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Sunny with highs in the upper 70s

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Volume 36 No. 48 Serving Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Hancock Park and Miracle Mile November 26, 2026

City contractor killed in Beverly Hills crane collapse

■ Landscaper dies while performing routine maintenance

BY TABOR BREWSTER

An employee of a city-contracted landscaping company was killed on Nov. 22 when a crane collapsed near North Beverly Drive and Lomitas Avenue in Beverly Hills, authorities said.

The Beverly Hills Police Department received multiple 911 calls reporting the collapse at approximately 1:34 p.m. Police officers and Beverly Hills Fire Department personnel responded to the scene, where they found an unresponsive adult man.

Despite lifesaving efforts, the man was pronounced dead at the scene by fire personnel. His identity had not been disclosed as of Nov. 23.

The victim was employed by West Coast Arborists, a company contracted by the city to perform landscaping maintenance. No city employees were involved in the incident, according to police.

The equipment appeared to be a crane used for tree trimming along North Beverly Drive, which is lined with tall palm trees. The exact circumstances surrounding the collapse, including what caused the equipment to fall, remain unknown as of Nov. 23.

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, also known as Cal/OSHA, and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office were notified of the incident and responded to the scene. Beverly Hills police officers and detectives also launched a preliminary investigation.

The collapse prompted road closures in the area between Sunset



photo by Tabor Brewster

The incident occurred on North Beverly Drive on Nov. 22.

See **Crane collapse** page **22**

Raman, Friedman give thanks at Project Angel Food

■ Volunteers celebrate Thanksgiving in new facility

BY TABOR BREWSTER



photo by Tabor Brewster

L.A. Mayor-elect Nithya Raman and U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman helped prepare Thanksgiving dinners at Project Angel Food on Nov. 24.

Two days before Thanksgiving, Los Angeles Mayor-elect Nithya Raman and U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Burbank) joined volunteers in the kitchen at Project Angel Food in Hollywood to prepare the nonprofit's 22 millionth meal, marking a milestone in the organization's 37-year history of feeding Angelenos living with critical illnesses.

The elected officials toured the recently opened Chuck Lorre Family Foundation Kitchen & Campus on Nov. 24 as volunteers prepared thousands of medically-tailored Thanksgiving dinners for clients throughout Los Angeles County.

Throughout Thanksgiving Day, more than 150 volunteers, including Hollywood celebrities and elected officials, will gather at the facility to prepare and deliver 2,500 Thanksgiving meals to seriously ill Angelenos and their caregivers. The festivities mark the nonprofit's first Thanksgiving in its new kitchen, which was unveiled in February as part of a $51.5 million expansion of its Vine Street headquarters.

In an interview on Tuesday, Raman said organizations like Project Angel Food are as important to Hollywood's identity as the entertainment industry for which it is known internationally.

"Hollywood is the face of L.A. for many, many people. L.A. creates the world's culture, not just movies and television, but music and food and art," Raman said. "But what is also true about Los Angeles is its spirit of welcoming and inclusion, including many people who come here because they are struggling where they're coming from and they want to build a better life for themselves here. A place like Project Angel Food serves as a place of welcoming, and it serves as a place that supports people who are elderly, who may be at the end of careers and may not be able to struggle for that dream any longer. And so, this, as much as anything about Hollywood, I think shapes the fabric of Los Angeles."

Friedman echoed the sentiment, thanking the countless volunteers who have dedicated their time to helping their neighbors

See **Volunteers** page **21**

Hollywood Christmas Parade rings in the season

■ Festive annual event steps off on starry boulevard Nov. 29

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Santa Claus returns to Tinseltown on Nov. 29 for the 94th anniversary of the Hollywood Christmas Parade, which starts at 6 p.m. along an enormous red carpet in front of Ovation Hollywood and heads down Hollywood Boulevard.

Co-Grand Marshals Kevin Frazier and Nischelle Turner, hosts of "Entertainment Tonight," lead the parade, which is presented by Associated Television International and the city of Los Angeles. Erik Estrada and Laura McKenzie host the annual event, with co-hosts Montel Williams and Elizabeth Stanton. The Hollywood Christmas Parade benefits Marine Toys for Tots.

On Nov. 23, Santa Claus and his elves arrived on a sleigh and joined city leaders, dancers and vocal groups who will perform in the parade to announce the Hollywood holiday tradition. Los Angeles City Councilwoman



photo by Edwin Folven

Santa Claus made a special appearance on Nov. 23 to invite the community to the Hollywood Christmas Parade.

Heather Hutt, 10th District, said the parade represents the diversity of Los Angeles and provides an inexpensive way for families to experience the magic of the holidays.

"I am honored to be here representing the city of Los Angeles as we get ready for the 94th annual Hollywood Christmas Parade," Hutt said. "For almost a century, this tradition has been how Los Angeles kicks off the holiday season. It brings together our neighbors, our families and visitors

See **Christmas** page **21**

WeHo commission approves Sunset Cinema Project

■ Sunset Strip could see 84-foot-tall billboard

BY SENNA OMAR

The city of West Hollywood advanced plans for a new 84-foot-tall, two-sided billboard atop the existing SOFA Entertainment building on the Sunset Strip. The Planning Commission approved the project 5-0 on Nov. 19. Commissioner Jesi C. Harris was not present, and Vice Chair Rogerio Carvalheiro recused himself due to a conflict of interest.

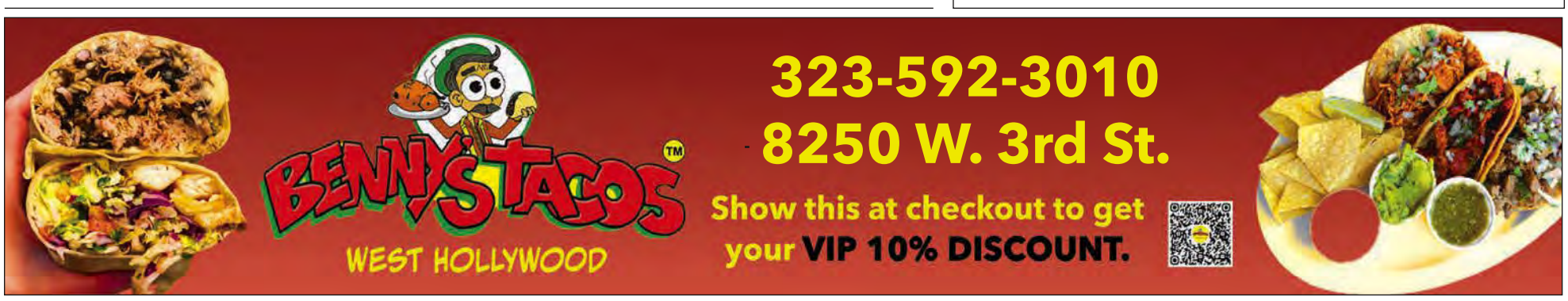
Known as the Sunset Cinema Project, Architect Florencia Pita & Co. designed the billboard to resemble a stage curtain, and it will be constructed from folded and perforated aluminum. The two-sided billboard would face Sunset Boulevard at a 77.75-degree angle and would offer about 950 square feet of visible advertising area.

Devin Carothers submitted the Sunset Cinema Project application on behalf of Orange Barrel Media.

Located on the north side of Sunset Boulevard, the billboard would sit atop a two-story French Revival commercial building Milten Bren constructed in 1935. The property is eligible for designation in West Hollywood's Commercial Historic Resources Survey as a cultural resource. Longtime owners of the property, the Solt family, have committed to the cultural resource designation once the billboard entitlements are granted, according to the project summary.

The project was submitted as part of the 2022 Design Excellence Screening program for Sunset Boulevard. West Hollywood's Sunset Boulevard Off-Site Signage Policy requires new billboard projects to demonstrate exceptional design while combining advertising, urban and architectural design, public art and public realm enhancements to improve the built envi-

See **Sunset Strip** page **22**



CALENDAR

'Charlie Brown Christmas'

David Benoit and his tribute to "A Charlie Brown Christmas" returns to the Catalina Jazz Club on Friday, Nov. 27, and Saturday, Nov. 28, at 8:30 p.m. "A Charlie Brown Christmas," which debuted in 1965, is a tradition enjoyed around the world by fans of all ages. More than 50 years later, contemporary jazz pianist Benoit and vocalist Courtney Fortune pay tribute to the incredible piece of entertainment history. Dinner begins at 7 p.m.; showtime at 8:30 p.m. Tickets start at $57. 6725 Sunset Blvd. catalinajazzclub.com.



Art of Abel Alejandre

LAUNCH Gallery presents Abel Alejandre's "Scenic: Landscapes of an Empire" running Saturday, Nov. 28, through Saturday, Dec. 19. The exhibition is the third installment of Xicanoland, an ongoing body of work built in chapters, that continues to expand as a living counter-archive. In the new series, the artist presents the nation itself: a contiguous tapestry of confederated states comprising plains surveyors mapped, coastlines fleets charted, valleys where the first launchpads rose and skylines beneath the sky gods. Gallery Hours are noon-5 p.m., Saturday, and by appointment. 170 S. La Brea Ave. #202. launchla.org.

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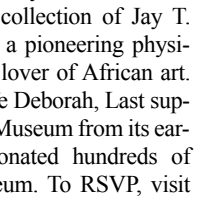
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'Elf in Concert'

Enjoy "Elf in Concert" on Saturday, Nov. 28, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 29, at 2 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Relive the heartwarming holiday classic starring Will Ferrell on a giant screen as every note of composer John Debney's score is played live to picture by the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. Tickets start at $78. 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.com.

Fritz Coleman

Fritz Coleman brings his "Unassisted Residency" show to the El Portal Theatre on Sunday, Nov. 29, at 3 p.m. Coleman is a senior, and that's the basis of "Unassisted Residency." The vital 70-something covers topics such as retirement, becoming vegan, pharmaceuticals, celebrating growing up and growing old. The show also features Coleman's favorite stories and observations about modern life. Coleman will host El Portal Theatre's centennial celebration on Saturday, Nov. 28, featuring a star-studded lineup of personalities, celebratory performances and recognitions. Admission to "Unassisted Residency" is $40. 5269 Lankershim Blvd. elportaltheatre.com/fritzcoleman.html.



Friends of Beverly Hills Library

Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library is holding its 50% off anything over $1 sale from Tuesday, Dec. 1, through Tuesday, Dec. 15, at the library. The sale benefits programs and activities. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m., Sunday. 444 N. Rexford Drive. friendsofbhpl.org.

Jay T. Last Collection

The Fowler Museum is holding "Lunch & Learn: Jay T. Last Collection at the Fowler," a virtual program on Tuesday, Dec. 1, from 12:30-1 p.m. Fowler curatorial specialist Haley L. Jones will shed light on the collection of Jay T. Last (1929–2021), a pioneering physicist and dedicated lover of African art. Along with his wife Deborah, Last supported the Fowler Museum from its earliest years and donated hundreds of works to the museum. To RSVP, visit ucla.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tuttH5mQRGSsWDuufw-4bw#/registration.

Tea With a Cop

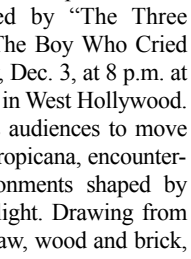
Join officers from the LAPD's Wilshire Division for Tea With a Cop on Wednesday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m.-noon at Marrakesh LA in the Melrose District. The event provides an opportunity for residents and community members to meet first responders in an informal environment and discuss concerns over tea. 7469 Melrose Ave. instagram.com/lapdwilshirestation/?hl=en.

Culver City Tree Lighting

Put on your mittens and reindeer hats for Downtown Culver City's annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Thursday, Dec. 3, from 5-8:30 p.m. at Town Plaza. The event includes the Sled-tacular Festival at 5 p.m. with 50 tons of fresh snow, carnival games and treats, followed by the tree lighting ceremony and countdown at 6 p.m. and visits with Santa Claus at 7 p.m. Admission is free. 9300 Culver Blvd. For pre-registration, snow sledding waivers and wristbands, visit downtownculvercity.com/events.

'La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin'

Latino Theater Company's annual holiday pageant "La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin," returns from Thursday, Dec. 3, through Saturday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, downtown. The production tells the story of Juan Diego, a peasant to whom the Virgin Mary appeared on four occasions in 1531 in the mountains of Tepeyac, near Mexico City. Starring Esperanza América as the Virgin and Sal Lopez as Diego, the cast features over 100 actors, singers and indigenous Aztec dancers. General admission is free; premium seating is available for $48. 555 W. Temple St. (213)489-0994, latinotheaterco.org.



Japanese fashion

Explore "The Making of Japan's Denim and Jeans Industry" in a talk by Dr. Rika Fujioka of the University of Tokyo on Thursday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. at Japan Foundation, Los Angeles. Fujioka explores the historical development of Japan's denim and jeans industry through the historical roots of denim production in the Bitchū and Bingo region, the influence of American jeans in postwar Japan and industry changes from the 1990s onward. Admission is free, but registration is requested. 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 100. la.jpf.go.jp.

Heidi Duckler Dance

Heidi Duckler Dance presents "Cry Wolf," an immersive performance experience inspired by "The Three Little Pigs" and "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" on Thursday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. at Beaches Tropicana in West Hollywood. "Cry Wolf" invites audiences to move through Beaches Tropicana, encountering shifting environments shaped by dance, music and light. Drawing from the materials of straw, wood and brick, each space becomes a living structure where choreography and sound reveal how systems of trust, communication and protection can fracture and reform. Tickets start at $20. 8911 Santa Monica Blvd. heididuckler.org.

Cocktails in Historic Places

The Art Deco Society returns to the Gallery Bar at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles for the annual Cocktails in Historic Places holiday tradition on Friday, Dec. 4, from 6-9 pm. Sip cocktails sparkling in the light of the hotel's lavish holiday decor, providing excellent photo opportunities. Holiday cocktails are available in addition to the regular drink menu. Festive holiday attire is encouraged. Admission is free, but registration is requested. 506 S. Grand Ave. artdeco-la.org/events-calendar/chp-biltmore-hotel-holiday-2026.

CASA 0101 Theater

CASA 0101 Theater presents an encore presentation of Josefina López's play "Real Women Have Curves" from Friday, Dec. 4, through Sunday, Dec. 20. Directed by Corky Dominguez, the play tells the story of five Latina women working in a tiny sewing factory in East Los Angeles in 1987 who are trying to meet an impossible production deadline while hiding from immigration authorities. Their determination, courage and juicy chisme (gossip) help them form a bond and discover their power. General admission is $30. See schedule for showtimes. 2102 E. First St. casa0101.org.

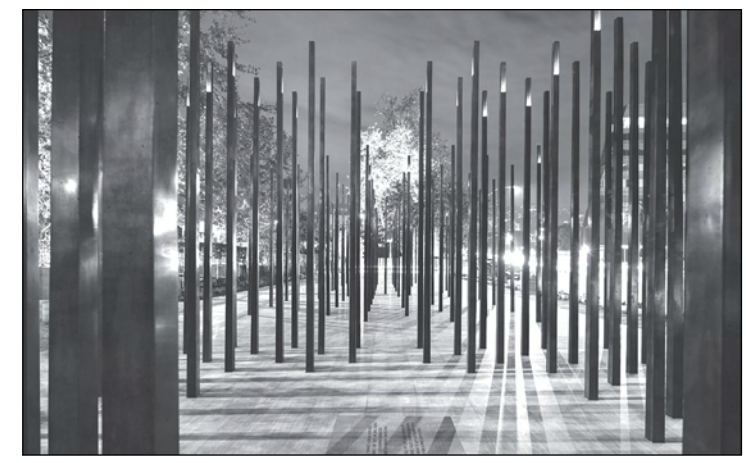


photo by Jon Viscott

The city presents "World AIDS Day 2026: A Reading of Names" at STORIES: The AIDS Monument in West Hollywood Park.

WeHo observes World AIDS Day

West Hollywood will observe World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, following the theme "Ending AIDS Starts with Access" and emphasizing the importance of equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and essential resources. The observance also calls attention to stigma, discrimination and funding barriers that prevent people from getting the support they need.

The city's AIDS Memorial Quilt panel will be on display from Dec. 1-Dec. 31 in the West Hollywood City Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., courtesy of the National AIDS Memorial. The panel honors colleagues who died from AIDS-related complications between 1984-93, offering a reminder of the epidemic's profound impact on West Hollywood.

Considered the largest community arts project in history, the AIDS Memorial Quilt serves as a powerful tribute to the lives lost to HIV/AIDS and a lasting symbol of remembrance, healing and advocacy. The quilt was conceived in November 1985 by human rights activist Cleve Jones, who was inspired by a candlelight march in San Francisco during which participants displayed the names of loved ones lost to AIDS. The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt was created as act of remembrance in 1987. World AIDs Day was first observed on Dec. 1, 1988.

The city funds and works with community-based organizations that connect people with HIV testing, prevention resources, care and supportive services. On Dec. 21, beginning at 12:01 a.m., the city will broadcast AIDSWatch, a 24-hour electronic art piece and memorial, on WeHoTV.

AIDSWatch presents one name, one memory, one life at a time, appearing on a black screen in stark white letters. To view AIDSWatch, visit youtube.com/wehotv.

On Dec. 1 at 6 p.m., the city is holding "World AIDS Day 2026: A Reading of Names" at STORIES: The AIDS Monument in West Hollywood Park, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. The program commences with a tribute to those lost to AIDS performed by members of the Los Angeles Ballet. The reading of names will take place on the monument site and culminate with a candle lighting ceremony.

The 26th Annual Paul Andrew Starke Warrior Awards will take place on Dec. 2 in the City Council Chambers. A reception begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the awards ceremony at 6 p.m. To register, visit go.weho.org/thewarriorawards. For information about World AIDS Day, visit

West Hollywood Day celebrates 42 years of cityhood and spirit

The city of West Hollywood invites the community to celebrate 42 years of cityhood at the annual West Hollywood Day community celebration on Monday, Nov. 30, from 6-8:30 p.m. at the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center.

The event will highlight West Hollywood's vibrant spirit and civic pride. With the theme "Strong Roots. Bold Future," the event honors the city's history, legacy of progress and the people and partnerships that have shaped West Hollywood, while also looking ahead to the next chapter.

In a footprint of just 1.9 square miles, West Hollywood brings together an extraordinary mix of people, ideas, culture, creativity and community. From the Sunset Strip and historic Santa Monica Boulevard to the vibrant Rainbow District, Design District and neighborhoods that give the city a distinctive character, West Hollywood has long been a place where people come to express themselves, challenge convention and create what comes next.

The city continually sets new standards for municipalities. It is a leader in social movements including HIV and AIDS advocacy, affordable and inclusionary housing, LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, human rights, animal rights and environmental protection. The city's identity is rooted in diversity, inclusion, innovation and a sense of belonging.

Join city staff and officials for an evening of festivity featuring appetizers, beverages and a formal program. Admission is free; RSVPs are requested via Eventbrite at wehoday2026.eventbrite.com.

The West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center is located at 8750 El Tovar Place.

For information, visit weho.org/community/cityhood.

BHUSD board lawsuit heads to court Dec. 1

■ Lifschitz argues Stern should serve as vice president in 2027

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A Beverly Hills Unified School District parent who sued the district in January over its Board of Education's vice presidency is now seeking a court order to install board member Amanda Stern as vice president in 2027 and president in 2028.

The lawsuit, filed by attorney Daniel Lifschitz against the district, Board President Judy Manouchehri, Vice President Sigalie Sabag and Board Member Russell Stuart, is scheduled to go to trial on Dec. 1 before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Tiana J. Murillo.

In a series of court filings ahead of the trial, Lifschitz and attorneys representing the district and the three board members outlined their opposing arguments, including whether Stern violated California's open meeting law and whether the court has the authority to determine the board's leadership for the next two years.

The lawsuit stems from the board's Dec. 16, 2025, organizational meeting, during which Manouchehri, Sabag and Stuart voted to elect Sabag as vice president, despite a board bylaw that established a rotational system for selecting the vice president based on trustees' length of service and the number of votes they received in their most recent citywide election.

Under the rotation, Stern was next in line to serve as vice president.

At a Jan. 13 meeting, board members accused Stern of violating the Brown Act by privately communicating with fellow trustees about the vice presidency ahead of the December meeting. On Jan. 27, one day after Lifschitz filed the lawsuit, the board amended its bylaws to eliminate the rotational system and subsequently reelected Sabag in a 3-2 vote. The board also eliminated the clause that prohibited board members from serving more than one year as either vice president or president.

In his Oct. 2 trial brief, Lifschitz argued that the board was legally obligated to elect Stern under the bylaws in effect at the time of the December meeting.

"This case is about whether a public school board may break its own rules, then contrive an excuse to rewrite them on the fly and seize a result the law forbids," Lifschitz wrote.

While Lifschitz initially sought to compel the board to elect Stern as vice president for the remainder of 2026, he now argues that delays in the litigation have effectively deprived Stern of her opportunity to serve in the position and that she should instead serve as vice president in 2027 and president in 2028.

In a Nov. 2 court filing, attorneys representing the respondents argued that the board acted within its authority in amending its bylaws and subsequently reelecting Sabag. They also maintained that Stern's communications with fellow trustees constituted a violation of the Brown Act, citing deposition testimony obtained during the litigation.

According to the filing, Sabag and Stuart testified that Stern had sought their support for her vice presidency ahead of the December meeting. Manouchehri also testified that Board Member Rachelle Marcus told her that Stern had sought her vote.

However, Lifschitz disputed the allegations, citing Stern's own deposition testimony and arguing that the individual conversations did not constitute an unlawful serial meeting. He also challenged the admissibility of Manouchehri's testimony regarding Marcus, who was not deposed in the case.

The respondents further argued that even if no Brown Act violation occurred, the board had the authority to reconsider its December election.

Attorneys for the respondents also argued that Lifschitz's request to install Stern as vice president in 2027 and president in 2028 extends beyond the scope of the original lawsuit and would interfere with the authority of future school boards.

"Mr. Lifschitz would like the court to decide those future elections now, for members who are not before the court, under a bylaw that no longer exists. That the court should not do," attorneys for the respondents wrote.

On Nov. 9, attorneys for the respondents submitted a request for judicial notice of the Nov. 3 election results, citing a change in the composition of the board. Manouchehri secured reelection, while district parent David Cienfuegos is set to succeed Marcus on the board.



screenshot courtesy of BHUSD via YouTube

Attorney and district parent Daniel Lifschitz filed the lawsuit in January, challenging the board's selection of vice president.

Dan Lifschitz' wife Kim Lifschitz also ran unsuccessfully for a seat on the board in the recent election, finishing in fourth place behind her ally Jackie Kruger. The two sought to bring new leadership to the district and publicly opposed the current board majority.

In a Nov. 13 reply brief, Lifschitz argued that Manouchehri's reelection bolstered his case, as all three trustees named in the lawsuit will remain on the board and constitute a majority capable of electing Stern. He argued the court could grant the requested relief without compelling Cienfuegos to vote for Stern.

Lifschitz characterized the case as a bellwether for the board's future actions.

"John Stuart Mill once said that the triumph of evil requires little more than for good men to look on and do nothing," Lifschitz said in a statement. "I filed this case because I suspected the board's treatment of Dr. Stern presaged a new era of lawlessness for BHUSD unless somebody stood up to them, and over the last 10 months, they have proven me right at every turn."

He further alleged that the district has attempted to retaliate against himself and his family.

"For the sin of seeking accountability, they went after my job, my wife and my disabled child," Lifschitz continued. "They violated court orders, lied under oath and paid six figures to five sets of lawyers in defense of petty tyranny. None of it saved them from next week's trial, where I intend to prove once and for all that the law is not merely a polite suggestion. Hopefully the message will reach them."

A BHUSD spokesperson said the district does not comment on ongoing litigation.

The board is scheduled to hold its next annual organizational meeting on Dec. 15, two weeks after the trial, to select its leadership for 2027.





photo by Edwin Folven

Firefighters sprayed the building with water to ensure the fire didn't flare up again.

Early morning fire destroys strip mall on Pico Boulevard

■ Origin and cause of the blaze remain under investigation

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Firefighters battled a major blaze on Nov. 24 that caused heavy damage to a strip mall at 5954 W. Pico Blvd., at Hi Point Street between Fairfax and La Cienega boulevards. LAFD Battalion Chief Cody Weireter said the fire was reported at 4:45 a.m. and may have started inside a bakery or restaurant in the strip mall.

When firefighters arrived, flames had already spread through an attic to other businesses in the one-story L-shaped building. After it was determined no one was inside the businesses, which were closed at the time, firefighters began battling the fire from the exterior, Weireter said.

"We had to go to defensive operations, where we pull everybody out of the building, and then we had to do heavy hose streams from above into the roof to knock down the bulk of the fire," he added. "It was just too dangerous. We had a façade collapse in the front of the building. Fortunately, we had no firefighters injured and there were no civilian injuries reported."

The flames were extinguished at 5:57 a.m. Firefighters remained at the scene for hours, spraying the burned structure with water to ensure the fire didn't flare up again. LAFD arson investigators were called to the scene to determine the specific origin and cause of the fire. The building was so badly damaged that the investigation will be lengthy, Weireter said.

"The positive thing is we were able to confine it to that strip mall, and we were able to save the 7-Eleven next door and also prevent it from extending to any [buildings] nearby," he added.

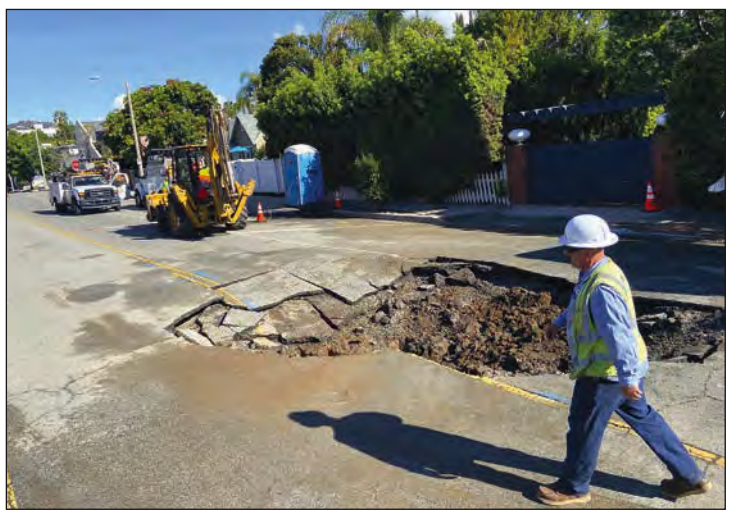


photo by Edwin Folven

The pipe rupture opened a large hole in the northbound traffic lanes on Vista Street.

Water main rupture creates geyser on Vista Street

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A water main break in the 900 block of North Vista Street near the West Hollywood border sent a geyser of water into the air on Nov. 23 before a Los Angeles Department of Water and Power crew shut off the water.

The rupture was reported around 2:30 a.m. on Vista Street, just north of Willoughby Avenue. Twenty-two customers lost water service until it was restored around 10:30 a.m., LADWP spokeswoman Riana Basuel said. The rupture occurred on an eight-inch underground pipe dating to 1967.

Crews excavated the area, replaced the damaged pipe and repaved the street by 6:30 p.m.

Third death linked to Six Flags X2 roller coaster

■ Beverly Hills attorney condemns alleged safety failures after investigation

BY TABOR BREWSTER



photo courtesy of Dordick Law

The X2 roller coaster at Six Flags Magic Mountain permanently closed in September.

A third death has been linked to Six Flags Magic Mountain's now-retired X2 roller coaster, according to a new investigation that also raises questions about California regulators' oversight of the attraction.

The investigation, published Nov. 17 by ProPublica and L.A. Material, identified 17-year-old Christopher Gibson of Colorado, who died June 4 after visiting the amusement park with his mother to celebrate his high school graduation.

Beverly Hills-based attorney Gary Dordick, who represents more than 150 former X2 riders alleging injuries from the roller coaster, condemned the findings in a statement on Nov. 23.

"Another tragic, unnecessary death of a young man on X-2," Dordick said. "This pattern of deaths and catastrophic brain injuries confirm the serious flaws in the maintenance and design of this ride. Additionally, the lack of regulatory oversight is despicable. Time after time, the state regulators failed to conduct necessary inspections."

According to the investigation, Gibson rode X2 on June 2 and 3. After his second ride, he developed a severe headache and returned to his hotel with his mother. His condition worsened, and he was found unresponsive the following afternoon. Paramedics pronounced him dead June 4.

An autopsy determined that Gibson died from blunt force head trauma, with a large subdural hemorrhage. Investigators have not conclusively established whether X2 caused his injuries.

On July 2, a Los Angeles County sheriff's detective emailed an official with the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, commonly known as Cal/OSHA, advising that Gibson may have suffered an injury while visiting the park. The official did not respond until late August, following a second email from the detective.

During that time, two other riders suffered catastrophic brain injuries after riding X2.

On July 5, Pamela Guillen, 39, suffered a massive brain hemorrhage after riding X2 with her teenage daughter. Six days later, Naomi Greer-Wilkinson, 25, suffered a similar injury that left her in a minimally conscious state, according to lawsuits filed against Six Flags.

Both women required emergency brain surgery.

Dordick's firm has filed lawsuits on behalf of Guillen, Greer-Wilkinson and Michael Wilk, an attorney who alleges he suffered severe neurological injuries after riding X2 in February.

The complaints accuse Six Flags, the roller coaster's manufacturers and several company officials of negligence, defective design, failure to warn and fraudulent concealment, among other claims.

Gibson's death follows two other deaths previously linked to X2, involving Hilda Farias in 2010 and Christopher Hawley in 2022. Both families filed lawsuits that were subsequently settled.

The ProPublica investigation found that Magic Mountain reported at least 70 head injuries involving X2 to state regulators since 2010. In many cases, regulators conducted minimal or no investigation, according to the report.

Dordick previously told the Beverly Press that he believed a combination of design and maintenance problems contributed to the injuries.

"We know obviously there's either a problem in the design of the ride or in the maintenance of the ride. We believe it's a combination of both," he said.

Six Flags has maintained that X2 complied with safety requirements and underwent extensive inspections throughout its nearly two decades of operation. The ride stopped operating on July 12 and was permanently retired in September.

"While X2 consistently passed a multitude of safety tests, we decided to close the ride because we believe it's the right thing to do," Six Flags Magic Mountain Park President Brian Oerding said when the attraction's permanent retire-

See **Roller coaster** page **20**

Police arrest three men for Hollywood Hills break-ins

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Three male suspects were arrested on Nov. 17 following burglaries in separate neighborhoods in the Hollywood Hills and Sherman Oaks.

Two of the men allegedly broke into a home belonging to professional tennis player Sloane Stevens around 9:24 p.m. in the 3900 block of Alomar Drive in the Sherman Oaks side of the hills. The U.S. Open tennis champion was not home at the time, but other occupants of the residence confronted the suspects, who fled. No property was taken, LAPD Lt. Elpidio Orozco said.

At 11:17 p.m., the same two men attempted to burglarize a residence in the 7300 block of Mulholland Drive, located on the west side of the Cahuenga Pass, he added. The suspects were seen on security cameras jumping a fence and entering the yard, and fled when confronted by a resident. The two suspects entered a vehicle driven by a third man and left the area.

Officers from the LAPD's Metropolitan Division, which specializes in crime suppression, located the suspects' vehicle a short time later and attempted to pull it over. A pursuit ensued, with police following the suspects to the city of Gardena where the vehicle crashed into a retaining wall in the 13500 block of Daphne Avenue around 11:20 p.m., Orozco said.

The three men were taken into custody and booked for burglary.

See **Burglary suspects** page **20**

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photo courtesy of the Hollywood Food Coalition

Hundreds of people come together annually at the coalition's Thanksgiving meal with holiday entertainment.

Coalition ensures community has a Thanksgiving feast

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Hollywood Food Coalition welcomed hundreds of people on Nov. 25 for a pre-Thanksgiving feast with all the trimmings.

The dinner, held for the fourth year at Television City, also included live music and gift bags filled with essential items.

Hollywood Food Coalition Executive Director Arnali Ray said food insecurity continues to be a serious problem and the need is greater than ever. The meal service provides a comforting environment for people who might not otherwise have a holiday dinner.

"This year, with public benefits getting cut like CalFresh, and with grocery prices rising, we are just bracing ourselves for more of a need," Ray said.

The pre-Thanksgiving dinner was open to the public and invited guests and clients served by the Hollywood Food Coalition, which holds a nightly dinner service on weekdays from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Salvation Army Hollywood Campus, and on weekends from 6-7 p.m. at the corner of Orange Drive and Romaine Street. The coalition, which serves approximately 100,000 meals annually, also operates a community exchange that recovers food from restaurants and business and distributes it to community-based organizations, which in turn provide food to people in need.

Ray said the pre-Thanksgiving dinner was made possible through the support of more than 100 volunteers and supporters. For information, visit hofoco.org.



photo courtesy of the office of Laura Friedman

Congresswoman Laura Friedman helped distribute meals to individuals in West Hollywood prior to Thanksgiving.

U.S. Rep. Friedman hands out meals in WeHo's Plummer Park

BY SENNA OMAR

U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Burbank) joined Jewish Family Services LA to distribute packaged meals to unhoused Angelenos on Nov. 24, ahead of Thanksgiving.

"This Thanksgiving, too many Angelenos are having to make the impossible decision between putting food on the table or keeping a roof over their heads," Friedman said. "Events like the one I volunteered at today with Jewish Family Services LA help give our neighbors in need some peace of mind by providing food and other essentials to keep them fed and warm."

Dozens of families and individuals gathered at West Hollywood's Plummer Park, near the Comprehensive Service Center, to collect pre-packaged meals, canned goods and an assortment of snacks and beverages.

"I'm thankful to represent in a community that cares so much about one another," Friedman said. "I'll continue to fight for the resources my community needs to thrive."

Friedman also joined volunteers and staff from Home Again LA to distribute groceries and turkeys to local families in need on Nov. 14.

The volunteer efforts come after more than 5.5 million Americans were forced off SNAP because of the One, Big Beautiful Bill Act and a new proposal from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that would kick an additional 6 million Americans off nutrition assistance programs, making it harder for families to afford their Thanksgiving holiday, Friedman said.

Thousands thankful at 13th District turkey giveaway

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Approximately 9,000 people were given a free Thanksgiving turkey on Nov. 20 during a holiday food distribution organized by Los Angeles City Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, and the Dream Center in Echo Park.

The 13th District Office partnered with the Dream Center, dozens of nonprofits and community organizations to collect donated frozen turkeys and distribute them to people in need. Two-hundred volunteers staffed the event at the Dream Center and approximately 9,000 turkeys were handed out.

"I waited in line since 7 a.m. and I was about the tenth person in line," said Rupert Agee, a Compton resident who received a free turkey at the event. "I'm glad to get one, and lucky. The line goes way back. There are a lot of people who need it this year."



photo by Edwin Folven

Volunteer Gigo Gomez, right, handed out turkeys at the Dream Center, putting him in the holiday spirit.

The nonprofit Dream Center, located at 2301 Bellevue Ave., offers community support, free residential recovery, transitional housing, food distribution and neighborhood outreach. The organization serves families, foster youth, veterans, displaced individuals and people in need.



photo by Edwin Folven

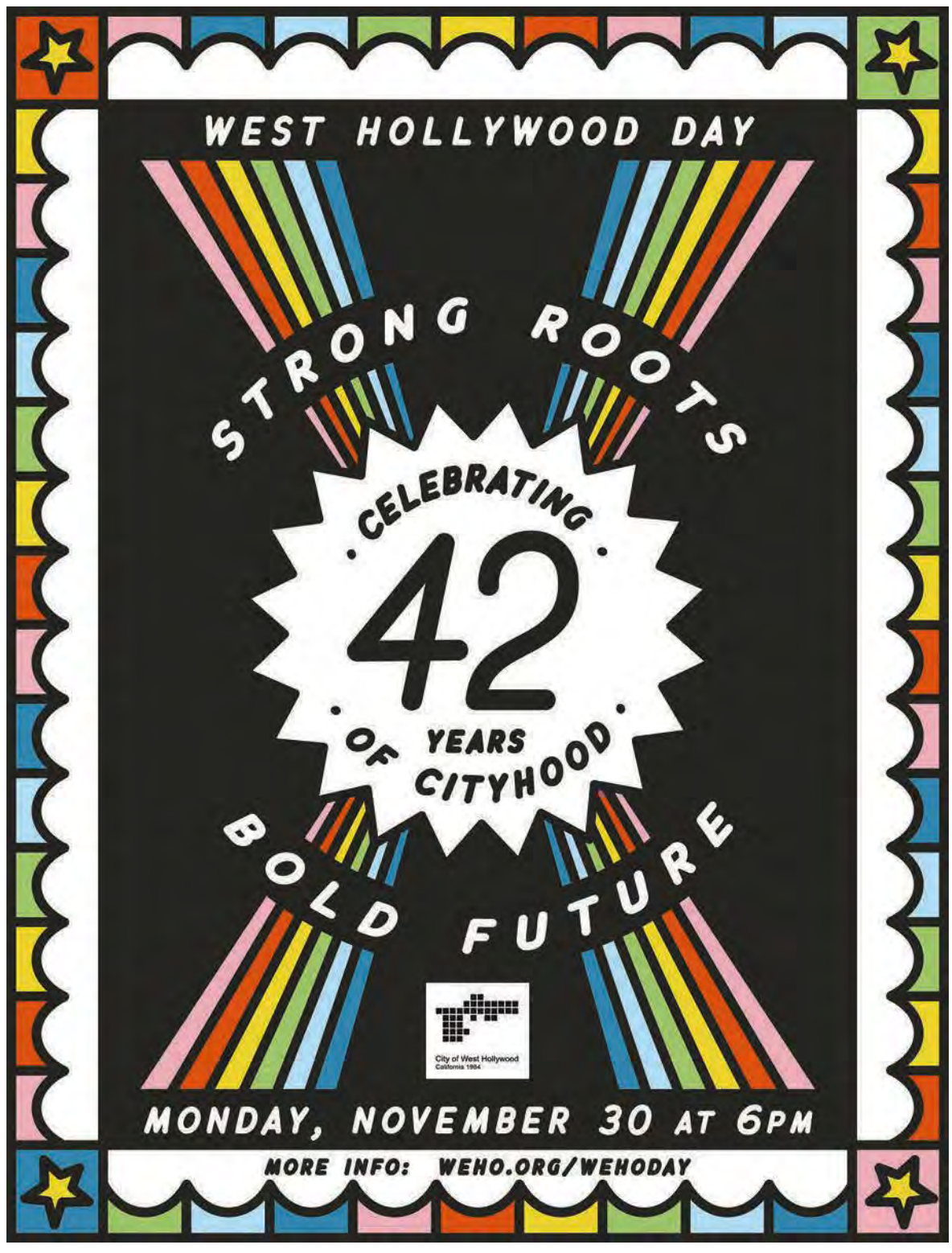
Rupert Agee was thankful to receive a donated turkey.

Soto-Martinez said he is proud to help make the holidays better for people in his district.

"This is what community is all about, showing up for one another and making sure everyone can share in the joy of Thanksgiving." Soto-Martinez said. "Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers, community partners and nonprofit organizations who helped us distribute 9,000 turkeys to families across CD 13."

Echo Park resident and volunteer Gigo Gomez said handing out turkeys put him in the holiday spirit.

"It feels like I'm giving back," Gomez said. "I volunteer because I am part of the community, and I'm proud of what Hugo and the CD 13 team has done for the community, as well as the Dream Center."



Happy Thanksgiving

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Lauren Meister bids farewell to the WeHo City Council

BY SENNA OMAR

West Hollywood City Councilwoman Lauren Meister is departing the council, as is Mayor John Heilman. Their last City Council meeting was on Nov. 16. Meister has served on the City Council since 2015.

"I've enjoyed almost every minute of it, and it's been an enormous experience," Meister said. "It's been such a rewarding experience, and I wouldn't have missed it for all the world."

Before becoming a councilwoman, Meister attended every City Council and planning commission meeting. She first got involved in West Hollywood through her neighborhood, where she was the neighborhood watch block captain. She then served as president of the West Hollywood West Residents Association in 2000.

"I realized that as much as a neighborhood association or as an individual, as a resident, you could go and speak your peace, it wasn't always very easy to get changes," Meister said. "The best way to make changes is to actually be inside rather than outside."

She ran for council in 2003 and 2009, and succeeded in 2015. She said that although she lost the first two elections, they helped her get her name out there. After her first two campaigns, Meister became a public safety commissioner for the city, before moving on to the City Council.

Meister was reelected in 2019 and again in 2022. She served two terms as mayor of the city, from April 2016 to May 2017 and September 2021 to January 2023.

During her 12 years on the City Council, Meister focused on planning and zoning initiatives, expanding public safety, protecting rent-stabilized units, increasing community involvement, maintaining the city's status as a safe haven for marginalized communities and animal welfare.

She also put forward several initiatives on "the little things" to improve quality of life for West Hollywood residents and make the city "greener." Examples include installing emergency call boxes at public locations throughout the city; a construction fence art program that requires construction fences on commercial developments to feature temporary art installations; free sunscreen and hand sanitizer stations in parks; improvements to Plummer Park; and a tree giveaway and monthly tree-planting program to expand the city's urban forest.

"We made the city more beautiful … and greener," Meister said. "We don't have a lot of park space, and we're one of the densest cities west of the Mississippi, and so having these makes things greener. Everybody likes green."

The initiative Meister believes she is best known for is the city's Drag Laureate program. The West Hollywood drag laureate serves as an ambassador for the city's vibrant drag and arts culture. In 2023, the council unanimously approved Pickle as the city's inaugural drag laureate. Odious Ari is the city's current drag laureate and the first drag king in the world to hold an official drag laureate title.

"The Drag Laureate program was something that took off in a way that I never imagined," Meister said. "I think it's wrong because the reason council members are elected is to make those decisions for their community because they know their community best."

Meister's favorite part about West Hollywood is the people.

"You know your neighbors. You know people. You walk on the street," Meister's said. "We're just much more community-minded than, say, some other cities."

Now, Meister plans to "decompress" and continue working her day job at the Emergency Network Los Angeles, the voluntary organization active in disaster that serves Los Angeles County.

"I expect we're going to be quite busy this winter with El Niño and whatever other disasters happen," Meister said. "I'm sure I'll keep busy no matter what."



photo courtesy of Lauren Meister

Lauren Meister has served on the West Hollywood City Council for 12 years. Pictured in 2015.



Heilman honored for service in WeHo

■ Longtime leader leaves City Council

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

After more than four decades of service on the West Hollywood City Council, colleagues, city staff and friends of outgoing Mayor John Heilman paid tribute to him on Nov. 17 at a reception held in the Council Chambers.

Former City Councilwoman Abbe Land hosted the privately organized gathering and the city provided the event space for the tribute and reception. Proclamations from numerous federal, state and local officials were read aloud including messages by U.S. Sens. Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla (both D-Calif.), U.S. Rep Laura Friedman (D-Burbank), California Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) and Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District. Schiff and Friedman recently delivered remarks on the floor of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, respectively, in recognition of Heilman, and the tributes were entered into the Congressional Record. Heilman, who completed his ninth time serving as mayor, presided over his last City Council meeting on Nov. 16. He leaves the council due to term limits after serving near-continuously since West Hollywood's incorporation in 1984.

Heilman, who is well-known for shying away from attention, spoke briefly at the end of the reception before greeting friends and colleagues one-on-one and individually thanking them. A full-time professor at Southwestern Law School since 2012, Heilman asked politely that nobody ask him what he is going to do next, stating he is looking forward to doing "nothing," having served the public and worked in the private sector for decades. Instead of listing accomplishments, Heilman said the credit belongs to the people he served with and the staff who keep the city functioning.

"I really appreciate seeing so many of you tonight, and I appreciate the reminders of all of the things that we've done together over so many years," he said. "I often times feel like we are not giving credit to the people who really deserve it, and those are the incredible staff at City Hall, and some of them are here tonight. So please join me in thanking them, and of course, all of the commissioners and all the wonderful people in this community that give us all the opportunity to serve in this way."

Tributes were paid to Heilman by members of the Russian-speaking community and older adults community, as well as former West Hollywood City Councilman John Duran and Heilman's former deputy, Fran Solomon. One of the most poignant tributes of the evening came from Heilman's longtime friend Jim Curtis.

"I had the great good fortune to meet John on our first day at USC Law School. He has been my best friend ever since," Curtis said. "It's a little emotional at times, but I want you to know that beyond the personal connection I have with John, I also have a professional one as well. I am very fortunate to be on the faculty with John at Southwestern, and I can tell you that he is one of the most effective educators in America. His students view him as one of their favorite professors because of his quality instruction, and also because of his generosity of spirit and kindness."

Duran cited Heilman's work and leadership during the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s and early 1990s and said he was critical in ensuring that people who were affected received support.

"I've known John since 1985, a long time, and I want to speak on behalf of those people who are not here, but who are forever deeply indebted to John and what he created," Duran said. "John Heilman did something that was extraordinary in the history of this movement, because John Heilman and the late Jodi Curlee came up with the idea that in order to provide services to all these men that were getting sick, that the city was going to have to take its tax dollars and invest it in community-based organizations. John's vision to take the tax dollars of the city of West Hollywood and put it into these organizations allowed them to triple, quadruple and quintuple their staff and their budgets and their presence in this community. And not only did we handle HIV and AIDS, we set the groundwork for marriage equality. If you can connect all the dots, you will see where the first dot starts."

Land said it has been an honor to work together with Heilman on the council and in the city for so many years, and thanked him for his contributions.



photo by Edwin Folven

Outgoing Mayor John Heilman, right, thanked friends, colleagues and staff during a reception on Nov. 17.

"I will say that a lot of what West Hollywood is, is because of his leadership and the role that he has played on the council and in the community," Land said. "For any of you who know John, he actually hates when people recognize him and say nice things about him. But we are really glad to be able to be here and say these words for John."



To the warm glow of everything

by Chris Erskine



Random thoughts while lighting the fireplace and waiting for the Rams-Packers game to begin:

• Trees are my wind chimes.

• Gratitude is my gravy.

• L.A. is my stolen car.

• Doesn't Gordon Lightfoot sound like November?

• Doesn't Joni Mitchell sound like snow?

• Best seasonal wooooooosh: a fireplace starting up.

• Best thud: an old chili pot clunking the stove.

• Save the date: Bears host Packers on Christmas Day (preferably in the snow).

• Warn your date: The Super Bowl is Feb. 14 at SoFi (possibly in the rain).

• Snowflakes in the oaks? Angels in the ivy? Check out "Enchanted" at Descanso Gardens, nightly through Dec. 27.

• "Always be on the lookout for the presence of wonder." – E.B. White

• To me, rain on the roof always sounds like Brubeck.

• Trait of great conversationalists? They listen.

• Not sure the Chargers could beat St. Francis High.

• But how about those Lakers?

• What happened to all the great ventriloquists?

• What happened to anchovies on Caesar salads?

• Need to get the kids out of the house this weekend? Try the public viewing deck at Santa Monica Airport.

• The Macy's parade still makes me think of Maureen O'Hara and Natalie Wood.

• Do you believe in miracles? I believe in Al Michaels, football's eminence grise.

• Best laugh in a holiday film? "Those aren't pillows!"

• Trivia time: Which president made Thanksgiving an official holiday?

• "To me, the greatest pleasure of writing is not what it's about, but the inner music that words make." – Truman Capote

• In my opinion, Greg Olsen is the funniest, most-listenable NFL analyst.

• And poor, befuddled Troy Aikman ain't worth the money.



photo by Crhis Erskine

Among the pleasures of November: the wind through the trees.

• Cause for pause: College football ratings are down more than 6% this season.

• Meanwhile, the NFL is up 2%.

• I just don't get the NFL's love of Super Bowl rap-time shows.

• My halftime dream act? The Grambling Marching Band.

• Or Bruno Mars and Stevie Wonder.

• Or Kermit and Miss Piggy.

• FYI, compassion is like an anti-venom.

• Sprinkle it on your Wheaties.

• Spread it on your bread.

• "Religion is the function of the heart." – Mahatma Gandhi

• So is Thanksgiving.

• Jake Bauers going to Boston reminds me of the Cubs letting Kyle Schwarber get away.

• Overheard: "I miss the days when AI meant Allen Iverson and SI meant Sports Illustrated."

• Five movies that feel like November: "While You Were Sleeping," "Ordinary People," "Three Days of the Condor," "Dead Poets Society," "Planes, Trains & Automobiles."

• What'd I miss?

• For the record: I like when you send me little notes, on torn notebook paper, folded a dozen times, like in fifth grade.

• Cause for hope: While everyone bags on the changes in college football, UCLA's Bob Chesney brings us a feel-good Cinderella story.

• Thanks, Coach.



photo courtesy of Paramount

The beloved trunk scene from "Planes, Trains & Automobiles."

• Favorite Chesney story: He made the players learn the names of the locker room janitors.

• FYI, I'll miss that slice-of-the-past Burbank Airport.

• But props to Burbank for building a roomy and handsome new airport on time and on budget.

• Meanwhile, over at LAX …

• Don't understand how LAX, run by the city of L.A., is never a campaign issue.

• Chesney for mayor!

• Best Thanksgiving movie scene? I'll nominate the trunk scene in "Planes, Trains & Automobiles."

• That ending was Steve Martin's "Jimmy Stewart moment."

• And John Candy's triumph.

• Laughter is our finest feast.

• Holidays are our finest homecomings.

• Thank you, John Hughes.

• Thank you, Frank Capra.

• "Whoever keeps installing stadium floodlights in new cars, please stop. I'm trying to drive home, not experience the second coming of Jesus." – Pelle Martens on Substack

• Golden retrievers are pumpkins sprung to life.

• And puppies are an extra slice of pie.

• Trivia answer: Among other accomplishments, Abraham Lincoln was the president who proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday.

• Favorite dessert topping: Tums.

• Favorite encore? A towering turkey sandwich the next day. On white bread, Swiss cheese, garlic mayo.

• Life is good – sometimes.

• Actually, life is as good as you decide to make it.

• "Life is just a short walk from the cradle to the grave, and it behooves us to be kind to one another along the way." – writer Alice Childress

• Thanks for Thanksgiving.

• And for the warm glow of everything.

Happy Thanksgiving!



photo by Jon Viscott, courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

Tickets are on sale for ice skating, special events and winter fun at West Hollywood Park.

WeHo Winter Ice Rink skates into town on Dec. 11

Winter magic comes to the heart of West Hollywood with the return of the WeHo Winter Ice Rink from Friday, Dec. 11, through Sunday, Jan. 3, on the Great Lawn at West Hollywood Park. Ice skaters are invited to break out their best arabesque, camel spin, Biellmann spin, spiral or simply work on staying upright during 90-minute skating sessions.

The West Hollywood Winter Ice Rink will be open Monday through Wednesday from 4-9:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday from 2-9:30 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday from noon-9:30 p.m.

The cost per 90-minute session is $15-$20 for skaters ages 3-15 and $20-$25 for those ages 16 and older. Skate rental is included with admission. Throughout the season, the West Hollywood Winter Ice Rink will feature special events, theme nights, live DJs, family-friendly activities and festive fun.

Highlights include the grand opening celebration on Friday, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m.; the Rainbow District Winter Market, running Dec. 11-13; WeHo Winter Wonderland on Dec. 12; and a Polar Plunge Pool Party on Sunday, Dec. 13, at the West Hollywood Aquatic Center.

On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, Christmas Day, Dec. 25, New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 and New Year's Day, Jan. 1, the ice rink will be open from 2-9:30 p.m.

West Hollywood Park is located at 647 N. San Vicente Blvd. For information and to purchase tickets, visit wehoicerink.com.



Stephen Post shares plans for WeHo City Council

BY SENNA OMAR

Incoming West Hollywood City Councilman Stephen Post won one of three seats up in the general election. Post and candidate Helen Krieger will replace Mayor John Heilman and Councilwoman Lauren Meister, whose last City Council meeting was on Nov. 16. Councilwoman Chelsea Byers was also reelected to her seat on the council.

Krieger and Post will be sworn in on Monday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. during the regular meeting of the West Hollywood City Council.

"I think this whole election cycle was a year of change," Post said. "It was time for someone young and new to come in and continue to build on the legacy that other young folks like Councilmember Byers have been able to do."

Post, age 30, was the youngest person to run in this election cycle and said he wanted to represent younger people. He ran on a campaign focused on opposing the city's current contracts with Flock Safety, expanding affordable housing, protecting West Hollywood's small businesses and improving public safety.

"I think it's really important for me to continue to be responsive to residents rather than special interests," Post said. "I know over a million dollars was spent on this most recent election, and I won with just around $35,000. And so I'm coming into council with the ability to be independent, and I'm really excited to be that independent voice on council that I think the residents need."

He moved to West Hollywood with his partner from Ohio in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Post graduated with a master's in public administration from Ohio State University and served as president of the council of graduate students.

While in Ohio, Post also served on the planning commission for the city of Columbus, where he said he gained skills in understanding planning and land use.

"That was my first foray into the political landscape," Post said. "I think that really has prepared me well for West Hollywood, especially when you think about the intersection between rent stabilization and the need to build new housing."

Now that he is elected, Post said his first priority is to end the city's contracts with Flock Safety.

"I heard from constituents that they do not want mass surveillance in our city," Post said. "That West Hollywood should not be contributing to a system that is trapping and harming immigrants, that is trapping and harming our LGBTQ folks and even trapping and harming women seeking abortions."

In his experience as a business program manager at the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, Post said keeping West Hollywood streets safe and clean is the best way to keep business in the city alive.

A big piece of that in West Hollywood is ensuring we can get individuals off those streets so they're not just in front of storefronts," Post said. "I think the city needs to continue to try to do things that pedestrianize our streets and ensure that we can have large events that attract folks to the city."

Before running for council, Post served as a West Hollywood public safety commissioner and, during that time, said he saw the city's homelessness programs up close as a liaison to the Human Services Commission. He wants to increase the city's homelessness prevention funding and ensure the city has a care-first response to safety and homelessness. Post also hopes to focus on homelessness prevention by expanding affordable housing throughout West Hollywood.

"I think affordable housing is going to be critical not only to lowering rents, but also building the city of our future that can continue to welcome an economically diverse population," Post said.

However, Post said getting funding for homelessness programs will be an uphill battle, and he plans to find alternative revenue streams for the city. That means ensuring the city has a strong tax base and working with the West Hollywood business community.

"I think we're at an injunction of hope, and that people are really excited for change," Post said. "One of the things that makes that harder, unfortunately, is constrained resources … And as someone who works at a business improvement district currently and works with over 300 small businesses every single day, making sure that we are working with them to have an economically vibrant city that is thriving is what's going to be able to allow us to have the tax revenues that we need to do the things that we want."

He also wants to work with city staff to create publicly run developments to expand affordable housing.

"I love the work that's being done to provide our older adults and seniors the space that they need, and I want to see it continued throughout the city," Post said. "It's not just general development; it's about making sure our housing meets the needs of people in our community, and in West Hollywood, a big part of that is supporting older adults and folks trying to age in place."

On the Fountain Avenue Streetscape Project, Post said he supports the current plan and hopes to expand street safety throughout the city.

"Making sure that it is safe is my top priority when it comes to Fountain Avenue," Post said.

The City Council approved the Fountain Avenue Streetscape project on Sept. 15, 2025. Phase 1 includes protected bike lanes, high-visibility crosswalks, painted curb extensions on side streets, self-watering planters within some curb extensions, a new street layout with one vehicle lane in each direction, curbside street parking on the south side only, repaving of the entire street and publicly visible bicycle counters. Phase 2 is a full reconstruction of Fountain Avenue to bring the curb ramps and sidewalks into ADA compliance.

"I want to make sure that we are ensuring our streets are safe, not only for cyclists but pedestrians as well and drivers," Post said. "As much as folks would rather not admit, I'm sure there are a number of individuals who speed through Fountain without even realizing it, so making sure we change the full landscape of that street is going to be extremely important."

As an avid bike rider, Post said the city needs at least one interconnected, protected bike lane that lets bikers travel from one end of the city to the other.

"Every time I get on my bike in the city, it does not feel safe," Post said. "We're not going to be able to see the usage and participation that we want on our streets, especially from a biking standpoint, unless people feel safe."

Post's favorite part about West Hollywood is the welcoming community.

"The city is so welcoming, and we're a beacon of hope for so many individuals, not just in the city of L.A., not just across the country, but across the world," Post said. "I think ensuring that we can continue to keep that city a place that really can welcome everybody is so important. And outside of that, I love Plummer Park."



photo courtesy of Stephen Post campaign

Incoming Councilman Stephen Post placed third in the race for three West Hollywood City Council seats.

Notable Quotes

[Linus] *"After you've died do you get to come back?"*

Charles M. Schultz (1922-2000)

The American cartoonist created the comic strip "Peanuts" which featured Charlie Brown, Snoopy the dog as well as Lucy, Linus and a cast friends in the neighborhood.

*source: Bartlett's Familiar Quotations

State grant brings cooling shade trees to L.A.



photo courtesy of the 5th District council office

Assemblyman Mark González, left, joined Los Angeles Board of Public Works President Steve Kang and Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky to announce that state funding was received for tree planting.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, and Assemblyman Mark González (D-Los Angeles) celebrated $500,000 in new state funding to expand tree planting in Koreatown and Mid-City, bringing much-needed shade to neighborhoods with limited tree canopy. Earlier this year, Yaroslavsky partnered with the Koreatown Youth and Community Center to plant 53 trees in the neighborhood. The new investment will more than quadruple the total number of trees planted through the two efforts. The funding will also support sidewalk improvements and three years of tree maintenance to help the new trees thrive.

Yaroslavsky said street trees play an important role in protecting communities from extreme heat. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, shaded surfaces can be 20-45 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than unshaded surfaces during peak temperatures. For information, visit councildistrict5.lacity.gov.

VINTAGE
PARKLABREA NEWS

Happy Thanksgiving



The Nov. 21, 1974, issue of the Park Labrea News featured a full-page tribute to the founding of democracy and the early traditions of the Thanksgiving holiday.

For current Thanksgiving and holiday dining ideas, see pages 12-14.

RESTAURANT NEWS

Little Dom's serves deep-fried Thanksgiving feast

Little Dom's in Los Feliz is bringing back its annual Deep Fried Turkey Thanksgiving Feast, offering a selection of holiday dishes for takeout on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26.

Co-owner and executive chef Brandon Boudet draws inspiration from his New Orleans roots with a menu featuring deep-fried turkey and traditional Southern side dishes.

The feast serves six to eight people, with whole deep-fried turkeys available for $138. Side dishes include homemade fennel sausage and mushroom stuffing for $59, mashed garnet sweet potatoes with coconut cream and toasted pecans, and roasted Brussels sprouts with applewood bacon for $55.

Pastry chef Ann Kirk is also preparing holiday desserts, including brown butter pumpkin pie for $59.

Guests can purchase a Thanksgiving bundle featuring a deep-fried turkey and a choice of two sides or pies for $249. Additional beverages, including eggnog, brown butter-washed Old Fashioned cocktails and wine bundles, are also available for purchase.

Orders are open while supplies last, with pickup scheduled for Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 26.

Little Dom's is located at 2128 Hillhurst Ave.

For more information or to place an order, visit littledoms.com/thanksgiving-2026.

Nobu gives thanks with omakase menu

Nobu Los Angeles is celebrating Thanksgiving with a special seven-course omakase menu available for dine-in service through Nov. 29.

Priced at $220 per person, the holiday dining experience com-

Emporium Thai serves Thanksgiving Day specials

Emporium Thai in Westwood and Emporium Thai Market on Sawtelle Boulevard are celebrating Thanksgiving on Nov. 26 with special three-course prix-fixe menus featuring traditional and contemporary Thai cuisine.

Both restaurants will offer $55 holiday menus alongside their regular selections, giving diners an alternative to traditional Thanksgiving fare.

At Emporium Thai in Westwood, the menu highlights Southern Thai specialties, including Phuket wings coated in Southern curry sauce, crying tiger beef with sweet-and-spicy green chili sauce and shrimp or vegan coco mango salad.

Entrée selections include Thai crab curry made with the restaurant's signature Southern curry paste, crispy honey duck, seafood drunken noodles and vegan Massaman curry with crispy tofu.

At Emporium Thai Market on Sawtelle Boulevard, the Thanksgiving menu features dishes such as grilled pork neck with spicy sauce, green papaya salad and tom yum soup.

Main courses include khao soi with soft-shell crab, honey ribs, green curry braised beef or crispy tofu. The restaurant also offers its limited-availability Sawtelle Hot Mama, a tom yum hot pot featuring noodles, prawns, ground pork, crispy pork and egg yolk.

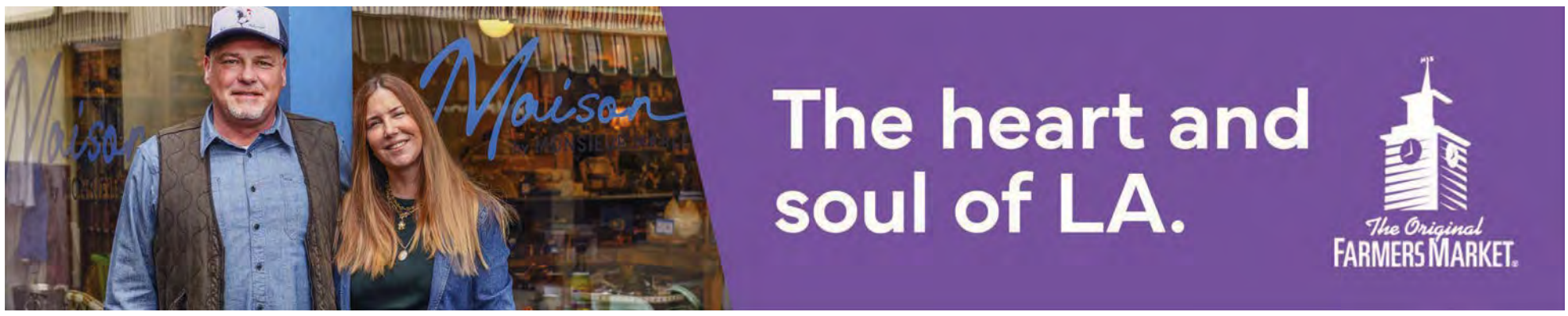


photo courtesy of Emporium Thai

Both Emporium Thai restaurants will be open on Thanksgiving and will offer special dishes for the holiday.

Emporium Thai is located at 1275 Westwood Blvd. and will be open on Thanksgiving from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. for lunch and 4-11 p.m. for dinner. For information, call (310)478-2838 or visit ethaicuisine.com.

Emporium Thai Market is located at 1653 Sawtelle Blvd. and will be open from 3-11 p.m. For information, call (310)295-6559 or visit emporiumthaimarket.com.



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bines the restaurant's signature Japanese cuisine with seasonal ingredients and specialty dishes.

The menu includes seafood spring rolls with caviar, a chef's selection of sushi and A5 wagyu beef served with wild mushrooms and black garlic.

For dessert, guests can enjoy kabocha custard and kurogoma gelato, highlighting the flavors of Japanese squash and black sesame.

The Thanksgiving omakase is available for a limited time through Nov. 29.

Nobu is located at 903 N. La Cienega Blvd.

For more information and reservations, visit noburestaurants.com/losangeles.

NORMS and Black Angus partner for Thanksgiving specials

NORMS and Black Angus Steakhouse are offering dine-in and takeout specials for Thanksgiving on Thursday, Nov. 26.

Black Angus Steakhouse will serve a Thanksgiving Day Special from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., featuring sliced turkey, sage dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli with garlic butter, roasted sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, garden salad and pumpkin pie with whipped cream. The meal costs $29.99 for adults and $12.99 for children.

The restaurant is also offering fully cooked Thanksgiving meals to go for four people at $89.99. The package includes roasted turkey, molasses bread, salad, mashed potatoes, sage dressing, sweet potatoes, broccoli, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. A limited-time turkey melt served with fries and gravy is also available throughout November. For information, visit blackangus.com.

NORMS will offer a Thanksgiving Day Special from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., featuring soup, salad, a choice of turkey or ham dinner and pumpkin pie. The meal costs $20.99 for adults and $14.99 for children.

For those celebrating at home, NORMS is offering a Holiday Family Meal for takeout, featuring roasted turkey breast or brown

See page 14

Kimpton Everly gets into the holiday spirit



photo courtesy of the Kimpton Everly Hotel

The Kimpton Every Hotel will transform its living room and rooftop sundeck into "Tinseltown" throughout December, offering a special place for private gatherings.

The Kimpton Everly Hotel in Hollywood is celebrating the holiday season with a special lodging package for visiting relatives and a festive holiday market available for private parties throughout December.

The hotel's new Relative-ly Speaking Package offers accommodations for family members and friends visiting Los Angeles during the holidays. The package includes an overnight stay, complimentary valet parking for one vehicle, breakfast for two at the hotel's Jane Q restaurant and late checkout, subject to availability.

Located within walking distance of the Hollywood Pantages Theatre, the hotel also provides convenient access to holiday entertainment, including December performances of "Elf the Musical" and "The Lion King."

Package rates in December start at approximately $390 per night, depending on the dates selected. Reservations are available through Jan. 31, 2027. For information, visit everlyhotelhollywood.com.

The hotel is also hosting "Tinseltown: An Everly Holiday Market" throughout December, transforming its living room and rooftop sundeck into holiday-themed gathering spaces.

The seasonal event is available for private holiday parties, corporate gatherings and other celebrations. Guests can enjoy specialty cocktails, including a peppermint martini made with vodka, vanilla, crème de cacao, peppermint and oat milk; gingerbread milk punch featuring whiskey, cinnamon, nutmeg and molasses; and spiked apple cider prepared with a house rum blend and seasonal spices.

Food offerings include charcuterie cones featuring a selection of cured meats, cheeses and seasonal accompaniments.

The Kimpton Everly Hotel offers 13,200 square feet of indoor and outdoor event space, including its 3,300-square-foot Skyline Sundeck, which overlooks Hollywood.

For private event inquiries, email sales@everlyhotelhollywood.com.

The Kimpton Everly Hotel is located at 1800 Argyle Ave.







Four Taiwanese films unite in Los Angeles for Oscar campaign

The Taiwan Academy of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles, in partnership with the Taiwan Creative Content Agency, is presenting a series of film screenings, Q&A sessions and industry events to promote Taiwanese cinema during the 99th Academy Awards season.

The campaign highlights the film "A Foggy Tale," Taiwan's official submission for Best International Feature Film, and three Oscar-qualified shorts: the animated short "Praying Mantis," live-action short "Brave Swing" and documentary short "Fragments of Herstory."

"A Foggy Tale" director Yu-Hsun Chen and producers Ju-Feng Yeh and Lieh Lee traveled to Los Angeles alongside "Praying Mantis" director Joe Hsieh and "Brave Swing" director Sheng-Chun Huang. Through public screenings, invitation-only events and filmmaker discussions, they are introducing the diversity and creativity of Taiwanese cinema to American audiences and industry professionals.

The campaign combined public festival screenings with targeted industry outreach. On Nov. 14, the 12th Asian World Film Festival presented a special "Focus on Taiwan" showcase at the Culver Theater in Culver City. The program featured three Taiwanese short films and a special screening of "A Foggy Tale," followed by filmmaker Q&A sessions exploring the creative process, production experiences and cultural perspectives behind the films.

Additional activities are organized in collaboration with a private members' club in Hollywood, entertainment media outlet TheWrap and the International Documentary Association. The partnerships include invitation-only screenings, filmmaker conversations and networking opportunities to strengthen ties between Taiwanese cinema and the U.S. entertainment industry.

Spanning narrative features, animation, live-action shorts and documentaries, the four films showcase a wide range of Taiwanese perspectives on history, society, culture and human experiences. By connecting filmmakers with general audiences and Hollywood professionals, the campaign aims to increase international awareness of Taiwanese storytelling and create opportunities for future collaboration.

The Taiwan Academy in Los Angeles emphasized that the four films reflect the diversity of Taiwan's cinematic voices and storytelling styles. Through partnerships with international film festivals, entertainment media and industry organizations, the initiative provides opportunities for direct engagement with American audiences and professionals while expanding the presence of Taiwanese cinema in Hollywood.

Looking ahead, Taiwan's Ministry of Culture will continue collaborating with TAICCA and international industry partners to support the global development of Taiwanese films and bring more Taiwanese stories to audiences worldwide.

For information, visit la.us.taiwan.culture.tw.



photo courtesy of AWFF

"A Foggy Tale" director Yu-Hsun Chen and producers Ju-Feng Yeh and Lieh Lee shared behind-the-scenes stories during a Q&A session moderated by UCLA professor Michael Berry.

Zoo celebrates 60th anniversary with $19.66 admission

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of its opening on Nov. 28, 1966, the Los Angeles Zoo is offering a commemorative $19.66 general admission ticket price from Friday, Nov. 27, through Sunday, Nov. 29. The $19.66 ticket price is for daytime admission and applies to all age groups. Children under 2 are admitted free.

During the anniversary weekend, guests can visit education stations and participate in activities dedicated to the 60th anniversary at the historic Treetops Terrace, browse 1960s-style anniversary merchandise at the zoo's gift shop and receive the inaugural commemorative L.A. Zoo trading card. The initial trading card, which is free, highlights Topa Topa, the first California condor housed in a zoo and the prolific breeding male that remains a cornerstone of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's California Condor Recovery Program. Over the coming year, the zoo will unveil a new trading card each month to celebrate six decades of L.A. Zoo history.

The Los Angeles Zoo has been a cornerstone of Griffith Park and the city's diverse communities and cultural landscape for decades. The zoo has evolved into a globally recognized leader in animal care, education and conservation.

The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive. For information, visit lazoo.org.

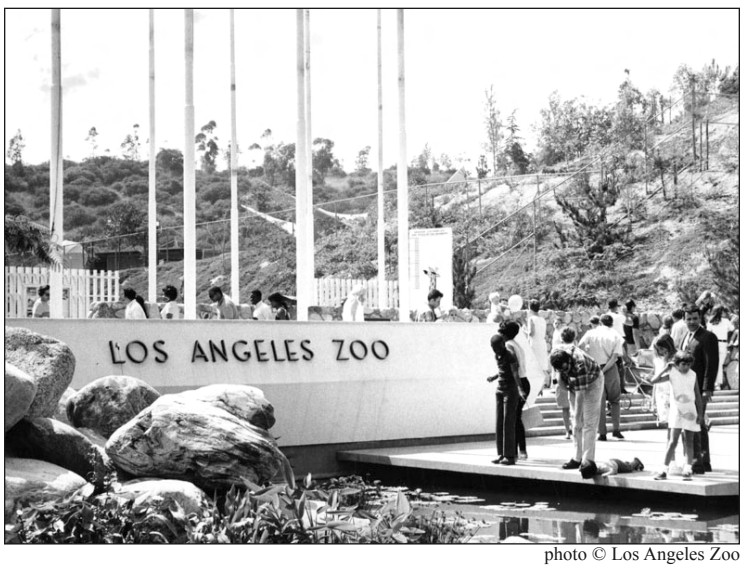


photo © Los Angeles Zoo

A historic photograph of the L.A. Zoo shows the entrance circa 1966.

From page 13

sugar-glazed ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce with turkey, chicken and sausage gumbo, salad and pumpkin or apple pie. The package costs $99.99 for four to five people, including one pie, or $199.99 for eight to 10 people, including two pies. Advance orders can be placed online.

NORMS is located at 1201 N. Fairfax Ave.

For information, visit norms .com.

Intelligentsia pours special holiday drinks

Intelligentsia Coffee is celebrating the holiday season with three limited-time drinks available at its Los Angeles coffee bars beginning Nov. 24.

The seasonal lineup includes the Gingersnap Latte, made with espresso, housemade gingersnap syrup, cookie crumbles, milk and a gingerbread marshmallow from XO Marshmallows. The iced version is topped with vanilla cold foam.

The Smoked Salt Maple Latte combines espresso, pure maple syrup, Hawaiian black smoked sea salt and milk. The Peppermint Mocha features espresso, housemade chocolate ganache, peppermint syrup and milk, topped with peppermint chocolate curls from Askinosie Chocolate.

The drinks will be available for a limited time during the holiday season. For information and locations, visit intelligentsia.com.

Holocaust Museum LA receives $20 million gift

The Goldrich Cultural Center, home to Holocaust Museum LA, has received a $20 million endowment gift from Andrea Goldrich Cayton and Melinda Goldrich, the largest donation in the institution's 65-year history.

The gift was announced during the museum's recent gala at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills. The sisters made the donation in honor of their late father, Holocaust survivor and museum founder Jona Goldrich.

The contribution includes an immediate $10 million donation and a $10 million matching challenge for pledges exceeding $25,000 through the end of 2027.

"In memory of those we lost, my sister and I have joined in this mission as a legacy to our father," Goldrich Cayton said. "The ongoing education provided by this museum and campus is something we feel we must support."

Melinda Goldrich said the cultural center fulfills her father's vision of creating a place for education, community and remembrance.

"The campus offers infinite opportunity to serve as a place of learning, enlightenment, community and that most vital and powerful tool for humanity's survival and joy – hope," she said.

Beth Kean, CEO of the Goldrich Cultural Center, said the donation will support the institution's educational programming for future generations.

The gala also honored several community leaders for their contributions to the museum.

Alan Rothenberg, a sports and civic leader who helped establish Major League Soccer, received the Roz and Abner Goldstine Advocacy Award. Rothenberg chaired the committee for "The Beautiful Game … The Untold Story," the cultural center's inaugural exhibition examining the history and development of soccer.

Architect Hagy Belzberg, who designed Holocaust Museum LA and its expanded cultural center, received the Jona Goldrich Visionary Award. Belzberg is also a longtime member of the museum's board.

Jennifer Solomon, co-chair of the museum's docent community, received the Legacy Award for her work educating students and visitors about Holocaust history.

Businessman and developer Rick Caruso served as honorary chairman of the gala, which was hosted by actress and activist Emmanuelle Chriqui.

Located in Pan Pacific Park, the Goldrich Cultural Center builds on Holocaust Museum LA's longstanding mission of preserving Holocaust history and educating the public. The 1.5-acre campus includes a Holocaust-era boxcar, a theater, a 60-seat Dimensions in Testimony theater, gardens and historical artifacts.

The expanded cultural center also hosts exhibitions, public programs, arts events and community partnerships.

For information, visit thegoldrich.org.



photo by Mike Kelley

Holocaust Museum LA and its expanded cultural center were designed by architect Hagy Belzberg.

Join All Saints' Beverly Hills for holiday Advent Festival

The community is invited to continue the festivities after Thanksgiving and kick off the holidays on Sunday, Nov. 29, at 5 p.m., as All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beverly Hills presents its beloved Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols.



photo courtesy of All Saints' Beverly Hills

The All Saints' Choir offers an exquisite program blending scripture, choral music and holiday carols.

The cherished service, adapted over a century ago at King's College, Cambridge, weaves together scripture, choral music and holiday carols to illuminate the Advent journey toward Christmas. Under the direction of Dr. Douglas Leightenheimer, the All Saints' Choir will offer an exquisite program to deepen reflection and inspire joy for the Advent season.

The musical program features a collection of works by Malcolm Archer, Anton Bruckner, Jacob Handl and G. P. Palestrina, and arrangements by The Canon Dr. Craig Phillips.

Bring family and friends to experience one of the most treasured traditions in the Anglican world and begin the holiday season with an evening of beauty and song.

All Saints' is located at 504 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills. For information, call (310)275-0123, or visit allsaintsbh.org.

Gott's Roadside is the ideal holiday pit stop

■ New restaurant welcomes hungry shoppers at The Farmers Market

BY TABOR BREWSTER

There's no better place to feel the holiday spirit than on the corner of Third and Fairfax, where vendors and restaurants at the Original Farmers Market dish it out in generous helpings. One of the market's newest additions, Gott's Roadside, is serving up a wide selection of comforting eats this holiday season.

"We consider ourselves American fare, reimagined roadside classics," Gott's President Clay Walker said. "But when we say American, we really mean melting pot American."

Like the market itself, the eclectic restaurant offers diverse choices for a variety of tastes. Known for its char-grilled burgers, Gott's also specializes in roadside classics like sandwiches, tacos and chicken tenders, and provides lighter fare including salads and veggie-forward sides.

"It's reflective of where we live. It's all fresh ingredients," Walker said. "There's lots of Asian profiles, Mexican point of view. You can eat light or heavy."

The newly-introduced French dip is a hearty take on the L.A. classic, with thick-cut roast beef, caramelized onions, Gruyere cheese and a horseradish cream sauce that make the sandwich ideal for colder weather, best when dunked in the savory au jus. The buttermilk-dipped hot honey chicken tenders bring a kick of crispy heat to the menu, served with a fresh lemon wedge and charred jalapeño mayo.

"Gott's means different things to different people, depending on what they like to eat," Walker said.

Ahi crispy tacos deliver a refreshing option, topped with avocado and sesame seeds. The Vietnamese chicken salad brings strong Asian flavors, with bright red peppers and a crunchy slaw made from Romaine lettuce, kale, shredded cabbage, cucumber, bean sprouts and peanuts.

"Under the same roof, kids can eat French fries and hot dogs, and we can have sushi-grade tuna and a French dip," Walker said. "It's casual and accessible, but there's lots of choice."

Gott's opened its first location in 1999 along Highway 29 in Napa Valley. As Walker explained, brothers Joel and Duncan Gott didn't have a grandiose vision when they first started. They simply wanted to serve the food they liked to eat, using high-quality ingredients in a comfortable setting.

"There was no business plan," Walker recalled. "It was all totally organic."

He described Gott's as a place where friends, families, couples, solo diners, adults and children can all enjoy a delicious meal at a reasonable price.

"Napa has a serious fine dining scene, but Gott's has always been the casual outfit where people get tired of fancy food, hoity-toity environments," he said. "Gott's has always been a place where, when you're tired of all that, you come and kick your shoes off and let your hair down. It's a big picnic."

The sleek Farmers Market location has hints of a classic diner in its red-and-white colors, with orders placed at the counter and plenty of seating both inside the bright dining room and in the two outdoor patios. A beer and wine bar invites guests to one end of the restaurant, where an extensive wine list boasts Napa favorites like Opus One and prices that are hard to beat.

"We are from the Napa Valley, where wine is a big thing. And so, what you find at Gott's is a wine list closer to a fine dining restaurant," Walker said.

The menu even includes selections from owner Joel Gott's own winery, with options available both by the glass and by the bottle.

For dessert, the James Beard Award-winning restaurant serves up ice cream, sundaes and milkshakes all day long. My personal advice – don't skip the ice cream. It's really that good. Luckily, you can get it either dine-in or at a walk-up window outside the restaurant.

The wide array of high-quality comfort food available in a quick, casual setting make Gott's the ideal pit stop for your next holiday shopping spree at the Original Farmers Market. And if you happen to be by the coast this winter, Gott's recently opened another L.A. location at 401 Wilshire Blvd. in Santa Monica.

"We want to be kind of everybody's second kitchen," Walker said.

Gott's Roadside at the Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 West 3rd St., #706.

For information and to order, visit gotts.com.



photo by Briana Marie Photography

The eclectic menu at Gott's features burgers, sandwiches, tacos, salads and ice cream.



La Brea Tar Pits collection earns international recognition

The La Brea Tar Pits' collection of more than 3.5 million Ice Age specimens has received international recognition for its contributions to scientific research over the past century.

The International Union of Geological Sciences awarded the Rancho La Brea collection its GeoCollection Recognition, honoring its importance to the study of prehistoric ecosystems, climate change and extinction.

The designation follows the IUGS' selection of La Brea Tar Pits as one of the world's first 100 Geological Heritage Sites in 2022.

"The IUGS designation is a fitting recognition of this globally-important collection," said Emily Lindsey, curator and excavation site director at the Samuel Oschin Global Center for Ice Age Research. "No other fossil collection on Earth has had as much impact on our understanding of the Pleistocene (Ice Age) – how extinct species lived, how ecosystems reconfigured in response to global climate changes, and what ultimately led to their collapse."

The collection includes more than 3.5 million fossils representing over 660 species of birds, mammals, plants and invertebrates, along with soil samples. The specimens have contributed to nearly 1,000 scientific publications, including research on Ice Age amphibians and the social behavior of saber-toothed cats.

Nearly 100 visiting students and researchers from around the world study the collection annually.

The recognition was announced during the IUGS Geoheritage event in Algarve, Portugal, held Nov. 4-8. Regan Dunn, assistant deputy director and associate curator at the Samuel Oschin Global Center for Ice Age Research, delivered a presentation highlighting the collection's contributions to research on climate change and biodiversity.

The designation comes as La Brea Tar Pits undergoes a major transformation of its museum and park. The project includes new facilities to preserve and study the collection, which continues to expand through ongoing excavations.

"This extraordinary honor punctuates the ongoing story of transformation and breakthroughs happening as La Brea Tar Pits' Reimagining continues," said Lori Bettison-Varga, president and director of the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County.

The collection will eventually be housed at the Samuel Oschin Global Center for Ice Age Research, which will support research into how ancient ecosystems responded to environmental changes and extinction events.

Recent excavation efforts have placed greater emphasis on smaller organisms, including insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles and birds, many of which have living counterparts in Los Angeles today.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The La Brea Tar Pits' collection of more than 3.5 million specimens includes Columbian mammoths on display.

"As vital as our fossils have been to studies of the Ice Age over the past century, the potential impact of this collection will be greatly multiplied once we have the new facilities and resources to leverage it to its full capacity," Lindsey said. "We are just getting started."

The La Brea Tar Pits is located at 5801 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit tarpits.org.



photo courtesy of the Rodeo Drive Committee

The episode features Lucrezia Buccellati, a fourth-generation member of the luxury jewelry family.

Rodeo Drive podcast features Buccellati designer

The Rodeo Drive Committee has released a new episode of "Rodeo Drive – The Podcast" featuring Lucrezia Buccellati, a fourth-generation member of the Italian luxury jewelry family, discussing the brand's heritage and efforts to appeal to a new generation of collectors.

Titled "Off the Cuff: Lucrezia Buccellati and a New Generation of Heirlooms," the episode features a conversation between Buccellati and podcast host Lyn Winter at the Beverly Wilshire hotel, where Buccellati's grandfather, Gianmaria Buccellati, opened the company's first Beverly Hills boutique in 1989.

Buccellati works alongside her father, Andrea, the brand's creative director, developing collections that combine traditional Italian craftsmanship with contemporary designs.

Among her contributions is the floral Blossoms collection, which combines elements of the company's traditional designs with styles intended to appeal to younger customers. She has also helped introduce new approaches to displaying and styling the brand's jewelry through social media and creative collaborations.

In 2026, the company collaborated with illustrator Luke Edward Hall on an underwater-themed jewelry installation at Milan Design Week.

The episode also explores Buccellati's longstanding goldsmithing and engraving techniques, as well as the family's tradition of creating decorative silver animals, including tigers, pigs and cats.

"A Buccellati piece is timeless," Buccellati said, describing the jewelry as a reflection of Italian artistry and a family tradition passed down through generations.

Buccellati is located at Two Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills.

For information and to listen to the episode, visit https://rodeodrivebh.com/podcast.





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KCCLA welcomes students for taekwondo contest

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles will host the 2026 taekwondo contest on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m.-noon at KCCLA and the Korea Center.

The contest is an opportunity for students who took part in the taekwondo education program at L.A.-area schools to showcase their skills. A total of 90 students – 10 each from nine classes at five schools – will take the stage, including students from Third Street Elementary, Marvin Foreign Language Magnet, RFK UCLA Community School, Wilton Place Elementary and Young Oak Kim Academy.

The competition will be held in a team "poomsae" format, with up to 10 members per team. Team poomsae is an event that depends on the skill of a whole team moving and breathing together, as opposed to an individual, so the cooperation and consideration students have built while practicing together over the semester will be on display. Teams will take the stage in turn to perform their poomsae, and the top three teams, as ranked by the judges, will receive medals, certificates and prizes.

The judges are Master Geunmu Ryu, a gold medalist at the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games and president of the SoCal Taekwondo Association; Jinyu Seok, head of the Xplore Taekwondo Demonstration Team; and Haedon Lee, director of the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles.

Following the poomsae competition, the Xplore Taekwondo Demonstration Team will provide a celebratory performance. Combining high-difficulty kicks with dynamic group choreography, the show extends the excitement of the contest and conveys the style and energy of taekwondo. The U.S.-based Xplore team specializes in demonstrations that blend taekwondo with performance, and has performed at venues including The Grove and the Hollywood Bowl.

The Korean Culture Experience Zone also promotes K-culture at KCCLA. A variety of programs allow students, parents and visitors to experience Korean culture firsthand. At the Korea Center, located next to KCCLA, visitors can browse the "K-Supermarket" to experience Korean food and everyday culture. In the second-floor gallery, visitors can experience Korean culture, wear hanbok (traditional clothing) and play traditional games.

"Taekwondo is Korea's signature sport and a unique Korean cultural heritage through which students learn confidence, respect and perseverance," Lee said. "I hope this contest will give local students who took part in the L.A. taekwondo education program a chance to show what they have learned and to feel a sense of accomplishment, and that it will let parents and spectators see the benefits of taekwondo education for themselves and feel the appeal of Korean culture up close."

KCCLA is located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit la.korean-culture.org/en.



photo courtesy of KCCLA

Students will demonstrate skills learned in courses at local schools.

Community college students encouraged to apply for CalKIDS Scholarships

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on Nov. 19 that because of California's investment in CalKIDS, $166 million is available for more than 300,000 community college students. Students can use the scholarship money to cover college and career training expenses including tuition and fees, books and supplies and computer equipment.

Newsom announced a partnership between CalKIDS, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the California Cradle-to-Career Data System in March to identify eligible community college students and connect them with CalKIDS Scholarships. The coordinated effort has already identified more than 300,000 community college students with more than $166 million in available scholarships, including the more than $20 million identified earlier this year.

CalKIDS initially launched in 2022 – four years before the federal government launched similar "Trump Accounts," Newsom said. CalKIDS provides eligible children with publicly funded savings for college and career training. Families can claim the accounts and build on the savings over time, giving children a financial foundation for the future. Since its inception, California has invested more than $2.4 billion in 6 million CalKIDS accounts, with over 1 million accounts claimed. The first cohort of recipients is already seeing the benefits supporting nearly 70,000 students with more than $37 million for expenses at community colleges across the state. Students who graduated from a California public high school in 2022 or later are likely to have a CalKIDS Scholarship waiting for them.

Eligible California public school students automatically receive up to $1,500 in CalKIDS Scholarships but must claim their account to use the funds for qualified educational expenses until age 26. As part of the initiative, the California Cradle-to-Career Data System securely matches CalKIDS participant information with community college enrollment data through an existing information-sharing arrangement. Community college districts can use the information to conduct individualized outreach to enrolled students with available CalKIDS Scholarships, ensuring students know about funds that can immediately support their educational goals.

CalKIDS is administered by the ScholarShare Investment Board, which is chaired by State Treasurer Fiona Ma. For information and eligibility, visit calkids.org.

Register by Dec. 1 for LAUSD Winter Academy

The Los Angeles Unified School District is encouraging families to register students for the Winter Academy by Dec. 1 to take advantage of a week of academic support and enrichment during winter break. Space is limited, and families are encouraged to register early.

The free Winter Academy offers academic support, enrichment and services for students. The academy runs from Jan. 4-8, 8:30-11:50 a.m. Students receive additional support in core academic subjects while participating in engaging activities that support learning and student well-being. In the local area, the Winter Academy is offered at Hollywood High School and the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies Magnet.

Students have opportunities to participate in enrichment activities such as financial literacy courses, social-emotional learning programs and the arts. Healthy meals, transportation and Beyond the Bell programming are available to support students and families.

Elementary students work with teachers in small groups focused on reading and math. Secondary students receive direct instruction and personalized support in core subjects. Eligible high school students have opportunities to improve grades by extending current academic courses, subject to an approved teacher contract.

The LAUSD stressed that families be aware that changes this year require advanced registration to attend the Winter Academy. Unlike previous years, schools will not accept drop-in registrations during the program, as space is limited. If a student is not present on the first day of the Winter Academy, the seat will be offered to another student on the waiting list.

Priority online registration closes on Dec. 1, after which families will have to fill out paper registration forms at their school. Transportation requests must be submitted with online registration.

For information and registration, visit winteracademy.lausd.org.



photo courtesy of the LAUSD

The Winter Academy offers enriching courses and activities to keep students on track during the break.



‘The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping’

TIM POSADA ON SCREEN MOVIE REVIEW

Prequels have a problem. We want to see how the story ends more than where it began. We enjoyed the primary “Hunger Games” series for four films, with an established cast. But “Sunrise of the Reaping” tries to accomplish several things: portray younger versions of several familiar faces and explore the origins of revolution in Panem.

It’s not a completely satisfying story, but this prequel feels like a more complete entry than most of the six “Hunger Games” films, probably in the top three. But that might simply mean the majority of the series is underwhelming, while “Sunrise on the Reaping” is watchable enough.

To its credit, the story jumps right in, introducing us to a young Haymitch Abernathy (portrayed by Joseph Zada, who captures Woody Harrelson’s unique Southern accent). Not long after we meet a young, vibrant and kind Haymitch, four tributes, as opposed to the standard two, are selected for a special Hunger Games.

Soon enough, Haymitch and fellow tributes like Wyatt (Ben Wang) and Maysilee (Mckenna Grace) are off to the Capitol, parading about for the amusement of the elites before they must enter that elaborate gladiator arena and fight until only one remains.

We encounter some new faces, including District 12 advocate Beetee (Kelvin Harrison Jr.), who provides Haymitch with some interesting insights into how the games operate.

Finally, a third actor takes on President Snow (Ralph Fiennes). He appears more hands-on this time around, especially considering the incompetence of some running the games. While Donald Sutherland’s Snow cracks a smile, this guy is all business. And that business is especially brutal this time around.

Of all the films in the series, this one includes the least amount of child deaths. For that matter, tribute-on-tribute deaths equal the number of deaths by robotic critters in the area. There’s a thematic reason why, but a few sequences feel a touch redundant. But for all the inferred suffering, “Sunrise on the Reaping” is a rather empty experience.

Remember that when we first meet Haymitch as an adult, he has some personal problems. This is where they begin. Trauma is certainly part of it, but this origin story provides more reasons why his suffering is compounded. What’s more, this is a very bleak experience. Even young Caesar Flickerman (Kieran Culkin) is more cruel and callous.

“Sunrise on the Reaping” effectively establishes the tragic beginning for Haymitch, along with fun first looks at other folks, but it outsources the ending to the Haymitch we see following the Capitol’s fall in the second “Mockingjay” film. Slight problem: That guy isn’t the hero of those films. He’s a supporting character. So we must assume his grief will one day end.

The final moments of the film (no spoilers here) attempt to deliver that closure, but it feels hollow. Certainly, the subject matter of these films can be troubling, and director Francis Lawrence (who helmed five of the six films) tries to offset the brutality somewhat. But “Sunrise on the Reaping” doesn’t quite figure out how to tell a truly satisfying prequel story that introduces new ideas and honors the works that came before.



photo courtesy of Lionsgate

Joseph Zada portrays Haymitch Abernathy in “The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping.”



photo by Murray Close, courtesy of Lionsgate

Joseph Zada and Mckenna Grace make “The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping” a worthy prequel.

Film festival celebrates Israeli cinema

The 38th Israel Film Festival celebrated Israeli cinema and honored prominent entertainment industry figures during its opening night gala on Nov. 18 at the Writers Guild Theater in Beverly Hills.

The sold-out event featured the Los Angeles premiere of director and writer Moshe Rosenthal’s “Tell Me Everything,” which won 10 Ophir Awards, including best film, and was selected as Israel’s submission for best international feature film at the 99th Academy Awards.

Producer Kevin S. Bright, known for his work on the television series “Friends” and “The Bridge,” received the festival’s 2026 Career Achievement Award, presented by comedian Elon Gold.

Moshe Edery, CEO and co-founder of United King Films, was honored with the festival’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Actress Moran Atias presented the award, which was accepted on Edery’s behalf by Albertino Matalon, co-founder of Screen iL.

The opening ceremony included remarks from festival founder and executive director Meir Fenigstein, Israeli Consul General to the Pacific Southwest Modi Ephraim, festival chairman Alon Shtruzman and Sharon Lieblein, director of entertainment for the Jewish National Fund. Comedian Sunda Croonquist served as master of ceremonies.

“One of the greatest joys of this festival and the reason I have been doing it for so many years is the opportunity to celebrate the incredible talent of Israeli filmmakers,” Fenigstein said. “Every film begins with a dream, a vision and the courage of telling a story and tonight we have the good fortune of those extraordinary storytellers.”

During his acceptance speech, Bright addressed the importance of Jewish representation in film and television.

“Let’s tell stories about who we are in today’s world with all our differences, our humor and our dreams,” Bright said. “Let’s give audiences living, breathing Jewish people they can recognize and understand beyond the cartoon versions and familiar images of the past.”

Ephraim also spoke about the challenges facing Israeli artists internationally, citing boycotts and exclusion while emphasizing the contributions of Israeli filmmakers to the global entertainment industry.

The festival ran from Nov. 18-24, with screenings and filmmaker discussions at the Fine Arts Theatre in Beverly Hills and Laemmle Town Center 5 in Encino.

For information, visit israelfilmfestival.com.



photo by Michelle Mivzari

Actor Mike Burstyn, left, festival founder Meir Fenigstein, Israel Consul General Modi Ephraim, comedian Sunda Croonquist, writer/director Moshe Rosenthal and producer Kevin S. Bright celebrated at the opening night gala on Nov. 18.

Mayor Corman takes residents to theater

Beverly Hills residents joined Mayor Craig Corman for a trip aboard Metro’s D Line to the Ahmanson Theatre in Downtown Los Angeles for a matinee performance of “Oh, Mary!” on Sunday, Nov. 22.

The outing was part of the city’s “Metro with the Mayor” program, which brings community members together to explore destinations throughout Los Angeles using the new D Line extension.

For information about upcoming events, visit beverlyhills.org/1815/Metro-with-the-Mayor.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

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Police Blotter

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Nov. 15 and Nov. 21. 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

Nov. 15

At 12:18 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Olympic and Robertson.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of Loma Vista at 2:58 p.m.

At 3:45 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Charleville and Roxbury.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 200 block of N. Cañon at 9:28 p.m.

Nov. 16

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Rexford.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Crescent at 8:55 a.m.

At 11:11 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 300 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1100 block of Coldwater Canyon at 3:23 p.m.

Nov. 17

At 5:37 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported near Santa Monica and Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Beverly at 1:48 p.m.

At 3:24 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

Nov. 18

At 4:50 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 8400 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Crescent at 8:55 a.m.

At 5:55 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 6:27 p.m.

At 6:29 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9500 block of Wilshire.

Nov. 19

At 10:35 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 500 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9500 block of Olympic at 11:45 a.m.

At 10:10 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 100 block of S. Spalding.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of Benedict Canyon at 5:13 p.m.

Nov. 21

At 7:53 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8400 block of Wilshire.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

Nov. 15

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7900 block of Norton at 6:50 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 800 block of Westbourne.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson at midnight.

Nov. 16

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7600 block of Santa Monica at 12:05 a.m.

At 1:10 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Fuller.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 2 a.m.

At 3:20 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 12:09 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8200 block of Willoughby.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 5:09 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. Fuller.

Nov. 17

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8200 block of Sunset at 1:27 a.m.

At 11:15 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

Nov. 18

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of N. La Brea.

Nov. 19

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Fountain.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1100 block of N. La Brea at 2 p.m.

Nov. 20

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8600 block of Santa Monica at 1:10 p.m.

At 10:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Hilldale and Santa Monica.

Nov. 21

At 9:21 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8400 block of Melrose at 1:55 p.m.

At 4:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 9000 block of Santa Monica.

Los Angeles Police Department

Nov. 15

At 12:39 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 2000 block of N. Highland.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 5100 block of Sunset at 5 a.m.

At 9:20 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 4500 block of Pico.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 1800 block of S. La Cienega at 1 p.m.

At 1:18 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Selma and Cahuenga at 2 a.m.

At 11:35 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 700 block of N. Van Ness.

Nov. 16

An unknown suspect committed a theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 11 a.m.

At 11:37 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 400 block of S. La Brea.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Detroit at 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 17

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 1700 block of N. Wilcox.

Nov. 18

A vandalism incident was reported in the 1000 block of N. Oxford at 9 a.m.

At 10:50 am., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Hollywood and El Centro.

Roller coaster blamed for additional death

From page 4

ment was announced.

In a statement addressing the latest reporting, a Six Flags spokesperson expressed condolences to Gibson's family and defended the company's safety procedures.

"Our thoughts are with the family of Christopher Gibson during this difficult time," the spokesperson said. "Safety is our ethos and is at the heart of everything we do. Six Flags has a comprehensive, multilayered safety and inspection program that includes documented daily inspections before opening each day, ongoing preventive maintenance and additional internal and external oversight."

The spokesperson said the ride consistently passed safety tests throughout its nearly 20 years of operation and that the company's investigation remains ongoing.

"Magic Mountain's investigation and analysis of the ride remain ongoing. We are fully cooperating with Cal/OSHA," the spokesperson said.

Dordick has called for stronger government oversight of amusement park safety and said his firm intends to seek punitive damages to discourage operators from disregarding potential hazards.

Burglary suspects arrested after lengthy pursuit

From page 4

Their names and ages were not released. Officers found stolen property including women's purses in the suspects' car.

Orozco said police connected the three suspects to the Nov. 17 burglaries on Alomar Drive and Mulholland Drive, and are investigating whether the men are responsible for other recent burglaries in the Hollywood Hills. The LAPD released a statement on social media shortly after the arrests.

"If you come to Los Angeles to victimize our communities, expect Metropolitan Division to come looking for you," read the Nov. 18 social media post. "These arrests are the latest example of Metro's ongoing work to identify offenders, disrupt organized burglary crews and protect our communities. To those who prey on our communities, the message is clear: we will find you, we will arrest you and we will work with our investigative partners to hold you accountable."

Pilot program offers help with landlord-tenant disputes

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County launched an Eviction Diversion Pilot Program on Nov. 16 to help eligible landlords and tenants resolve rent-related disputes and prevent evictions by connecting participants with rental assistance, mediation and settlement support.

The program, created in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs and the Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, aims to address housing challenges before they escalate, helping tenants maintain housing stability. Eligible households may receive up to $10,000 in rental assistance to cover past-due rent and future rent obligations, helping keep them housed.

"Preventing evictions takes collaboration and timely access to resources that help landlords and tenants reach workable solutions before disputes escalate," Presiding Judge Sergio C. Tapia II said. "Through this pilot, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, Supervisor Horvath and our county and community partners are bringing rental assistance and settlement services together at the earliest stage of the process. Our goal is to keep families housed, help property owners recover unpaid rent and strengthen housing stability in the communities we serve."

Supported by a $3 million L.A. County investment championed by Horvath, the pilot launched at the Van Nuys Courthouse, providing an additional pathway for landlords and tenants to address rent-related disputes while helping tenants remain housed and landlords recover unpaid rent.

"As a renter myself, I know how hard it is to afford a home in Los Angeles. No one should lose their housing because of a financial hardship," Horvath said. "Keeping people housed is how we make Los Angeles County more affordable and prevent homelessness before it starts."

The court remains neutral in landlord-tenant disputes while working with partners to expand access to resources that may help resolve the disputes outside the courtroom.

The program is administered through partnerships with FORWARD and Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, under contract with DCBA.

For information, visit dcba.lacounty.gov/rentstabilization.

MADD campaign combats holiday impaired driving

Landmarks including L.A. City Hall were lit in red on Nov. 19 as part of the fifth annual Mothers Against Drunk Driving Illuminate MADD California campaign. The statewide awareness campaign unites communities in honor of victims and survivors of impaired driving, and promotes safe choices during one of the most dangerous travel periods of the year.

Civic buildings, businesses and homes were illuminated in red as a symbol of remembrance, hope and a shared commitment to end impaired driving.

Waymo returned as presenting sponsor. Law enforcement agencies throughout L.A. County are targeting impaired drivers throughout the holiday season and are warning people not to get behind the wheel if they are impaired. For information, visit madd.org.

Volunteers prepare meals for Thanksgiving Day

From page 1

throughout the holiday season.

"What makes a community is our connection to each other, and there's no better way to connect than to volunteer and to work to help make your community better," Friedman said. "And people do that in so many different ways. They find the thing that fits them, but it's the way that people are always willing to open their doors and make sure that the people around them in their neighborhood are safe and taken care of. That makes us a strong community, and we see that all over. We see that in Hollywood. We see it in West Hollywood, Glendale, Burbank. It's really all across our communities."

During the Nov. 24 visit, Raman also reflected on the organization's founding in 1989 in response to the AIDS crisis, ahead of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1.

"This week we give thanks. Next week we remember the history," Raman said. "And at Project Angel Food, that remembrance and that gratitude has always gone together."

Friedman, a steadfast supporter of the organization, underscored the importance of Project Angel Food's services amid federal cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The nonprofit lost approximately $500,000 in federal funding last year but has continued to expand its operations.

"Here in Los Angeles, our community is going to make sure that no one goes hungry, no one goes hungry on our watch," Friedman said.

Project Angel Food CEO Richard Ayoub said volunteers began preparing and delivering Thanksgiving meals earlier this week. The nonprofit is also providing 500 meals to formerly homeless individuals served by People Assisting the Homeless, continuing a tradition that began during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ayoub said the holiday season is among his favorite times of year at Project Angel Food.

"Every shift we're packed with volunteers, and it's just incredibly beautiful and powerful because they're coming together," Ayoub said, adding that "you can smell the turkey" in the Hollywood facility.

Among those expected to volunteer on Thanksgiving are Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, singer Christina Perri, comedian Loni Love and actors Yvette Nicole Brown, Wendi McLendon-Covey, Will Sasso, Amy Yasbeck, Michael Hitchcock, Jai Rodriguez and Tim Bagley.

While the celebrity appearances help bring attention to Project Angel Food's mission, Ayoub said the entertainment industry's commitment to the organization dates back to the early years of the AIDS crisis.

"These Hollywood celebrities and actors aren't just actors making a paycheck. They're human beings who care about neighbors that they're never going to meet," Ayoub said.

Today, Project Angel Food provides more than 1.5 million medically tailored meals annually to approximately 7,800 clients living with illnesses including cancer, diabetes, heart disease and kidney failure. The new kitchen will enable the nonprofit to eventually prepare more than 4.5 million meals annually.



photo courtesy of Project Angel Food

Project Angel Food CEO Richard Ayoub encouraged Beverly Press readers to support the organization during the holiday season.

Ayoub encouraged Beverly Press and Park Labrea News readers to support Project Angel Food, recalling how an article in the newspaper several years ago helped the organization raise $40,000 for a new delivery van.

"Your readers move to action, and they really care about the community, and we care about them," Ayoub said. "And we want to just remind them that $10 pays for one meal."

Ayoub said the generosity on display during the holidays reflects the tireless work that Project Angel Food volunteers carry out throughout the year.

"We believe at Project Angel Food every day is Thanksgiving," Ayoub said.

For information and to volunteer or donate, visit angelfood.org.

Christmas comes early on Hollywood Boulevard

From page 1



photo by Edwin Folven

L.A. City Councilwoman Heather Hutt introduced talented dancers and musical performers featured in this year's Hollywood Christmas Parade.

from all over the world for a night that unites people across every community and every background. At its core, this parade is all about giving back. We are proud to support Marine Toys for Tots, an organization that works year-round to help children and families in need. This year, we have 136 performers joining us, including fantastic local artists from my district, the PAVA World Korean traditional band and several Chinese American organizations. That kind of diversity and creativity and talent is something that you can only experience right here in Los Angeles."

The Hollywood Christmas Parade begins at Orange Street and Hollywood Boulevard and heads east to Vine Street, south to Sunset Boulevard and west to Orange Street. Pre-parade entertainment starts at 5:30 p.m. Grandstand bleacher seats open at 4 p.m. For bleacher tickets, visit ticketmaster.com/search?q=hollywood+christmas+parade.

Free curbside viewing with limited seating is available along the 3.2-mile route east of Highland Avenue.

Parade entertainment includes the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, Masters of Illusion Magicians, Cubcakes Dance Group, Fox Studio Dance and Gymnastics, "American Idol" 2007 winner Jordin Sparks and New Zealand-born Italian pop-opera singer Anna Azerli. Celebrity guests include Melissa Rivers, Matt Iseman, Terry Fator, Elliott Yamin, Laila Lockhart Kraner and Los Angeles Dodgers legends Ron Cey and Reggie Smith, as well as stars of "The Bold and the Beautiful," "The Young and the Restless," "Days of our Lives" and "General Hospital." Thirteen marching bands, six large character balloons, five floats and dozens of vehicles from films and television will roll down Hollywood Boulevard. The United States Marine Corps Color Guard, LAPD Motorcycle Drill Team and Los Angeles Fire Department Truck and Antique Bandwagon will participate. The parade culminates with an appearance by Santa Claus and his elves.

Lt. Col. Roy F. Miller IV, representing Marine Toys for Tots, said the parade provides an important opportunity to make a difference this holiday season. He said toy donation boxes are located at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, 7000 Hollywood Blvd., and Funko Hollywood, 6201 Hollywood Blvd.

"While the Marine Corps is proud to be able to represent Toys for Tots, we certainly can't do it alone. We cannot do it without the community," Miller said. "Behind every one of those toys is a child. Behind every child is a family who may be going through a difficult time."

The CW Network will televise the parade nationally on Dec. 18 at 8 p.m., with an encore airing on Dec. 24 at 8 p.m.

Parade viewers are urged to use public transit.

Numerous road closures will be in place for the Hollywood Christmas Parade beginning on Nov. 27 at 10 p.m., when Hollywood Boulevard closes between Highland Avenue and Orange Drive; Orange Drive closes between Hollywood Boulevard and Hawthorn Avenue; and Sycamore Avenue closes between Hollywood Boulevard and a location mid-block between Hollywood Boulevard and Franklin Avenue. Hollywood Boulevard will be closed at La Brea Avenue on Nov. 29 starting at 6 a.m. For a complete list of closures and information, call (833)PARADE1, or visit thehollywoodchristmasparade.org.

Getty launches project to preserve historic Peruvian church

The Getty has announced a major conservation project to protect a 17th-century church in the Peruvian Andes and its collection of more than 300 cultural objects, including a series of paintings once thought lost.

The multi-year initiative, called Sacred Heritage in the Andes, will focus on the Church of Santo Tomás de Aquino, commonly known as the Church of Rondocan, in Peru's Cusco region. The project will strengthen the historic adobe structure against earthquakes while supporting the preservation of its paintings, sculptures, textiles and other religious artifacts.

The Getty Conservation Institute will partner with Peru's Ministry of Culture and local conservation professionals to develop seismic retrofitting plans and long-term maintenance strategies.

"Since 2011, the Conservation Institute has worked across Peru with local conservation professionals to conserve some of the country's most significant earthen architectural buildings," said Claudia Cancino, principal project specialist at the Getty Conservation Institute. "These are the buildings in which so much of daily life in these regions takes place, but they require specialized efforts for their protection."

The church, built with thick adobe walls and Baroque architectural features, has sustained earthquake damage and deterioration over time. It remains an important religious and cultural gathering place for the surrounding community.

Among its most significant treasures is a series of eight paintings by Italian Jesuit artist Bernardo Bitti, created in Cusco between approximately 1595 and 1599. The series, depicting events in the lives of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary, had long been considered lost by many art historians.

One of the paintings, "Prayer in the Garden," will be transferred to the Getty in 2027 for scientific analysis and conservation treatment. Researchers hope to gain new insights into Bitti's artistic techniques and materials that could guide the preservation of the remaining works.

The conservation effort will also include environmental monitoring and training for local professionals and community members to support the church's continued preservation.

Construction on the seismic retrofitting project is expected to begin in 2027, with Peru's Ministry of Culture funding and overseeing the work. Getty specialists will continue monitoring the project over the following years.

The Getty Museum's Paintings Council is providing financial support for the initiative.

For information, visit getty.edu.



photo by Victor Zea

The historic 17th-century Church of Santo Tomás de Aquino, also known as the Church of Rondocan, is located in Peru's Cusco region.

Crane collapse kills contractor in Beverly Hills

From page 1

Boulevard and Lomitas Avenue as crews worked to secure the scene and remove the equipment.

Beverly Hills Mayor Craig Corman expressed condolences to the victim's family in a statement on Nov. 22.

"We are devastated to learn about the tragic accident that occurred earlier today involving an employee of a company that contracts with the city of Beverly Hills," Corman said. "Our thoughts are with the family of the employee who lost his life while performing routine landscaping maintenance within the city. A tragedy such as this is truly heartbreaking."

West Coast Arborists confirmed the death in a statement on Nov. 23.

"Yesterday afternoon, the West Coast Arborists family tragically lost one of our own while performing tree work in Beverly Hills," the company said. "We are heartbroken by this devastating loss. Our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies go out to his family, loved ones, fellow crew members and everyone affected by this tragedy."

The company said it would not provide additional details or conduct interviews while the investigation remained ongoing, citing the need to respect the privacy of the victim's family.

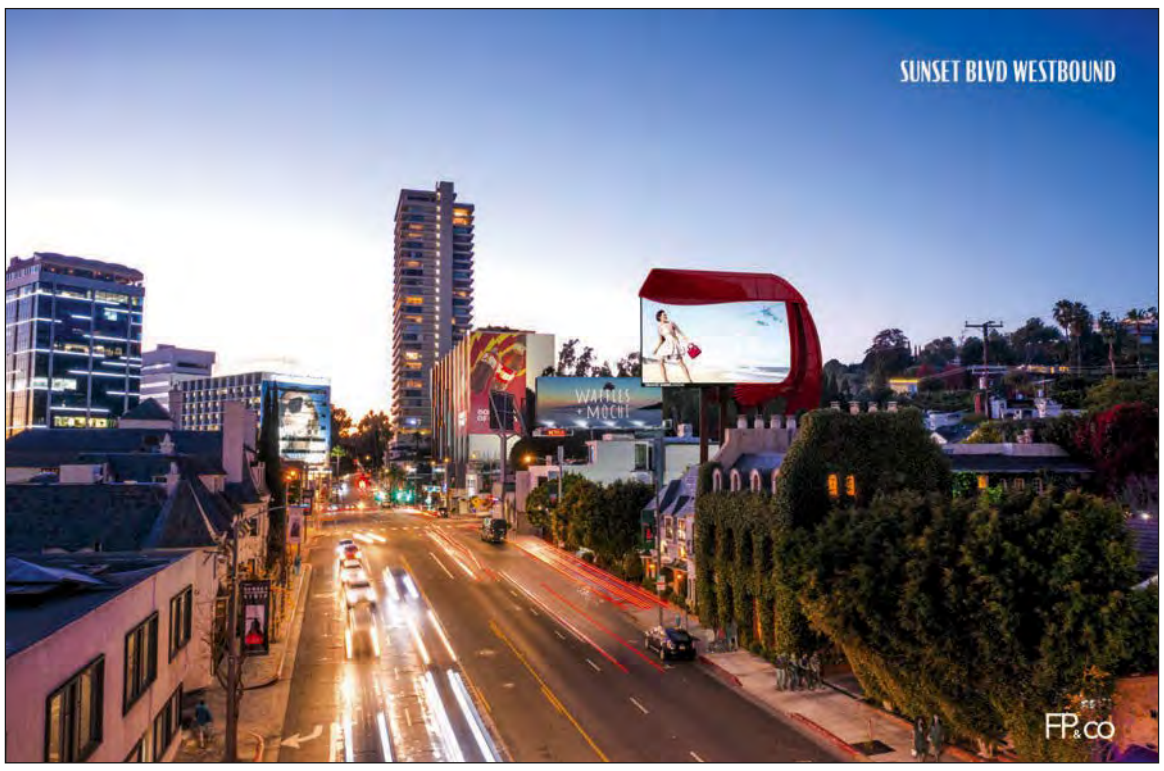
"During this incredibly difficult time, we respectfully ask that the privacy of his family and loved ones be honored as they grieve," the company said.

Authorities have not announced what caused the collapse or whether the equipment was operating when it fell.

The incident remains under investigation.

Sunset Strip billboard project moves forward

From page 1



rendering courtesy of Florencia Pita & Co.

The rendering depicts the westbound view of the proposed Sunset Cinema Project in West Hollywood at 9121 Sunset Blvd.

ronment of Sunset Boulevard and continue its history as a premier location for outdoor advertising.

"The design celebrates the Sunset Strip's legacy of creative performance," Orange Barrel Media wrote in the project summary.

Under West Hollywood's Sunset Boulevard Off-Site Signage Policy, the maximum allowed billboard height is 35 feet. The 84-foot-tall billboard would exceed the limit by 49 feet.

The Sunset Cinema Project exceeds other limits, including the maximum allowable distance between the billboard and the building by approximately 16 feet, the total sign area of new billboards by 1,036 square feet and the total sign area of new digital billboards by 536 square feet.

Because of these violations of the off-site signage rules, the project is classified as an alternative project under the West Hollywood Sunset Boulevard billboard policy.

The designation requires the developer to provide an "extraordinary public benefit." If approved by the City Council, the project would enter a 30-year development agreement with the city, with a formal preservation plan and upkeep mandates for the historic property.

The proposed development agreement requires the owner to pay the city a minimum annual guarantee of $1,250,000, increasing by 3% each year over the agreement term. The city will also receive 30% of the revenue generated from the billboard, with a revenue threshold of $6 million and an annual escalation of 3% through the term of the agreement.

In years three through seven of the agreement, the city will receive an additional $500,000 in public benefit payments, spread evenly across those years. Over the 30-year term, the city anticipates $69,047,311 in revenue.

Over a dozen members of the public attended the planning commission meeting and submitted public comments opposing the 84-foot-tall billboard.

West Hollywood resident Scott Elrod was concerned about the project's potential effects on his neighborhood. He said his property would be directly exposed to the billboard's eastward-facing side.

"The commission should have the opportunity to understand the real-world conditions experienced by nearby residents before approving another digital billboard of this size and intensity," Elrod said.

James M. Rishwain Jr., who lives on Doheny Drive, echoed similar concerns.

Rishwain asked the city to impose specific nighttime measures to prevent the billboard's light from interfering with residents' lives and to meaningfully reduce the sign's display area to reduce direct exposure toward hillside homes.

"This site occupies an especially important position. It is near the western gateway between West Hollywood and Beverly Hills. What is approved here will help define the physical character of that gateway for many years. The sign therefore should not be treated simply as another advertising installation along the Sunset Strip. Its scale, architectural integration and effects on the surrounding residential neighborhoods deserve greater attention," Rishwain said. "Residents like me invest in the communities, and that should be recognized."

Now that the planning commission has approved the sign, the Sunset Cinema Project will go before the City Council for review on a date yet to be determined.

California Science Center visitors receive discount at NHM

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is offering discounted admission to visitors of the California Science Center, welcoming guests attending the newly opened Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center in Exposition Park.

Visitors who present their California Science Center tickets at the Natural History Museum's on-site ticket desks will receive $5 off adult general admission and $3 off admission for children, students and seniors. The offer is valid within 30 days of visiting the Science Center and runs through Feb. 28, 2027.

With the discount, admission to the Natural History Museum costs $13 for adults, $9 for students and seniors and $4 for children. The offer also extends to visitors of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art through the end of 2026.

The promotion coincides with the opening of the Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center, which is expected to attract additional visitors to Exposition Park.

Founded in 1913, the Natural History Museum is Los Angeles' oldest museum.

Attractions include the 3.5-acre Nature Gardens, Dinosaur Hall and NHM Commons, a community-focused wing that opened in late 2024.

NHM Commons features Gnatalie, the world's only mounted green-boned dinosaur on display, and Barbara Carrasco's mural "L.A. History: A Mexican Perspective."

The museum is located near several other major attractions, including the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, BMO Stadium and California African American Museum.

The Natural History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Blvd. and is open daily from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., except the first Tuesday of each month, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

For information, visit nhm.org.



photo courtesy of NHMLAC

The exhibitions at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County include the Dinosaur Hall.

Two Beverly Hills projects receive architectural honors

Two Beverly Hills projects were recognized at the Los Angeles Business Council's 56th annual Architectural Awards on Nov. 20, celebrating excellence in design, innovation and sustainability throughout the region.

The honorees included Bronze and Black House, a private residence featuring a floating main structure and a grounded studio, and One Beverly Hills, a 17.5-acre mixed-use development anchored by Aman Beverly Hills, the Beverly Hilton and Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills.

The awards ceremony was held at the Beverly Wilshire, drawing more than 450 architects, designers, developers, business leaders and government officials. A jury of industry experts selected 45 winners from hundreds of submissions.

Architect Leo Marmol, cofounder of the design-build firm Marmol Radziner, delivered the keynote address. Marmol is known for his work in Midcentury Modern architecture and has long served as co-chair of the Architectural Awards.

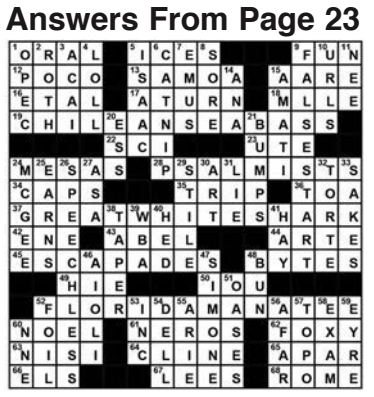
The Metro D Line Extension, which will connect downtown Los Angeles to Beverly Hills and other Westside communities, also received a Chairman's Award recognizing major infrastructure projects.

Los Angeles real estate developer and philanthropist Richard Ziman received the Los Angeles Business Council's Legacy Award for his contributions to sustainable development and civic leadership. Ziman helped establish the modern iteration of the Los Angeles Business Council in the late 1990s and has supported education and medical research through institutions including UCLA and City of Hope.

The ceremony also recognized a project converting three historic buildings on the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs campus into housing for veterans, as well as school rebuilding and recovery efforts following the 2025 Palisades and Eaton fires.

For information and a complete list of winners, visit labusinesscouncil.org.

Answers From Page 23



Classified Advertising

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

LEGAL NOTICES

PARK LABREA NEWS
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FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
2026192622

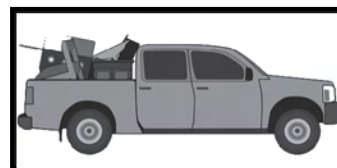
IFLEX WEST HOLLYWOOD, 8594 SANTA MONICA BLVD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. This business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION**. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A.** REGISTRANT: **DIONNEE ROBINSON HARPER, PRESIDENT, DIONNEE HARPER ENTERPRISES INC. 6240 WEST THIRD STREET 2-429, LOS ANGELES, CA 90036, , LOS ANGELES COUNTY ,** . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **SEPTEMBER 9, 2026**. NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law. (See section 14411 et seq., Business Professions Code.)

Published 11/5/26, 11/12/26, 11/19/26, 11/26/26

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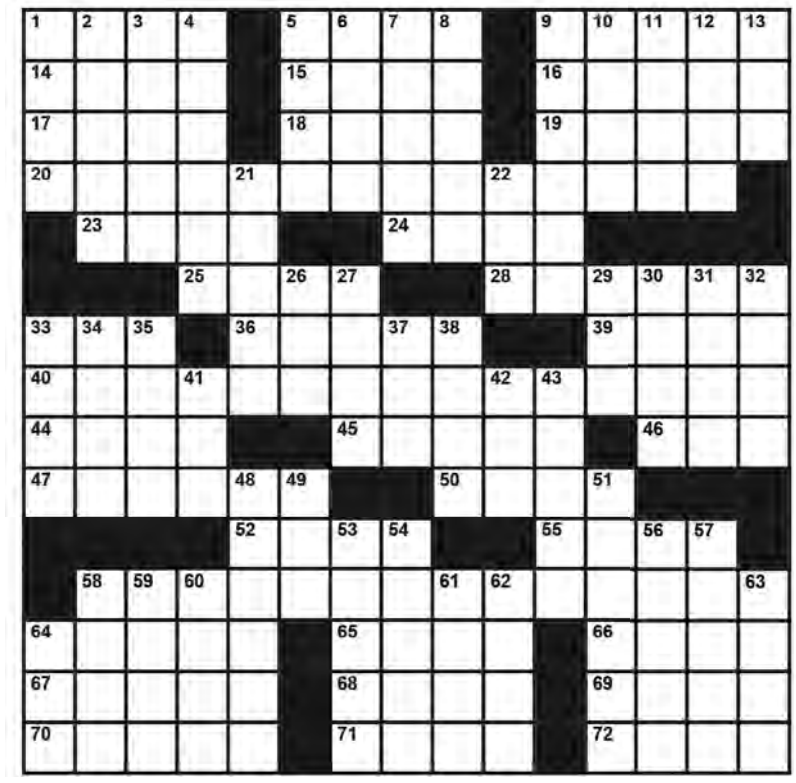
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West Hollywood hoists rainbow for annual Pride
WEHO PRIDE Weekend

Crossword Puzzle

by Myles Mellor



Across
1. Kind of exam
5. Cools
9. Amusement
12. A little, in music
13. Pago Pago's place
15. Rhine feeder
16. Card catalog abbr.
17. Took ___ for the worse
18. M.'s counterpart
19. Edible fish
22. ___-fi
23. Southwestern native
24. Desert tabletops
28. David and others
34. Beanies
35. Visit
36. Start of an ode's title
37. Jaws villain
42. Compass point
43. Genesis brother
44. Uffizi Gallery works
45. Adventurous undertakings
48. Memory units
49. Go quickly
50. Bettor's slip
52. Large marine mammal
60. December season
61. A fiddler and a pianist
62. Cunning
63. Take effect, later
64. Miss Patsy
65. On ___ with
66. Chicago trains
67. Some jeans
68. Vatican site

Down
1. Petroleum org.
2. "The Human Stain" writer
3. Health giving berry
4. Veg out
5. Sci-Fi great, Asimov
6. Kitty treat
7. Flightless Australian birds
8. Mad
9. Jump the line in swimming
10. WWW addresses
11. Formally known as
14. "I'll give you ___ for effort"
15. Fine violin
20. Mountain curve
21. Removes from the schedule
24. John D. MacDonald sleuth Travis ___
25. Brings home
26. Dumbfounded, say
27. __ __ rule (usually)
29. Fence feature
30. Simon's singing partner
31. Deceive
32. Dessert cake
33. Drinks with rice
38. Get progressively thinner
39. Ring org.
40. "If only ___ listened ..."
41. Cow chow
46. Garlic mayonnaise
47. Nina ___, jazz singer
48. Meat holder
51. Travelers' stopovers
52. Thwart
53. Abbr. at the end of a co. name
54. Big name in computers
55. Driver Leudenwyck
56. Not at all close
57. Hiker's map, casually
58. Course finale
59. Jane Austin character
60. Compass direction

answers on page 22

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