the Beverly Hills Conference and Visitors Bureau is rolling out the yellow plaid carpet for a citywide celebration of Paramount Pictures’ “Clueless,” the 1995 classic that remains a defining example of the city’s status as an icon of style, pop culture and Hollywood magic. Timed to the movie’s 30th anniversary in collaboration with Paramount, the celebration will feature a month of immersive experiences, chic nostalgia and playful tributes to the unforgettable “Clueless” backdrop.

Part of Paramount Pictures’ global anniversary campaign, the celebration invites fans to step into the world of Cher Horowitz, where couture, convertibles and California cool are always in fashion. From shopping sprees on Rodeo Drive to joyrides beneath iconic palm-lined streets, Beverly

Hills serves as an unforgettable backdrop throughout “Clueless.” Some of the film’s most memorable moments – including Cher and Dionne’s famed shopping montage, Cher’s comically chaotic driving lessons, scenes inspired by the city’s high school and luxury lifestyle, and Cher’s contemplative walk past the Electric Fountain and Spadena House (or the Witch’s House) – cemented Beverly Hills as a glamorous character in its own right. For fans, a visit to Beverly Hills offers the ultimate chance to immerse themselves in the stylish, iconic setting of “Clueless.”

“Beverly Hills has long been a canvas for defining cultural moments, and ‘Clueless’ remains one of the most iconic modern examples,” said Julie Wagner, CEO of the Beverly Hills Conference and Visitors Bureau. “This anniversary offers a playful way to cele-

brate the fashion, spirit and allure that continue to make our city an inspirational destination for travelers, storytellers and pop culture enthusiasts worldwide.”

Throughout July and beyond, Beverly Hills’ celebrated hotels – icons in their own right – will each bring the anniversary to life with their own creative experiences. The month’s marquee moment will be a vibrant city festival on July 19, when Beverly Hills officially proclaims “Clueless Day.” Produced in partnership with Street Food Cinema, the celebration will include an outdoor screening of the film, a ‘90s-style costume contest, themed photo ops, curated food trucks, live music, giveaways and surprise appearances – a joyful gathering for locals and visitors alike. The flagship event will be the tentpole event in a month-long celebration



photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Several hotels in Beverly Hills will host special events for the 30th anniversary of “Clueless.”

of “Clueless”-themed activations across the city, including a Cher-themed spa package and dessert at the Beverly Wilshire from July 15-Aug. 15, a “Clueless” suite at L’Ermitage Beverly Hills from July 12-Sept. 1, Cher cabanas and

a “Clueless” 30th anniversary concert at The Maybourne Beverly Hills on July 10 and a “Clueless” outdoor screening at The Beverly Hills Hotel on Aug. 6.

For information, visit lovebeverlyhills.com.



photo courtesy of myKEETv Los Angeles

Actress and producer Sardia Robinson presented Altadena fire victims with monetary aid.

Aid for fire survivors presented at Theatre West

Actress and producer Sardia Robinson joined forces with Theatre West and myKEETv to raise funds for Carline and Stephán McGrue – a mother and son who lost their home in the recent Eaton fire.

Several weeks ago, Robinson made a special fundraising performance of her acclaimed solo show, “From a Yardie to a Yankee.” The response was immediate and overwhelmingly generous, with community members showing up to support the cause and the family

behind it.

On June 29, Robinson, alongside representatives from Theatre West, including producer Dina Morrone, officially handed over the donation check to Carline and Stephán McGrue. It was a moment filled with tears, gratitude and hope.

Theatre West, under the leadership of Artistic Board Chairman Donald Moore, not only hosted the event but presented Robinson’s performance that underscored the importance of storytelling, service and solidarity.

Their willingness to step up and serve made a lasting impression on everyone present.

“This was more than a fundraiser – it was a call to action, and Theatre West answered with open arms,” said Robinson. “myKEETv Los Angeles helped shine a light on the story, and the community showed up with heart. Seeing Carline and Stephán receive that check was one of the most powerful moments I’ve experienced.”

For information, visit the-atrewest.org.



NOTICE OF ORDINANCE SUMMARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of Beverly Hills, during its regular meeting held on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, adopted Ordinance No. 25-0-2916 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA AMENDING ARTICLE 5 (STORMWATER AND URBAN RUNOFF POLLUTION CONTROL) OF CHAPTER 4 OF TITLE 9 OF THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE TO REVISE LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS AND INCLUDE ADDITIONAL REVISIONS PURSUANT TO THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

The adopted Ordinance streamlines and updates stormwater regulations in the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (“BHMC”). The Ordinance amends Article 5 (Stormwater and Urban Runoff Pollution Control) of Chapter 4 (Water Regulations) of Title 9 (Building and Property Health and Safety Regulations) of the BHMC in accordance with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (“LARWQCB”) Order No. R4-2021-0105, effective September 11, 2021, which establishes 2021 MS4 NPDES Permit No. CA5004004, the “Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discharges Within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.”

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The City Council determined that this Ordinance is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it constitutes administrative activities and general policy-making that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

The Ordinance was read by title only and introduced by the Beverly Hills City Council at its regular meeting on June 17, 2025 by a vote of 5-0 in favor, and adopted on July 1, 2025 by the following vote of 5-0 in favor:

AYES: Councilmember Corman, Councilmember Friedman, Councilmember Wells, Vice Mayor Mirisch, and Mayor Nazarian
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

This summary has been prepared and published in accordance with the requirements of Government Code Section 36933. A certified copy of the entirety of the text of this Ordinance is available for review during normal business hours at the Office of the City Clerk Office located at 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California.

Huma Ahmed
City Clerk



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Descanso Gardens sheds light on importance of shade

Descanso Gardens presents “Roots of Cool: A Celebration of Trees and Shade in a Warming World” from July 12-Oct. 12.

The vibrant new indoor-outdoor exhibition curated by Edith and Jolly de Guzman spotlights the vital role trees play in climate resilience and urban livability. The show invites visitors to reflect on “shade equity,” the idea that access to cooling shade is not distributed equally across communities.

“When Descanso issued a curatorial call on the theme of trees, we were thrilled to apply and propose the topic of shade equity,” said Edith de Guzman, a cooperative extension climate researcher with the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation. “Even with all of the good intent to improve the livability of neighborhoods in a warming climate, it is clear that the challenges to providing life-protecting benefits of trees and shade remain very significant.”

Featuring work from more than a dozen artists, the exhibition blends visual art, music and storytelling into a multi-sensory exploration of the past, present and future of shade

in Los Angeles. Installations span from historical reflections on discriminatory planning policies to forward-looking, community-centered visions of cooler, greener neighborhoods.

“Everyone has experienced this theme viscerally,” the curators said. “We decided to slow things down ... through the lens of art, in a manner that would enable people to tap into something they are already familiar with – but through an aesthetic, heart-first approach.”

Installations across the gardens include imaginative bus stops highlighting public shade disparities, suspended repurposed umbrellas as tree canopy metaphors and a “forest” of future-facing love letters encouraging reflection and action. A parallel indoor show in the Sturt Haaga Gallery and the Boddy House presents visual and musical works that guide visitors through the layered relationships between trees, equity and climate resilience. Artists include Robin Lasser, Leslie K. Gray, Chantée Benefield, Valerie Daval, Kim Abeles, Victoria Arriola, Pascaline Doucin-Dahlke,

Cidne Hart, Diana Kohne, Lisa Tomczeszyn, Lois Keller, Sarita Zaleha, Yarn Bombing Los Angeles and Shoshana Ben-Horin.

One of the exhibition’s poignant works comes from Benefield, who rebuilt her piece after losing the original artwork and family home in the Eaton fire.

“This was a brutal reminder of why we are taking on the topic of shade equity,” the curators said. “Disasters like the devastating fires of January 2025 produced images that will forever be seared into our collective consciousness. Extreme heat is an invisible disaster, but it kills more people than all other weather disasters combined. Shade is a way to counter that disaster and make our neighborhoods livable.”

Visitors are encouraged to participate in hands-on activities and learn how to improve shade equity in communities. A special opening reception for “Roots of Cool” will be held on Friday, July 11.

Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge. For information visit descansogardens.org.



photo courtesy of Chantee Benefield

Chantee Benefield’s “CoolCanopy” (2025) is among the pieces in the exhibition on trees and benefits of shade.

Fine Arts Theatre welcomes Jerry and David Zucker for film screening

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills will present a special comedy double feature on Sunday, July 20, at 2 p.m. with brothers Jerry and David Zucker in person for screenings of “Top Secret” with a tribute to Val Kilmer, and “Airplane!,”

touted as one of the funniest films ever.

Jerry and David Zucker will participate in a Q&A session between features. Signed copies of their book “Surely You Can’t Be Serious: The True Story of

Airplane!,” co-written with producing and directing partner Jim Abrahams, will be available.

In “Top Secret,” Zucker and Abrahams spoof Elvis films and World War II spy movies. Kilmer stars as Nick Rivers, a handsome American 1950s-style rock ‘n’ roll singer. While performing in East Germany, he falls in love with a beautiful heroine (Lucy Gutteridge) and becomes involved with the French Resistance. The cast also includes Omar Sharif, Jeremy Kemp and Warren Clarke.

“Airplane!” follows former World War II pilot Ted Striker, a traumatized ex-fighter-pilot with a neurotic fear of flying who still has not gotten over his old flame, flight attendant Elaine Dickinson. Determined to win her back, Striker boards a flight from Los Angeles to Chicago, only to come face-to-face with a severe case of in-flight food poisoning that is threatening everyone’s lives. With most of the passengers and the entire cockpit crew down with the food-borne illness, Striker must confront his inner

demons and take over control of the ungovernable aircraft with the help of a gruff air-traffic controller and his former commander. The all-star cast includes Robert Hayes, Julie Hagerty, Leslie Nielsen, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Lloyd Bridges, Peter Graves, Robert Stack, Lorna

Patterson, Barbra Billingsley and Joyce Bulifant.

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills is located at 8556 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (424)438-4013. Tickets are \$15 and are available at fineartstheatrebh.com.



photo by Edwin Folven

Enjoy a Q&A session with prolific filmmakers Jerry and David Zucker on July 20.

Have a ‘Belly Laugh’ at L.A. Live

Belly Laughs Comedy and Food Festival, the groundbreaking comedy and food festival that celebrates Asian American culture like never before, is releasing “early bird” single-day tickets. Set to take place at L.A. Live, the two-day extravaganza showcases an exciting blend of cutting-edge comedy and delicious Asian cuisine, featuring more than 30 top-tier comedians across the Asian diaspora.

Comedians performing on July 12 include Hasan Minhaj, Kumail Nanjiani, Zarna Garg, Nimesh Patel, Jonnie Park, Andrea Jin, Jason Cheny, Irene Tu, Dylan Adler, Kiran Deol, Sabrina Wu, James Tom, Tien Tran, Robin Tran, Tatyana Guchi and D’Lo.

Comedians performing on July 13 include Hasan Minhaj, Margaret Cho, Joel Kim Booster, Sherry Cola, Hari Kondabolu, Asif Ali, Joe Wong, Jenny Yang, Helen Hong, Aparna Nancherla, Fumi Abe, Ismael Loutfi, Aaron Chen, Nori Reed, Paul Ogata and Yudhi Sharma.

Mama’s Nightmarket will curate a mouthwatering selection of food, highlighting over 20 of the best Asian restaurants from around Los

Angeles including Chef Tuệ Nguyễn & Đidi, Bobapop, Feng Mao, Guzzu Bento-Ya and Holy Basil. Alongside the delicious food, Mama’s Nightmarket will also host cooking demonstrations, karaoke and an outdoor stage that offers live entertainment, cultural programming and interactive experiences that allow guests to immerse themselves in Asian culture. Mama’s mission of connecting communities through diverse, vibrant flavors takes center stage, offering platforms for underrepresented restaurants and communities to showcase

their culinary talents while blending the joy of food with the energy of live entertainment.

Belly Laughs features three stages at the iconic L.A. Live campus providing a dynamic comedy experience with something for everyone – from insightful commentary to irreverent humor all complemented by delicious food from the local Asian American community.

Whether you’re there for the comedy, the food, or the cultural celebration, Belly Laughs promises an unforgettable weekend.

L.A. Live is located at 800 W. Olympic Blvd. For tickets, visit axs.com.



photo courtesy of L.A. Live

Belly Laughs Comedy and Food Festival features comedic performances and food curated by Mama’s Nightmarket.

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Police Blotter

Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission leader reappointed

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between June 29 and July 5. 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

June 29

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 300 block of N. Beverly at 2:15 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8300 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 8:50 p.m.

June 30

At 2:45 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 700 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 300 block of N. Swall at 4:04 a.m.

At 9:18 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 300 block of N. Oakhurst at 10:30 a.m.

July 1

At 4:05 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Rodeo.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 6:40 a.m.

At 7:46 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported near Sunset and Alpine.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. La Cienega at 2:58 p.m.

At 5:31 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

July 2

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo at 3:05 p.m.

At 6:22 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of S. Wetherly at 10 p.m.

July 3

At 1:21 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Olympic.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Wilshire and Beverly at 1:45 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 100 block of S. Roxbury.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 700 block of N. Cañon at 3:53 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect committed a

residential burglary in the 300 block of S. Oakhurst at 9:15 p.m.

At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 600 block of N. Rexford.

July 4

At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo.

July 5

At 9:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

June 29

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson. A second theft was reported in the same area around 1:30 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 1:03 a.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Curson.

June 30

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8500 block of Melrose at 5:30 a.m.

At 8:24 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of Fuller at 11:48 p.m.

July 1

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8300 block of Sunset at 12:30 a.m.

At 8:55 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8300 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 700 block of N. San Vicente at 9 a.m.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7300 block of Santa Monica at 3:45 p.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 900 block of N. San Vicente.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near La Cienega and Melrose at 7:50 p.m.

July 2

At 5:07 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8600 block of Sunset.

July 3

At 2:50 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on July 1 to reappoint Hans Johnson to the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission.

Johnson, a respected advocate in civil rights, LGBTQ+ issues and public safety reform, has served on the COC since 2022, helping guide its mission of strengthening oversight and rebuilding public trust in

the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

With more than two decades of experience in criminal justice reform and community advocacy, Johnson has worked in over 20 states to support local leaders, track hate crimes and train public safety personnel in cultural competency. Johnson currently serves as co-vice chair of the commission. He is pres-

ident of Progressive Victory, a national consultancy specializing in advocacy strategy and good governance. Johnson’s work with foundations, labor unions and civil rights organizations spans all 50 states. He has led national efforts to combat hate crimes and protect access to public health.

For information, visit coc.lacounty.gov.



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

LOCATIONS:	Citywide, West Hollywood, California
REQUEST:	The City Council will consider introducing on first reading an Ordinance to establish Building Energy Benchmarking and Performance Standards for existing buildings. The City Council will also consider directing staff to issue a request for proposals for building performance standards implementation services and software, and incorporate one new permanent position within the Community Development Department to support implementation.
PERMIT(S):	West Hollywood Municipal Code Amendment, and any other required permits.
APPLICANT(S):	City of West Hollywood
TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:	Monday, August 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
ZONES:	Citywide
ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:	Statutorily exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections §15301 (Existing Facilities), §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction), §15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment), and §15378(b)(5) (Project) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

To comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, 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 Christine Shen, Senior Planner at (323) 848-6803; or via email at: CShen@weho.gov

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

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

BHUSD welcomes new broadcast production director

The Beverly Hills Unified School District announced the appointment of award-winning filmmaker and bestselling author Kyle Newman as the new director of the broadcast production program. A renowned creative force in film, television and publishing, Newman brings unmatched industry expertise to this career pathway, offering BHUSD students direct access to one of the most dynamic learning experiences in public education.

Currently producing feature films, television content and bestselling books, Newman will continue his work in the entertainment industry while leading BHUSD's media program. His vision is clear: bring real-world film and television production into the hands of students and create a professional-grade experience that mirrors the

fast-paced, high-standard world of entertainment.

"If you want to learn what it really takes to become a filmmaker, this is the class," Newman said. "From story development to editing, set experience to post-production, students will have the chance to work on real projects, meet real professionals and take their skills beyond the classroom."

Newman has directed feature films including "Fanboys," "Barely Lethal" and "1Up," and produced content for Taylor Swift, Lana Del Rey and Hasbro Studios. He is also co-author of multiple New York Times bestselling books and currently serves as executive producer on an upcoming Dungeons and Dragons documentary. His current projects will serve as entry points for BHUSD students to gain expo-

sure, mentorship and hands-on opportunities in the creative arts.

The appointment strengthens BHUSD's career technical education offerings, reinforcing the district's commitment to preparing students for success in high-demand fields. The broadcast production program will equip students with technical skills, industry knowledge and professional connections that align with careers in film, television, journalism and digital media.

Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss called Newman's hiring "a game-changing moment" for the district.

"Kyle brings the highest level of expertise and credibility. He is here to help our students build real careers, not just classroom projects," Cherniss said. "This is a perfect example of how BHUSD blends academic rigor with career



screenshot courtesy of BHUSD

Filmmaker Kyle Newman will join the Beverly Hills Unified School District as the broadcast production director.

readiness. We're proud to support a program that sets students up for meaningful success."

Newman is already developing a new slate of programming for BHUSD's broadcast platforms, which will include both student-produced content and district fea-

tures, soon to be available on streaming platforms including Apple TV, Amazon Fire and Roku.

"Students in this program won't just be learning, they'll be creating," Newman said. "We're building something real, together."

For information, visit bhUSD.org.

Talented newcomers join LA Opera's Young Artist Program

LA Opera has announced members of the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program for the 2025-26 season.

Two of the three new members joining the program are singers and one is a pianist and coach. Soprano Emily Damasco and mezzo-soprano Katie Trigg were chosen from more than 800 applicants. Preliminary auditions took place in New York, Cincinnati and Los Angeles. The finalists auditioned in Los Angeles in spring for a panel that included president and CEO Christopher Koelsch; music director James Conlon; Susan Graham, the program's artistic advisor; Paul Hopper, senior director of artistic

planning; Blair Salter, head coach for the program; and Stephen King, head of vocal instruction.

Pianist and coach Gabrielė Žemaitytė was chosen by an audition panel that included Conlon, Hopper and Salter as well as Jeremy Frank, the company's chorus director who is also a coach for the Young Artist Program.

Seven current members of the program will return for a second season with the company: soprano Gabrielle Turgeon, tenors Nathan Bowles and Yuntong Han, baritone Hyungjin Son, bass Vinicius Costa and pianist-coaches Sujin Choi and Julian Garvue. Members of the program will be featured in LA Opera's

mainstage productions and other performances throughout the season.

"The Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program is widely recognized as one of the premier training programs for emerging operatic talent, with alumni performing on many of the world's most important stages," Koelsch said. "The program provides an exceptionally supportive and inspiring environment in which young artists can flourish, offering meaningful opportunities for artistic growth and close collaboration with singers, conductors, directors and coaches of the highest caliber. We are honored to support the development of the next generation of deeply communicative and expressive artists and look forward to experiencing their contributions throughout the coming season."

Inaugurated during the 2006-07 season, the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program develops the talents of exceptionally gifted young artists. LA Opera provides extensive training for singers and pianists who are transitioning from academic training to a professional career in opera. During a two-year paid residency, artists are given opportunities to further develop skills through mainstage roles, as principal artists' covers and in dedicated young artist concerts and productions.

For information, visit laopera.org/young-artists.



photo courtesy of LA Opera

The program includes top row, Nathan Bowles, Sujin Choi, Vinicius Costa, Emily Damasco and Julian Garvue, and bottom row, Yuntong Han, Hyungjin Son, Katie Trigg, Gabrielle Turgeon and Gabrielė Žemaitytė

Huntington Meats seeks donations to help students succeed in school

To ensure students have everything they need when classes start, Huntington Meats at the Original Farmers Market is holding its second annual Back-To-School School Supply Drive in July, benefiting children at the Union Rescue Mission.

People are encouraged to donate at Huntington Meats and its sister shop, Farmers Market Poultry, which is also located at the Farmers Market. The goal is to collect enough supplies for 600 children.

"We did a pajama drive to begin with and that really took off, so we created the school supplies drive last year," said Jim Cascone, owner of Huntington Meats and Farmers Market Poultry. "I really think it's important. These kids don't have a mom or dad to ask for a new backpack or other things for school that many of us take for granted. I'm trying to step up and make sure they

have what they need."

Customers who donate new school supplies valued at \$10 or more will receive a complimentary pound of ground beef or homemade sausages from Huntington Meats, or a pound of ground chicken or ground turkey from Farmers Market Poultry. Backpacks, rulers, pens, pencils, crayons, paper, markers, sharpeners, calculators, notebooks, scissors, erasers, lunch boxes and water bottles are among the items sought during the drive, which runs through July 31.

"Our goal is to try to make school days a little more exciting for those kids that may be experiencing homelessness or are members of a family that just don't have the means to purchase new school supplies for their little ones," head butcher Jon Escobedo added. "We want to do our part to make sure that kids in need in Los Angeles

have the best start to the upcoming school year."

The shops are located at the Original Farmers Market, 6333 W. Third St. Huntington Meats is located in Stall 350 and Farmers Market Poultry is in Stall 216. For information and a list of school supplies needed, visit huntingtonmeats.com/school-supply-drive.



photo courtesy of Huntington Meats

School supplies such as backpacks, rulers, notebooks, pens and pencils are being collected for children in need.

L.A. County Parks launches Summer Beat program

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation has launched the Summer Beat program, a vibrant initiative inviting teens across L.A. County to dive into a summer of adventure, exploration and opportunity. Celebrated in July during Parks Make Life Better Month, the marketing campaign highlights the critical role that parks, open spaces and recreational programs play in enriching the lives of youth and enhancing community well-being.

"We're excited to offer youth the chance to learn new skills, learn to swim, make friends, volunteer and explore L.A. County's incredible parks, trails and nature centers," said Norma E. García-González, director of the county of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. "We invite teens to discover all the possibilities that L.A. County Parks has to offer this summer."

Teens ages 13-18 can participate in a wide range of free and dynamic programs designed to inspire creativity, build confidence and promote wellness. From career development and environmental education to aquatics and the arts, L.A. County Parks is opening doors for youth to explore interests

and connect with peers.

Our SPOT is a high-energy after-school teen center initiative operating across 16 locations in unincorporated communities. The welcoming, youth-focused spaces offer free access to academic support, sports, creative arts, leadership development, mental wellness services and culturally relevant programs.

To better support youth, Our SPOT is expanding hours to 3-9 p.m., with a new transportation service from 9-10 p.m. to help teens return home safely. The program is funded by the Department of Youth Development, Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control and the Department of Probation.

The Supper Program now operates at all 16 Our SPOT Teen Centers, serving over 76,000 meals across 48 weeks – offering 20 meals a week per location. The vital program ensures youth receive nutritious meals that support both physical and mental well-being. Supper will be provided Monday-Friday, 7-9 p.m.


For information, visit parks.lacounty.gov/2025-summer-teen-campaign.

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Getty exhibition explores queer representation

The Getty Research Institute announced the exhibition “\$3 Bill: Evidence of Queer Lives,” open through Sept. 28. The dynamic and timely exhibition explores queer representation through art, ephemera, videos and archival materials dating from 1900 to the present day. Highlighting the enduring contributions of LGBTQ+ artists, intellectuals and activists, “\$3 Bill” provides an intimate lens through which to view histories of love, desire, resistance and community.

“This exhibition honors the rich legacy and vibrant creativity of queer communities,” said Mary Miller, director of the Getty Research Institute. “It traces the



photo courtesy of Getty

The exhibition will run at the Getty Center through Sept. 28.

path from early 20th century pioneers who challenged norms around sexuality and gender, through the transformative activism of the gay liberation era and the profound impact of the HIV/AIDS crisis, to the broader, more inclusive understandings of identity we see today.”

“\$3 Bill” brings together rare books, artists’ books, prints and archival materials from the GRI’s extensive holdings, along with loans and items from the recently acquired Merrill C. Berman collection.

“This exhibition has been two years in the making, and on many levels, the situation for queer and LGBTQ+ people today is much worse than when I started this project,” said Pietro Rigolo, curator of the exhibition. “All I wish and hope for ‘\$3 Bill’ is to offer a space for contemplation and celebration of our own unique beauty and accomplishments, and room for reflection. It is an invitation to look back, in order to understand how to move forward and thrive, as we’ve always done, even under the worst circumstances.”

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Getty will host a full schedule of programming including lectures, performances and workshops that further explore the themes and artists represented in “\$3 Bill.”

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive.

Puptopia takes over Big Bear

Puptopia is coming to Big Bear Lake on Saturday, July 26, a can’t miss summer event for all pet parents and pups. The free family friendly event will be packed with endless fun for pups and their people from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Set against the scenic mountain lakeside at Veteran’s Park, attendees can look forward to dog-forward events from agility zones and doggy ball pits, to gourmet treats and breed meetups.

Puptopia highlights include a Pawground and Pupformance Zone. At the center of the festival, the Pawground will feature a gigantic ball-filled dog bowl and photo opportunities. In the Pupformance

Zone, dogs can traverse tunnels, ramps, jump-overs and obstacles in an owner-led agility course. Relax in the K9 Lounge, a beverage and food oasis for humans and dogs to enjoy together. Kick back in the comfy lounge areas and meet dog owners during breed meetups throughout the day. Attendees can also visit the main stage, where dog specific programming will showcase stunt groups and training tips. Shop the vendor booths featuring all things pup related. Browse dog treats, food varieties, clothing and accessories, leashes and collars.

For information, visit bigbear.com/events/puptopia-big-bear-2025.



photo courtesy of Visit Big Bear

The annual event for pet owners will take place on July 26.

Academy Museum ‘Colors’ exhibit nears closing

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures’ “Color in Motion: Chromatic Explorations of Cinema” exhibit closes July 13. The exhibit delves into the essential role of color in cinema, featuring film clips, technological equipment and objects, including the legendary ruby slippers designed by Gilbert Adrian from “The Wizard of Oz” (1939), the green dress designed by Edith Head and worn by Kim Novak in “Vertigo” (1958), a blue ensemble worn by Jamie Foxx as Django in “Django Unchained” (2012), and a Wonka chocolate bar from “Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory” (1971). Interactive installations invite visitors to engage with color in innovative ways. A comprehensive exhibition catalogue, available at the Academy Museum Store, offers a deeper insight into the legacy of color in film.

“Color in Motion: Chromatic Explorations of Cinema” is curated by Senior Exhibitions Curator Jessica Niebel with Assistant Curator Sophia Serrano, Research Assistant Alexandra James Salichs, and former Curatorial Assistant



photo courtesy of Josh White, JWPictures/©Academy Museum Foundation

The ‘Color in Motion: Chromatic Explorations of Cinema’ exhibit features cinematic objects and moments that highlight color

Manouchka Kelly Labouba.

The latest edition of Southern California’s landmark arts event, “PST ART,” presented in 2025, included more than 70 exhibitions from organizations across the region that explored the intersections of art and science, both past and present. “PST ART” is presented by Getty. For more information about PST ART: Art & Science Collide, please visit pst.art.

For the closing of “Color in Motion: Chromatic Explorations of Cinema,” the museum will host a Drop-in Tactile Filmmaking Workshop, drawing inspiration from the exhibition.

Inspired by trailblazing experimental filmmakers Len Lye, Oskar

Fischinger and Mary Ellen Butte – whose films are featured in the exhibition – the workshop invites attendees to make a camera-less movie and animate directly on 16mm film using simple, hands-on materials like markers, tape, pushpins and ink. Attendees can make their own vibrant, moving-image collages on celluloid film. The museum will then edit the individual strips together and screen them through a 16mm projector, creating a community-made and collaborative film.

The collaborative film will screen at 3:30 p.m.

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



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF BUSINESS TASK FORCE

The City of West Hollywood is committed to advancing economic opportunities for its businesses and workers, ensuring that local enterprises are equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing economic landscape. The Business Task Force will be a key step in identifying actionable solutions to improve the local business climate and support entrepreneurship, innovation, and workforce development.

The Business Task Force will consist of nine (9) individuals who represent a wide range of industries and business types in West Hollywood, including but not limited to: restaurants and bars; hotels and tourism; retail; design; artists and arts organizations; and personal care services. Business Task Force members will be selected through an interview process conducted by City staff. The final composition of the Business Task Force will reflect the diverse voices, experiences, and industries that make up West Hollywood’s business community.

The Business Task Force is a limited-time volunteer advisory working group. Meetings are tentatively scheduled to take place in-person/virtually on the second Wednesday of each odd-numbered month at 2 p.m. on: September 10, 2025; November 12, 2025; January 14, 2026; March 11, 2026; May 13, 2026; and July 8, 2026.

For more information, please contact Paolo Kespradit, City of West Hollywood Business Development Manager, at (323) 848-6556 or at pkespradit@weho.org. For people who are Deaf or hard of hearing dial 711 or 1-800-735-2929 (TTY) or 1-800-735-2922 (voice) for California Relay Service (CRS) assistance.

For up-to-date information about City of West Hollywood news and events, follow @wehocity on social media, sign-up for news updates at www.weho.org/email, and visit the City’s calendar of meetings and events at www.weho.org/calendar. West Hollywood City Hall is open for walk-in services at public counters or by appointment by visiting www.weho.org/appointments. City Hall services are accessible by phone at (323) 848-6400 and via website at www.weho.org. Receive text updates by texting “WeHo” to (323) 848-5000.

For reporters and members of the media seeking additional information about the City of West Hollywood, please contact the City of West Hollywood’s Public Information Officer, Sheri A. Lunn, at (323) 848-6391 or slunn@weho.org.

BY ORDER of the City of West Hollywood,
Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

Nobody wins with ‘Jurassic World: Rebirth’ vs. ‘28 Years Later’

Between a zombie horror flick and dino thriller, the nemeses in each should be simple: fast-running zombies and the beasts that once reigned supreme. Not so. Sequels must build and build and build. The lore, the expanded universe, now reigns.

For “Jurassic World: Rebirth,” the seventh film in the franchise must distinguish itself from others with an island populated by hybrid dinosaurs. No raptors here, but how about raptors with wings? Or maybe some hideous creature that looks more suited for a showdown with Kong?

Zombies haven’t changed much, have they? Whelp, in “Years,” we’ve got runners, obese crawlers

and near invincible alphas that lead hordes and enjoy removing heads. Two simple premises enter the new presidency with much more grandiose expanded worlds, but they attempt to tell more focused stories.

This is homework cinema. Each film requires a degree of franchise literacy. In 2002’s “28 Days Later,” a study on the chemical causes of aggression creates the rage virus that spreads to people. By the end of “Weeks,” the infected escaped England. Almost three decades later, the virus has been pushed back to the U.K., where its inhabitants are quarantined indefinitely.

“Rebirth” heads to a different kind of quarantined locale, but oh



photo courtesy of Universal Pictures
“Jurassic World: Rebirth,” featuring Jonathan Bailey and Scarlett Johansson, is mediocre yet still thrilling.

ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

boy, did that franchise take some turns since its 1993 debut. Eventually, dinos ended up roaming the planet, changing society forever. Not really. Now, these prehistoric creatures both cannot survive in most climates and, even worse, no longer hold public interest. Nobody cares about them anymore.

Apparently, the original R&D team (and the latest filmmakers, too) predicted this and began splicing DNA, creating some horrifying, unsightly monstrosities that also contain genetic anomalies desired by Big Pharma. So a crew journeys to a forbidden kingdom in search of a miracle cure.

Back in “Years,” a small community thrives in isolation from the mainland. But a young boy must venture out with his father as a rite of passage. First, he’ll learn about the infected. Next, he’ll uncover truths his guardians seek to keep from him.

Now comes a point of divergence. “Rebirth” relies on standard fare that continues to fail this franchise, like annoying people making dumb choices. Scarlett Johansson leads a cast of familiar faces in a film designed as a return to form. That all sounds fine. If only the CliffsNotes panned out on screen.

Terrible choices abound. In one cringeworthy sequence, a civilian caught in the mayhem loudly drags an inflatable raft in front of a T-Rex.



photo courtesy of Sony Pictures
Jamie (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) and his son Spike (Alfie Williams) make “28 Years Later” thrilling, stylistic and emotionally rich.

Compare what doesn’t work in “Rebirth” to what shouldn’t work in “28 Years Later” – yet it does.

“Years” markets Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Jodie Comer and Ralph Fiennes as top billing, but they aren’t the lead. That honor belongs to young Alfie Williams as young Spike. He navigates frustrations with a less-than-honorable father and a mother who needs a doctor.

Thanks to director Danny Boyle and writer Alex Garland, who also teamed for the original film, this sequel is thrilling, stylistic and emotionally rich.

“Rebirth” sure tries to present characters of worth, but every single heartfelt moment is obnoxious. Director Gareth Edwards seemed to be on a hot streak with “Monsters,” “Godzilla” and then “Rogue One,” but “Rebirth” marks his second watchable but bland contribution.

But perhaps bland is what folks need.

To be honest, “28 Years Later” won’t appeal to broad audiences. The original might’ve set up the zombie trend to come, but trailblazing is a thankless job. Running zombies were a “sin” at the time. This contribution stylistically builds on the original in exciting ways, though the last five minutes might turn off a lotta folks.

As for “Jurassic World: Rebirth,” it’ll remind folks that there’s still life in this film series. But it’s also a reminder of how good these films have been and could be again. Alas, considering how well it’s doing right now at the box office, expect more of the mind-numbing, mediocre same.

So even though “28 Years Later” should win, “Rebirth” has more fans. Meaning we all lose.

El Capitan is ‘Fantastic’ this summer

Marvel Studios’ latest feature, “The Fantastic Four: First Steps” arrives at the El Capitan Theatre July 25-Aug. 3. Before the movie, guests can take photos at The Thing and H.E.R.B.I.E. statue photo op and see costumes and props from the movie.

Guests can also be among the first to see “The Fantastic Four: First Steps” with Thursday screenings on July 24 at 4 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

An opening night screening for Marvel Studio’s “The Fantastic Four: First Steps” will take place at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 24. Tickets are \$50 and include an event credential, collectible popcorn tin with popcorn and fountain drink.

A fan event screening will take place at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, July 25, with three different ticket pack-

ages. The “Hero Pack” is \$125 and includes a reserved ticket, priority entry, collectible popcorn bucket with popcorn, backpack, notebook, hat, fountain drink and event credential

The “Cosmic Pack” is \$75 and includes a reserved ticket, notebook, hat, collectible tin with popcorn, fountain drink and event credential. A general ticket is \$30 and includes a reserved ticket and event credential.

A special “Fantastic 4 Pack” is

available for \$150 and includes four tickets, four 84-ounce bags of popcorn, four 24-ounce fountain beverages and four “Fantastic Four” straw clips.

Specialty concession items will be available for purchase for ticketed guests, while supplies last.

Daily showtimes for Marvel Studios’ “The Fantastic Four: First Steps” July 25-Aug. 3 are 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$19 for children and seniors.

A sensory inclusive screening is available Wednesday, July 20, at 7:15 p.m. An open caption screening is available Saturday, Aug. 2, at 1 p.m. A Spanish dubbed screening is available Sunday, Aug. 3, at 4 p.m.

Tickets are on sale at elcapitantheatre.com and fandango.com/el-capitan-theatre-aacon/theater-page. All seats are reserved.

El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd.



photo courtesy of Marvel
The newest film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe premieres on July 24.

MAK Center hosts ‘Take a Seat’

The MAK Center for Art and Architecture hosts its signature fundraiser on Sept. 27 – an intimate evening of art, architecture and creative community unfolding in the iconic Schindler House and gardens.

Join for a seated dinner and curated auction of artful seating by visionary designers, alongside live performance, with Holland Taylor as Honorary Host Committee Chair. All proceeds support the MAK Center’s exhibitions, residency programs and public events exploring experimental practices across art

and architecture.

For information, visit makcenter.org/take-a-seat and for sponsorship and auction inquiries, contact matkinson@makcenter.org.

Phot photo courtesy of Roadwork Studios
The ‘Take a Seat’ dinner will benefit the MAK center’s programming and exhibitions.



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Getty Villa presents ‘Oedipus the King, Mama!’

This fall, the Getty Villa Museum and the Troubadour Theater Company present “Oedipus the King, Mama!” for the 19th annual Villa Outdoor Classical Theater production. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays, Sept. 4-27, at 8 p.m., with previews on Aug. 28-30, at 8 p.m. Tickets go on sale on Monday, July 14.

In this production of the classic story of Oedipus, L.A.’s beloved Troubadour Theater Company gets Sophocles’ “King Oedipus” “All Shook Up” with the musical stylings of the King of Rock ‘n’ Roll, Elvis Presley. In “Oedipus the King, Mama!,” plot twists and pelvic thrusts are plentiful, and a live band accompanies the salacious story. Fighting to find out the ugly truth, Oedipus gives in to “Suspicious Minds” and digs deep into his past, only to find a forbidden future – and the meaning of blind ambition.

“This marks the Troubadour

Theater Company’s third production in the Villa’s Outdoor Classical Theater, and we are delighted to welcome them back,” Getty Museum Director Timothy Potts said. “It is special to have such a long-time collaborator and company from Los Angeles bring their talents to the Palisades community for what will undoubtedly be an entertaining show.”

Celebrating 30 years of entertaining audiences in Los Angeles and 16 years of collaborating with the Getty, the Troubadour Theater Company reintroduces this production, which was previously part of the Villa’s 2009 Theater Lab series, to the Outdoor Theater stage. It is adapted and directed by Matt Walker, artistic director of the Troubadour Theater Company.

“The Troubies” have co-produced two other outdoor productions at the Getty Villa, including “LIZASTRATA” in 2021, a retelling of Aristophanes’ “Lysistrata” set to Liza Minnelli’s

greatest hits, as well as “Haunted House Party” in 2016, a Roman comedy based on Plautus’s “Mostellaria.” They have also workshopped several productions in the Villa Theater Lab series in addition to “Oedipus the King, Mama!,” including “Abbamemnon” in 2014 and “For the Birds” in 2011.

The “Oedipus the King, Mama!” cast includes Matt Walker as Oedipus, Cloie Taylor as Shepherd, Beth Kennedy as Jocasta, Rick Batalla as Creon, Mike Sulprizio as Teiresias, Steven Booth as Young Oedipus, Suzanne Jolie Narbonne as Ismene/Chorus, Lara Lafferty as Antigone/Chorus, Philip McNiven as Messenger and Katie Malia as Sphinx attendant.

“We’re so thankful for our long-time artistic collaboration with the Getty. They truly support artists and always bring out the best in us,” said Matt Walker, artistic director of the Troubadour Theater Company. “‘Oedipus the King, Mama!’ has a



photo courtesy of Getty

The comedic retelling of Sophocles’ tragedy will take place Sept. 4-27.

gifted cast of 10 actors who sing, dance, clown and improvise their way through an 80-minute romp – as well as a live band, and brilliant designers who are transforming the Villa into Graceland West.”

“Oedipus the King, Mama!” is not recommended for children under the age of 12.

An American Sign Language interpreted performance will take place on Thursday, Sept. 18.

Thursday night performances are \$45 (\$40 for students and seniors), Friday night performances are \$50 and Saturday night performances are \$55. Student and senior discounts are available for Thursday night performances only. Ticket prices for the previews are \$30.

Tickets will be available at getty.edu/calendar/oct-oedipus-the-king-mama and by calling (310) 440-7300.

Television Academy Foundation announces free series



photo by Erik Tanner

Benito Skinner’s “Overcompensating” series on Amazon Prime will be the focus of the Television Academy Foundation behind the scenes series.

The Television Academy Foundation announced it will launch a free education series “Access: Behind the Screens” for students and early career professionals with an event featuring the star and producers of the hit television series “Overcompensating” on July 14. As platforms like TikTok and Instagram launch talented voices into the spotlight, the next big leap is turning digital momentum into a television career. This dynamic conversation with “Overcompensating” creators will share insights on developing a series, collaborating across platforms and moving from content creation to television.

Access: Behind the Screens is the Foundation’s new education program offering behind-the-scenes access to the television industry. The series will feature masterclass workshops and panel discussions

with top industry professionals providing the next generation of entertainment professionals with an insider’s guide to a career in the media industry.

“Access: Behind the Screens – Overcompensating” will feature an online conversation with the show’s creator, executive producer, writer and star Benito Skinner, and showrunner/executive producer Scott King on the making of the Amazon Prime hit series, co-executive produced by music star Charli

XCX. The discussion will be moderated by Mara Webster, co-founder and host of In Creative Company.

“Overcompensating” is a comedy-drama series that follows the main character Benny, a closeted former high school football star and valedictorian from Idaho, as he begins his freshman year at the fictional Yates University. Struggling with his identity, Benny befriends Carmen, a fellow freshman from New Jersey who was an outsider in high school. Together, they navigate the challenges of college life, including relationships, secret societies and self-discovery.

“With Access: Behind the Screens, the foundation is proud to launch a free, dynamic program that pulls back the curtain on the television industry,” said Tina Perry, chair of the Television Academy Foundation. “Through exclusive masterclasses and panels featuring talent, executives, agents and other top professionals, this series provides college students and early career individuals with an invaluable insider’s guide to building a successful career in television.”

To register for the online discussion, visit televisionacademy.com/access-bts/register.

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L.A. leaders honor ‘Uncle Miltie’

Actor and comedian Milton Berle received a proclamation from the Los Angeles City Council in this photograph in the July 16, 1998, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. Known as “Uncle Miltie” and “Mr. Television,” Berle (1908-2002) spent eight decades in the entertainment industry, from silent films to radio, movies and television. Joining Berle, center, were then-Councilmembers Cindy Miscikowski, left, Nate Holden, Joel Wachs, John Ferraro and Mike Feuer, Mayor Richard Riordan, and Councilwoman Laura Chick.

10 Reasons Why I Don’t Want An Estate Plan

1. I want large sums of my hard-earned money to go to a law firm.
2. I want the government to decide who gets my life savings.
3. What for? My house is only worth a half-million dollars.
4. I really don’t care who raises our children.
5. I want a total stranger to go through all of my personal papers and financial affairs.
6. I like family fights – especially unnecessary ones.
7. I don’t care who inherits my hard earned money.
8. I’ve been messy in life; I’ll be messy in death.
9. They say you can’t take it with you, but what if you can?
10. Probate. Must be fun.

If you don’t do it for yourself, please do it for those you care about.

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Raids targeting immigrants denounced

From page 1

federal agents in military tactical gear descended on the park. Agents carrying assault rifles rode in armored cars, while some arrived on horseback and marched through the park’s grassy fields. However, the park appeared to be largely empty, and the agents did not make any arrests.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass arrived at the park during the operation and confronted immigration officials, asking them to leave.

“To me, this is another example of the administration ratcheting up chaos by deploying what looked like a military operation in an American city,” Bass said. “Frankly, it is outrageous and un-American that we have federal armed vehicles in our parks when nothing is going on in the parks.”

Bass said that moments before the sweep, children from a summer camp were playing in the park before being forced to leave out of fear and intimidation.

In an interview with Fox 11 Los Angeles, U.S. Border Patrol Sector Chief Gregory Bovino defended

the federal activity in MacArthur Park, stating that he doesn’t “work for Karen Bass.”

“Better get used to us now, because this is going to be normal very soon,” Bovino said.

The military action in the park prompted swift condemnation from leaders from around Los Angeles and Gov. Gavin Newsom, who called the MacArthur Park sweep a “disgrace.”

“Trump is doing everything he can to tear families apart and terrify hardworking communities,” L.A. City Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, said. “This should be a warning to the city and to the entire country that Trump is escalating his authoritarian takeover.”

“Was the plan to gun people down as they run away from masked agents who refuse to identify themselves?” U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) said. “This isn’t border enforcement and it isn’t making our communities safer.”

“The city of West Hollywood

unequivocally condemns the ongoing ice raids that are targeting immigrant families across our region. These actions are not only disruptive. They are also discriminatory and deeply destabilizing to our communities,” West Hollywood Mayor Chelsea Byers said. “They sow fear in our neighborhoods, divide families and undermine public trust in the rule of law and due process. West Hollywood stands with cities across the region and rejects these tactics. We reaffirm our commitment to protecting the dignity, rights and humanity of all people, regardless of immigration status.”

Residents urged West Hollywood to take action against the ICE raids after an immigration raid at a West Hollywood car wash on July 4 resulted in the arrest of two employees.

The city of Beverly Hills did not join the lawsuit against the federal government. Unlike the neighboring cities of West Hollywood and Los Angeles, Beverly Hills does not have a “sanctuary city” policy



photo by Tabor Brewster

On July 8, one day after the ICE operation, children and families returned to MacArthur Park.

that prevents local law enforcement from assisting with immigration detentions. It is unclear what the Beverly Hills Police Department’s specific policy is in regards to assisting with federal immigration raids.

However, Assistant City Manager Ryan Gohlich said in a statement that the city “follows all state and federal laws regarding interacting with other government

entities, including law enforcement agencies.”

There has not been reported ICE activity in Beverly Hills.

In April, Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian said that a formal position on immigration raids was not a concern for the city.

“I don’t think it’s really in our privy. We’re responsible for local governing. That’s a federal situation,” Nazarian said.

Recovery efforts still underway in fire zones

From page 1

executive order on July 7 to more quickly rebuild homes and schools by suspending some building standards and codes and streamlining procedures for properties damaged or destroyed by the fires. Barger announced a blueprint for the county centered on waiving requirements and lowering rebuilding costs, expediting property tax relief, accelerating permitting and inspections and undergrounding overhead utilities.

“Local, state and federal governments are delivering the fastest wild-fire cleanup in U.S. history. Nearly 10,000 homes cleared, months

ahead of schedule, because recovery can’t wait,” Newsom said. “Now we turn the page to rebuilding, and we’re doing it with a clear plan, strong partnerships and the urgency this moment demands.”

“As we mark six months since these devastating fires, we recognize the historic actions taken to clear debris from thousands of properties in record time,” Barger said. “But this is only the beginning. We must move into the next phase – rebuilding – with the same determination and urgency. Backed by the state of California and other critical partners,

our L.A. County Forward Blueprint will drive a swift, resilient recovery and ensure our communities emerge stronger than ever.”

Newsom and Barger credited coordination between state and county leaders and the Army Corps of Engineers for the swift pace of the recovery effort. The near completion of the public debris removal program is six months ahead of schedule, they said. Of the 12,048 properties destroyed in the Palisades and Eaton fires, 9,873 utilized the Army Corps of Engineers’ free public debris removal program and 1,982 opted to complete the work themselves. Newsom announced on July 7 that 9,195 properties have been cleared and several hundred others are awaiting final approvals.

Newsom and Barger were joined at the July 7 event by Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo and Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Rachel Freeman. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass planned to attend but was unable to because of an unexpected federal immigration raid that day at MacArthur Park.

“I think we all woke up this morning with the same thought that it’s truly hard to believe it’s been six months since one of the worst natural disasters in state’s history, and although six months have passed,



photo by Edwin Folven

Rebuilding has yet to begin at many properties in Altadena.

Mortgage fund helps homeowners

As Los Angeles homeowners recover from the January wildfires, the state’s new CalAssist Mortgage Fund provides critical relief from ongoing mortgage payments.

Administered by the California Housing Finance Agency, the CalAssist Mortgage Fund provides eligible homeowners with grants for three months of mortgage payments, up to \$20,000.

Assistance is available to homeowners who meet eligibility criteria requiring that a primary residence was destroyed or is uninhabitable due to a qualified disaster from Jan. 1, 2023 through Jan. 8, 2025; meets program income limits; has a mort-

gage or reverse mortgage; and owns a single-family home, condo or per-

manently affixed manufactured home (may include up to 4 units).

Mortgage grants don’t have to be repaid, and applying to the program is free. For information, visit calassistmortgagefund.org.

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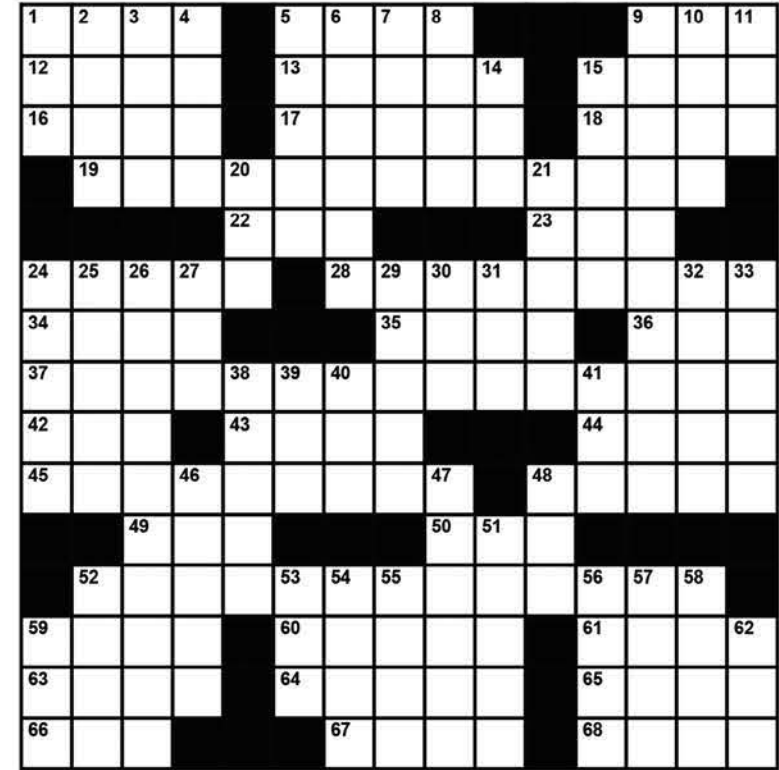
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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. Tooth tops
5. Famed Monty Python meat
9. Napoleonic marshal
12. Six-sided state
13. Part of the Cartesian coordinate system
15. Crystal ball gazer
16. Dog in Oz
17. One of the family
18. Cronies
19. Snappers
22. Hubbub
23. City on the Danube
24. Take ___ of
28. Monet subject
34. Weight allowance
35. Entre ___ (confidentially)
36. A boy named ___
37. Urban painters
42. Parisian summer
43. Certain coffee table shape
44. Spotted
45. Southwest's business
48. Male singing voice
49. Battery abbr.
50. World's largest volcano, Mauna ___
52. Mercator and Henry Pelham
59. Conduit
60. Everglades bird
61. "Pardon me"
63. Salt Lake athletes
64. Append
65. Clean out
66. "___ Rosenkavalier" (Strauss opera)



67. Own (up to)
68. Step on it

Down

1. Director's cry
2. Straddling
3. Trail
4. Drive away
5. Church council
6. Casino game
7. Downsizer
8. Glassy mineral
9. Narrowly avoided collisions
10. They're caught in pots
11. Calendar spans, abbr.
14. Third qtr. closer
15. Incantation
20. Really small amount
21. Writer Fannie
24. Not knowing what to do
25. Port-au-Prince is its capital
26. Do an office chore
27. Common Korean name
29. Foot part
30. ___ man
31. Where It's at
32. Stringed musical instruments
33. Kind of question
38. Defeat
39. "On the Beach" actress, Gardner
40. Loo, for short
41. 'Life ___ cabaret, ...'
46. Lowest mouldings
47. South American plains
48. Goes with humbug
51. Debuts, as a movie
52. Reference
53. Columbus Day mo.
54. Tennis great, Steffi
55. See red
56. Pitcher handles
57. Stat start
58. Navy commando
59. London dessert, abbr.
62. Abbr. on a French letter

answers on page 22

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