



Partly cloudy, rain expected this weekend

BEVERLY PRESS

INSIDE

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January 23, 2025

Byers takes reins on WeHo City Council

■ Heilman sworn in as city's vice mayor

BY RANCE COLLINS

After an eight-day delay, West Hollywood has a new mayor. Chelsea Byers has taken the title after serving as the city's vice mayor the last year. The West Hollywood City Council uses a rotating mayoral system, where the five mem-

bers of the council take turns at the helm. John Heilman was sworn in as vice mayor on Jan. 21.

"Becoming the mayor of this city is a tremendous honor and responsibility, especially when we have so many unknowns given the new administration in Washington and

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photo by Jon Viscott

Chelsea Byers was sworn in as West Hollywood mayor on Jan. 21 by her partner Austin Cyr.

Rain could disrupt fire recovery

■ City warns about toxic runoff from fire zones

BY TABOR BREWSTER

As Southern California grapples with the most destructive fires in recent history, Los Angeles leaders are preparing for possible rain in the forecast on Saturday, Jan. 25, and Sunday, Jan. 26.

According to the National Weather Service, there is a 50% chance of rain in Los Angeles on Saturday, and rain is likely on Sunday. While rain would put an end to a record-breaking dry spell that began in May 2024, it could also create dangerous conditions in burn areas, such as mudslides that may carry toxic pollutants from burned debris.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass on Jan. 21 issued an emergency executive order to prevent mudslides in burn areas.

"With rain in the forecast, it's imperative we take aggressive action to prevent additional damage in burn areas and to protect our water and ocean from haz-



photo by Tabor Brewster

The Palisades fire destroyed thousands of structures along the coast.

ardous runoff," Bass said. "I'm directing city crews to swiftly install reinforced concrete barriers, lay down sandbags and clear debris to shore up burn areas and stem the flow of toxins. These communities have already endured unimaginable loss - we are taking action against further harm."

The mayor's action followed a similar executive order by Gov.

Gavin Newsom on Jan. 20 that mobilizes state resources to remove debris from fire areas and create defenses against potential mudslides. The order suspends certain environmental regulations for 90 days, allowing a more expedited cleanup process ahead of anticipated rain.

"Even before we saw rain on the horizon in Los Angeles, I

See Relief efforts page 25

WeHo, LGBTQ+ leaders stand against Trump

■ City, organizations denounce sweeping executive orders

BY RANCE COLLINS

Los Angeles County officials are responding to the Trump administration's early actions on LGBTQ+ issues with condemnation. On Jan. 20, just hours after taking office, President Donald Trump issued an executive order declaring that the

United States only recognizing two sexes: male and female. He had already made a statement to that effect in his inaugural address.

"As of today, it will henceforth be the official policy of the United States government that there are only two genders: male and female," Trump said.

His executive order states that women need to be defended from "gender ideology," restoring "biological truth to the federal government."

The action seeks to keep transgender and nonbinary individuals from self-selecting gender on official government documents. Passports and visas with the gender marker "X" were first issued by the U.S. government in 2022.

Additionally, Pride flags have been banned from being flown at U.S. embassies and the page devoted to LGBTQ+ rights has been removed from the official White House website.

"This administration has made it clear that it will be hostile to the LGBTQ+ community and the immediate actions demonstrate their readiness to act on their promises," West Hollywood Mayor Chelsea Byers said. "This is a time for solidarity across borders. West Hollywood will always be a safe place for the LGBTQ+ community and we will continue to amplify all the resources and support and love we have to the entire LGBTQ+ community."

West Hollywood has the largest per capita population of LGBTQ+ people of any city in the country, with roughly 40% identifying as a member of the community.

"Trump's executive orders on gender recognition, slashing DEI

See Executive orders page 25



photo by Jon Viscott

West Hollywood has prominently displayed Pride flags for many years.



photo by Edwin Folven

Artist Diana Thater, who lost her home in the Eaton fire, plans to complete a work for LACMA's new David Geffen Galleries.

Artist vows to persevere after devastating wildfire

■ LACMA fully supports Thater's endeavor

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The devastating wildfires across Southern California have affected thousands of people and have caused irreplaceable losses.

In the Pacific Palisades and Altadena, people are returning to neighborhoods to find their homes severely damaged and in many cases, burned to the ground.

Altadena resident and artist Diana Thater and her husband, artist T. Kelly Mason, are among the thousands of people who lost

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CALENDAR

Design talk at
The Ebell

Join the Ebell of Los Angeles for an in-depth conversation with interior designer Timothy Corrigan on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. Corrigan will share insights about his career and design philosophy, and the inspiration behind his sophisticated globally influenced interiors. The evening will showcase elements of Corrigan's recent design work and his latest book "At Home In France." Tickets are \$25. 741 S. Lucerne Blvd. ebellofla.org/events/timothy-corrigan-talk.



'Union Station'

"Union Station," an original play by writer and director Ron Harner, premieres at the Broadwater Main Stage from Thursday, Jan. 23, through Sunday, Jan. 26. Featuring songs by Joni Mitchell, "Union Station" tells the story of a young musician on a journey to find her own voice. At a crossroads, she boards a train to visit her favorite aunt, hoping to gain a new perspective on life. Along the way, unexpected characters become companions, helping her discover the answers she's been looking for. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Jan. 23-25; 3 p.m., Jan. 26. Tickets are \$25. 1078 Lillian Way. eventbrite.com/e/union-station-at-the



broadwater-main-stage-tickets-1043292153917?msocid=219c61d6624668150f0d72b063c269c2.

'Rachmaninoff & Muhly'

The LA Phil presents "Rachmaninoff & Muhly" on Friday, Jan. 24, at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 25-26, at 2 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Eun Sun Kim, music director for the San Francisco Opera, leads the LA Phil in a performance of Rachmaninoff's "Third Symphony" and a new concerto grosso by forward-thinking composer Nico Muhly. Also, pianist Alexandre Kantorow, winner of the prestigious Gilmore Artist Award, performs Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini." Tickets start at \$45. 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.org.

LACMA 'Art and Ecology'

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art is holding an opening reception for "Nature on Notice: Contemporary Art and Ecology" on Friday, Jan. 24, from 2:30-6:30 p.m. at its satellite gallery at Charles White Elementary School. The event includes family-friendly activities with art-making workshops for all ages, DJ sets and refreshments. The exhibition explores how art and science can address ecological challenges, reflecting on current changes and cultures that honor nature. 2401 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.

Magic and illusion

Theatre West presents "Millennium Magic 2025," an extravaganza of magic and illusion from Friday, Jan. 24, through Sunday, Jan. 26. Magician George Tovar hosts the program with many of Los Angeles' finest magicians and illusionists. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday. General admission is \$40. 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West. (323)851-4839. theatrewest.org.



'Hurricane Kate'

"Hurricane Kate" runs from Friday, Jan. 24, through Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Stella Adler Theater. The production's opening was postponed one week due to the wildfires in Los Angeles. It follows four estranged siblings who discover what makes them a family after their mother dies. Set along the Gulf Coast in 1994, the comedic drama explores generational trauma, mental health and the constant search for belonging. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit A Light in Dark Places, an organization dedicated to reducing the stigma of suicide. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Thursday through Monday; 4 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$30. 6773 Hollywood Blvd. hurricane.kate.eventbrite.com.

Architecture and wildfires forum

"The Heart of L.A.: Memories, Resilience and the Road to Recovery," a free public conversation about the L.A. wildfires and recovery moderated by architecture journalist Frances Anderton, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 25, from noon-2 p.m. at the Helms Design Center. The public forum offers an opportunity to hear testimonials, mourn community losses and have a constructive dialogue about rebuilding. Topics include short-term needs and long-term plans, the impact of the fires on housing sup-

ply, the role of fire insurance and how the design community can help Los Angeles. Architects, builders and advocates will answer questions during the forum. 8745 Washington Blvd. givebutter.com/heartofla.

Music of Mozart

The Pasadena Symphony and music director Brett Mitchell present Mozart's "Jupiter Symphony" on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Ambassador Auditorium. The jubilation of Mozart's "Jupiter Symphony" provides an uplifting voice for the community in light of the devastating wildfires. The orchestra's musicians are looking forward to performing for the community, providing a space to begin to heal through music. Tickets are free for first responders and anyone who has been displaced or evacuated or has experienced loss from the wildfires. 131 S. St. John Ave. pasadenasympphony-pops.org.

'Evanston Salt Costs Climbing'

Rogue Machine presents the Southern California premiere of "Evanston Salt Costs Climbing" running Saturday, Jan. 25, through Sunday, March 9, at the Matrix Theatre. The play by Pulitzer Prize finalist Will Arbery confronts humanity's darkest fears with humor, warmth and fortitude. Winters keep getting worse in Evanston, Illinois, where salt truck drivers Peter and Basil battle the ice and snow and pass the time with jokes and stories. But why is there a creeping sense of dread? Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday through Monday; 3 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$45 on Sunday and Monday; \$60 on Friday and Saturday. 7657 Melrose Ave. roguemachinetheatre.org.

Fritz Coleman

Fritz Coleman brings his "Unassisted Residency" comedy show to the El Portal Theatre on Sundays, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 30 and April 27. The live comedy show for "woke boomers" covers topics including Zoom School, retirement, becoming vegan and pharmaceuticals, and celebrates growing up and growing old. It also incorporates some of Coleman's favorite stories and observations about modern life. Tickets are \$40 for general admission, \$50 for cocktail table seating (two ticket purchase required). 5269 Lankershim Blvd, North Hollywood. elportaltheatre.com/fritzcoleman.html.



'Zeni: Dean of the Diamond'

L.A. Theatre Works presents an audio theater recording of "Zeni: Dean of the Diamond," a new play by Mas Moriya based on the true story of the man often referred to as "the father of Japanese American baseball." Zenimura, known as "Zeni," developed a Nisei baseball league in the 1920s in Fresno, California, and later organized tours that brought Babe Ruth to the West Coast and Japan. After being sent to Gila River, an internment camp in Arizona where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II, he knew that somehow baseball would be the key to improving the lives of the detainees. The production is available on demand at streaming.latwv.org.

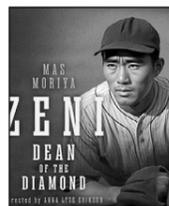


photo by Tabor Brewster

District Attorney Nathan Hochman has yet to make a statement in support or opposition of the possible resentencing.

Menendez resentencing hearing pushed to March

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A judge has rescheduled a court hearing in the possible resentencing of brothers Erik and Lyle Menendez, Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman announced on Jan. 17. The resentencing hearing was initially scheduled to take place on Jan. 30 and 31, but has been pushed to March 20 and 21.

"The continuance is due to the impact of recent wildfires on the parties' extensive preparations for the hearings," read a statement from Hochman's office.

According to Hochman, the judge met with the defense counsel and prosecutors on Jan. 17 to set a new date.

The brothers were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in 1996 for the double murder of their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez. The homicide took place in the family home in Beverly Hills in 1989. While the determination that the brothers murdered their parents has not been contested, new evidence has since come to light that the previous district attorney's office said could affect the sentencing of the brothers. Calls for their release have also grown louder due to increased attention from a recent Netflix series and documentary.

The previous district attorney, George Gascón – who was defeated by Hochman in the Nov. 5 election – recommended the brothers be resentenced after reviewing evidence that suggests they were sexually abused by their father. Gascón also supported a clemency request for the Menendez brothers. According to

the California Constitution, the governor has the authority to grant clemency in the form of a sentence commutation or pardon. Gov. Gavin Newsom announced he would not make a clemency decision until Hochman reviews the case.

While Hochman has begun reviewing the case, he has not yet made a statement in support or opposition of the possible resentencing or release of Erik and Lyle Menendez. During the race for the D.A.'s office, Hochman frequently criticized Gascón's actions as a last-ditch-effort to drum up support in a race that he was likely to lose.

Hochman met with approximately 25 members of the Menendez family on Jan. 3. Many family members have been outspoken in their support for the release of the brothers. The meeting marked one of the first steps taken by Hochman in the possible resentencing of Erik and Lyle Menendez.

"It was a productive and important conversation, and I deeply appreciate the family's willingness to share their perspectives," Hochman said in a statement on Jan. 3. "This meeting is part of our thorough review of the facts and the law, including analyzing thousands of pages of confidential prison records, transcripts from two months-long trials and appellate decisions. In addition to speaking with victim family members, we are speaking with prosecutors involved with the case, law enforcement and defense counsel in order to reach a decision on the habeas and resentencing motions that we will then defend in court."

Fire initially reported as arson blackens hillside in Griffith Park

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A fire that erupted in Griffith Park on Jan. 20 burned a quarter-acre of hillside brush before firefighters extinguished the flames.

The fire started around 1 p.m. in an area southwest of the Griffith Observatory, which was closed at the time due to red flag conditions and extreme fire danger. The flames were fully extinguished in 31 minutes and no structures were damaged, LAFD spokeswoman Lyndsey Lantz said.

A man was arrested in the 2700 block of Glendower Avenue in the Los Feliz area shortly after the fire started and media reports stated he

was taken into custody for arson. Los Angeles Police Department spokesman Drake Madison said on Jan. 21 that police did not have "probable cause" to link the suspect to the fire in Griffith Park and the LAPD is not pursuing arson charges. Madison said the man, identified as Kevin Calderon, 26, had outstanding warrants for tampering with a vehicle and was taken into custody on the warrants. Madison declined to comment further and referred questions to the fire department. Lantz, of the LAFD, had no further updates on the blaze.

The exact cause of the fire remains under investigation.

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photo courtesy of World Central Kitchen

Former Vice President Kamala Harris' first action as a civilian on Jan. 20 was to participate in California wildfire relief efforts.

Harris volunteers in Altadena

■ Former vice president visits fire station, relief site

BY RANCE COLLINS

The World Central Kitchen had a high-profile volunteer on Jan. 20. Just hours after completing her service in Washington, D.C., former Vice President Kamala Harris joined the relief effort in Altadena.

"I wanted to come out, in particular, to this extraordinary community. As I said to [the] courageous and extraordinary firefighters, moments of crisis really do reveal the heroes among us," Harris said.

The former Democratic presidential candidate joined hundreds of volunteers who have assisted in delivering over 200,000 meals to

fire victims and first responders. The hosting site she visited was Gordy's Garage repair shop.

"The volunteers who were [at World Central Kitchen], some of them lost their own homes, are there doing the work of taking care of perfect strangers who, in the face of that stranger, they see a nation. These are folks who understand the strength and the value of community," Harris continued.

Harris also visited Altadena's fire station 12, which was the first station to respond to the Eaton fire.

The vice president lives in Brentwood with former Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff. Their home was under a mandatory evacuation order but was ultimately not affected by the fires.

"We're blessed. Our home is standing," she said.

Biden affirms Equal Rights Amendment

■ Legal challenges are expected

BY RANCE COLLINS

On Jan. 17, then-President Joe Biden declared the Equal Rights Amendment is the law of the land.

"It is long past time to recognize the will of the American people," Biden said. "In keeping with my oath and duty to Constitution and country, I affirm what I believe and what three-fourths of the states have ratified. The 28th Amendment is the law of the land, guaranteeing all Americans equal rights and protections under the law regardless of their sex."

The amendment was first proposed in 1923. The ratification process began after the text, written by suffragist Alice Paul, was passed by both houses of Congress in 1972.

The law states, succinctly, that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

It then took decades for the amendment to reach the necessary 38 states for ratification. What happens now, however, is subject to debate. The National Archives said that the "underlying legal and procedural issues" with the amendment had not changed, which include a 1982 deadline that many consider unconstitutional. The city of West Hollywood positioned itself squarely in the center of the debate over the ERA in October,



photo courtesy of Zoe Nicholson

Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, and Zoe Nicholson participated in the 2019 Women's March, where a replica of the "Fearless Girl" statue by Kristen Visbal was displayed.

when an art installation entitled "FINAL IMPACT" calling for the publication of the amendment adorned the side of the West Hollywood Library.

"I'm glad to see the president declare that the Equal Rights Amendment is the law of the land but he did not tell the archivist of the United States to publish the ERA still leaving a lot in limbo,"

West Hollywood Mayor Councilman John Erickson said. "Given the current Supreme Court makeup and new and existing legal challenges, I'm hopeful that this move by President Biden will be far more than just symbolic. We still have work to do to pass the ERA and West Hollywood will be there to help in whatever way we can."

See ERA page 25



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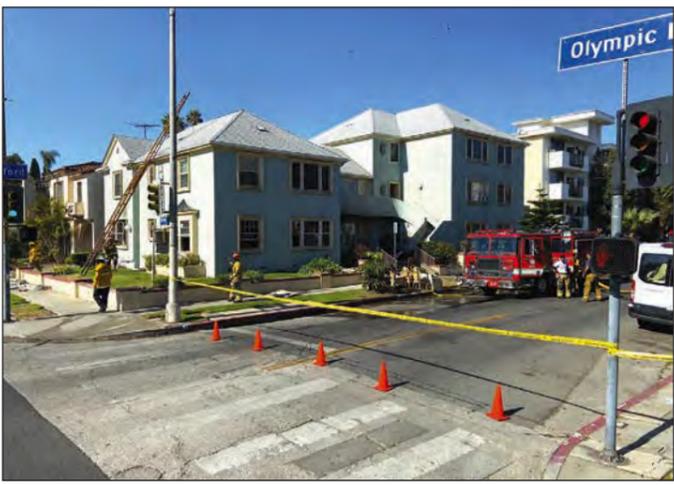


photo by Edwin Folven

Firefighters stopped flames from spreading to other units in an apartment at the northwest corner of Olympic Boulevard and Bedford Street.

LAFD keeps apartment fire on Olympic from spreading

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles Fire Department extinguished a blaze on Jan. 20 in a ground floor apartment at Olympic Boulevard and Bedford Street, just south of the Beverly Hills border,

“We received a call at 11:39 a.m. about a structure fire and eight units were dispatched,” LAFD spokeswoman Lyndsey Lantz said. “Firefighters responded to a two-story apartment building and found moderate smoke on the first floor.”

Residents evacuated before firefighters arrived. The blaze was extinguished in 15 minutes. Lantz said the fire started in “contents” inside the apartment. The exact cause remains under investigation. A resident of the unit where the fire started was evaluated at the scene for injuries but did not require hospitalization, Lantz said.

Jeremy Blutstein, a nearby resident who was jogging by the building when he saw smoke, helped ensure the resident in the affected unit got out safely. Ryan Keating, who was driving by the building, stopped and used a fire extinguisher to fight the flames.

“I saw a lady in a window and I could see smoke behind her so I called 911, and then this guy ran up with a fire extinguisher,” Blutstein said. “People driving

by were saying, ‘there’s a hose, there’s a hose up front,’ and I ran out and got the hose and just started spraying in there. The lady crawled out. She thought her cat was inside, but then the cat came running out.”

“I just saw it and grabbed my fire extinguisher. I walked in the front door and immediately, the smoke was from here up,” Keating said pointing to his waist. “I snuck into the black smoke to make sure there was nobody else in there.”

A resident in another unit in the building who declined to give his name said he is thankful firefighters kept the flames from spreading. He said he has seen people evacuated due to recent fires in hillside areas, but never expected something similar would happen to him.

“We were so lucky, because I was in the apartment and I didn’t smell anything. My daughter was literally playing on the floor,” the resident said. “And then I heard screaming, so I opened my front door and I saw the smoke. I always had this fear about it, so we have our plan and we came out back. My daughter was a little tearful, but she was OK.”

LAFD personnel remained at the scene after the fire was extinguished to help with cleanup operations and ensure the flames did not rekindle.

Police investigate Melrose area burglaries

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division are investigating multiple burglaries and burglary attempts during the past week in the Melrose area. Police have arrested one suspect, but based on video and witness accounts, it appears the incidents have been committed by multiple perpetrators.

An attempted burglary was reported on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 3:55 a.m. in the 700 block of North Curson Avenue. A resident told police they were awakened by a window breaking on the side of their residence and heard multiple suspects. The victim screamed and the suspects fled in an unknown direction, police said.

Another attempted burglary occurred on Jan. 15 around 5:30 a.m. in the 700 block of North Las Palmas Avenue, in the neighborhood north of Melrose Avenue and east of Highland Avenue. The incident was captured on security video. Two male suspects entered the victim’s yard and attempted to pry off a board securing a previously shattered window. The victim, who was inside sleeping, woke up and started turning on lights. The suspects fled the location, heading north on Las Palmas Avenue toward Waring Avenue. The suspects were wearing dark clothing, masks and gloves, police said.

Detectives are also investigating a burglary that occurred on Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. in the 800 block of North Sycamore Avenue in the Melrose



photo by Edwin Folven

Multiple burglaries have occurred in the Melrose area since Jan. 15. One suspect has been arrested.

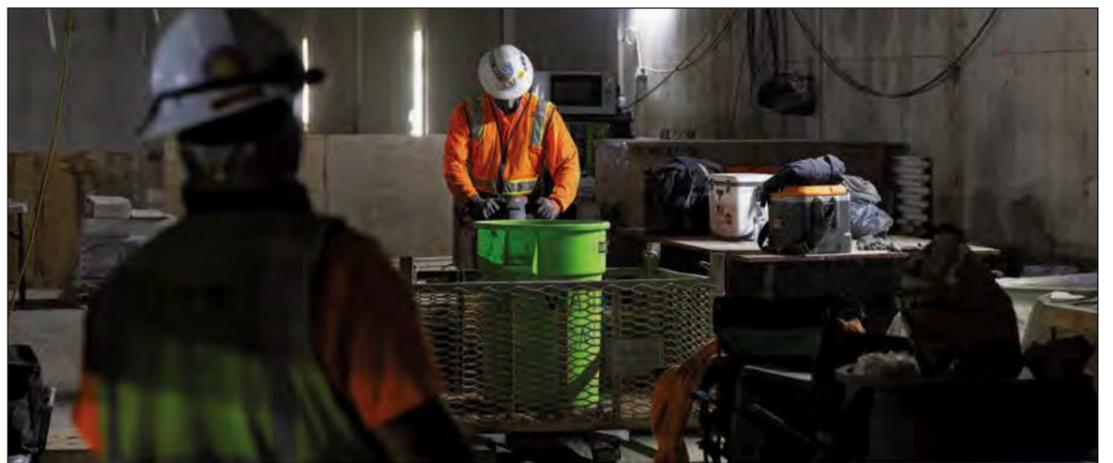
area. Three male suspects smashed a rear window and entered a residence while an occupant was home. The suspects stole cash, a watch, shoes and a drone before the occupant confronted the suspects. The men fled through the same window that they entered the home. The victim told police the men were wearing dark clothing, masks and gloves.

On Friday, Jan. 17, around 6:45 a.m., a burglary occurred at a single-family home in the 400 block of North Arden Boulevard in the Larchmont area. A suspect or suspects shut off electrical power to the house, smashed a rear window and ransacked the residence, police said. The property stolen included watches. No suspect description was available.

A 22-year-old man was arrested for burglary on Saturday, Jan. 18, at

10:45 p.m. in the 500 block of North Gardner Street. Police said the suspect, Omar Charles, was responsible for three vehicle burglaries in the area earlier the same night. Investigators said Charles burglarized a parked vehicle at an apartment building on Gardner Street and stole property, including a remote control to the garage. The suspect went inside the garage and stole more property, and was seen by residents as he left, police said. The residents called police and officers arrested Charles a short time later.

Police said Charles has prior arrests for robbery, burglary, grand theft and assault, and is on probation for two previous burglary cases. He is currently being held without bail. Anyone with information is urged to call investigators at (213)473-0476.



D LINE SUBWAY EXTENSION PROJECT
Section 2 – Beverly Hills

FEMA warns about common crimes during disasters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is warning victims of the Los Angeles-area wildfires about scams and fraud schemes perpetrated by criminals attempting to take advantage of the disaster. Criminals often attempt to obtain names, addresses and social security numbers to fraudulently gain access to survivors’ legitimate FEMA grants.

It is important to note that only one application may be filed for each household. A survivor who is applying with FEMA and is told they already have applied should first ensure no one else in the household has already applied on their behalf. If fraud is suspected, immediately call the FEMA Helpline at (800)621-3362 or speak to a FEMA representative at a Disaster Recovery Center.

Those who did not apply for assistance but received a letter from

FEMA about an application should call the FEMA Helpline at (800)621-3362 to stop further processing of an application.

Authorities are also warning about identity theft and other crimes commonly perpetrated during disasters. For more information and steps for people who suspect they are victims of identity theft, visit identitytheft.gov.

California also has price gouging protections in effect that apply to hotels, rental housing, food, goods and services. To report instances of price gouging, visit oag.ca.gov/lafires.

Disaster survivors should be aware of FEMA impersonators. Disaster workers do not solicit or accept money. The deadline to apply for FEMA assistance is March 10. To apply, call (800)621-3362, or visit disasterassistance.gov.

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January Updates

In January and February, the contractor will begin piling activities on Wilshire Bl between N Canon Dr and S Beverly Dr between the hours of 9am–4pm.

Backfill concrete work for cross passage restoration will take place on Wilshire Bl from 8:15pm–7am.



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Local leaders respond to Trump's immigration policy

■ Birthright citizenship order prompts lawsuits

BY TABOR BREWSTER

President Donald Trump signed a record-breaking number of executive orders on his first day in office shortly after he was inaugurated as the 47th president. Many of the orders centered on immigration and the southern border – a focus of Trump since he first ran for president in 2016. While some of the president's promises on immigration – including mass deportations – have yet to occur, his executive order on eliminating birthright citizenship has prompted backlash from leaders in California, in addition to a lawsuit from the state.

Trump's executive order aims to prevent citizenship for children born in the U.S. to parents who are undocumented immigrants. The 14th Amendment states that, "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside."

The state of California joined 18 states and two cities in a lawsuit

filed on Jan. 21 against the Trump administration challenging the order. A second lawsuit was filed by four other states.

"The president's executive order attempting to rescind birthright citizenship is blatantly unconstitutional and quite frankly, un-American," California Attorney General Bonta said. "As home of Wong Kim Ark, a San Francisco native who fought – successfully – to have his U.S. citizenship recognized, California condemns the president's attempts to erase history and ignore 125 years of Supreme Court precedent. We are asking a court to immediately block this order from taking effect and ensure that the rights of American-born children impacted by this order remain in effect while litigation proceeds. The president has overstepped his authority by a mile with this order, and we will hold him accountable."

Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) echoed Bonta's statement in a post on X.

"Trump's attempt to end birthright citizenship is an attack on the rights enshrined in our Constitution," Padilla wrote. "Today's unlawful executive order is nothing more than an attempt to instill fear and chaos in communi-

ties throughout America."

State Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas highlighted his own background in defending birthright citizenship.

"I am a first-generation Californian from a family of immigrant farmworkers. My grandfather came here because he believed in the California Dream and wanted to provide a better life for our family," Rivas said. "Today, California has one of the largest economies on Earth because of immigrants who helped build our state. From the ag fields to our boardrooms, immigrants help drive America's prosperity. People like my grandpar-

ents, who played by the rules, paid taxes, and did everything they could to uplift our community. I will always fight for immigrants, especially children because America is a nation of immigrants, and I believe in our country's promise."

Congresswoman Luz Rivas, who represents California's 43rd State Assembly District – including portions of the San Fernando Valley – expressed a similar message.

"The 14th Amendment is clear that any person born in the United States is a citizen of the United States, and no one, not even President Trump, can take that birthright citizenship away from them," Rivas said. "Cruelty toward immigrants was the focus of President Trump's first term, and

just hours into his second term, he has shown that it will continue to be his focus. This is not what our country stands for, and we will not let President Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric divide us further. My Congressional Hispanic Caucus colleagues and I will fight for our immigrant communities and the unalienable rights that are guaranteed to them under our Constitution. I look forward to this over-reaching executive order being swiftly and rightfully challenged in court."

While some California representatives had much to say on the topic of eliminating birthright citizenship, Gov. Gavin Newsom's official statement was brief.

"This is unconstitutional," it read.

Museum of Tolerance lit blue to recognize Oct. 7 hostages return

On Jan. 19, in a demonstration of togetherness and an expression of unity, the Museum of Tolerance lit its building in blue, honoring the safe return of hostages taken by Hamas.

With each subsequent release of hostages, the museum will continue to show its support and light its building in blue as a symbol of hope and remembrance.

"In honor of the release of three Israeli hostages, The Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles lit its building in blue on Sunday night, Jan. 19, 2025. It will do so every time hostages are released to offer a wordless tribute to hostages returning home, those left behind and those forever lost. This powerful and symbolic act will continue each

night a hostage is released – Israeli, American – or from communities around the world," the museum wrote in a statement. "The blue light stands as a beacon of hope, healing and solidarity, a tribute to those returning home and a memorial for those who perished. We join the global community in praying for the safe return and recovery of all of the hostages, for those who perished to receive a proper burial in the land of Israel and for an end to the suffering of civilians throughout this war. This light is our message – we welcome them home, and we will never forget."

The Museum of Tolerance is located at 9786 W. Pico Blvd. For information, visit museumoftolerance.com.

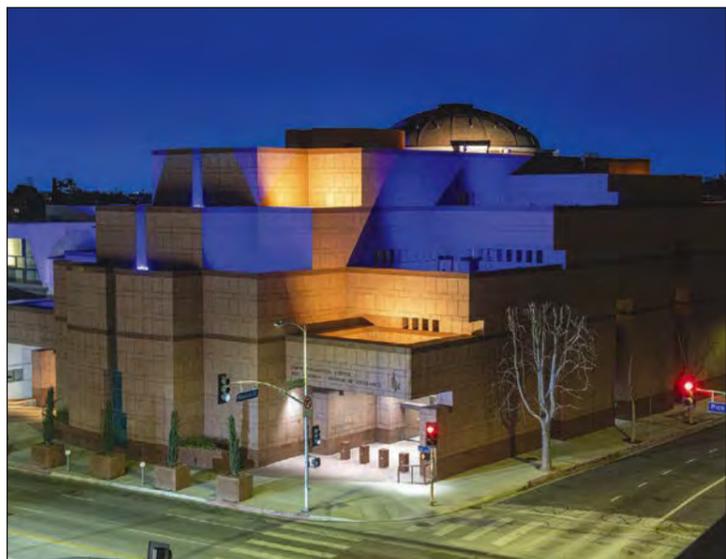


photo courtesy of the Museum of Tolerance

The museum will continue to light its building in blue each time hostages are released.



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Beverly Hills

TEMPLE of the ARTS

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MENSCH FOUNDATION

honors Holocaust survivors, including our
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shall be bestowed upon

Please join us for this
Shabbat dinner in honor
of the survivors as we pay
tribute to them on Friday
evening, February 21

Shabbat Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Post lobby at Temple of the Arts

\$75 per person

For further information and
RSVP to geigersa@gmail.com



David Wiener
Holocaust Survivor



David Meyerhof
Holocaust Educator



Gabriella Karin
Sculptor and
Holocaust Survivor

UPCOMING EVENT ON THE CLOOBECK STAGE

THU 13 FEB

GABBY BERNSTEIN: CHANGE YOUR LIFE

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DOORS 6:30PM SHOW 7:30PM
UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PAYING ADULT

~ UPDATED EVENT DATE ~



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Beverly Hills passes fire relief ordinances

Measures allow short-term rentals, extend tax deadline

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills City Council on Jan. 16 unanimously passed two urgency ordinances to support fire relief efforts. The two ordinances suspend the city's restrictions on short-term rentals for 90 days and extend the deadline for taxes for certain businesses.

City code usually prohibits rentals of less than 30 days – which are often booked through apps including Airbnb and Vrbo – in multi-family residential buildings. In single family homes, rentals less than six months are usually allowed only twice per year.

However, under the new 90-day ordinance, those limitations have been removed, with certain restrictions. Short-term rentals are now allowed when rented to a household that is in a current evacuation area or has been displaced by the wildfires. Property owners must submit documentation to the city verifying the tenant lived in an active evacuation order or warning area, lost their home or was displaced from their home due to the emergency.

Under state price gouging laws,

rental rates are limited to 10% above the rate charged prior to the fires. Additionally, rates for new rentals are limited to 160% of the fair market rent established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The ordinance exempts short-term rental units used by evacuees from transient occupancy tax, which is usually paid by the occupant. It also exempts property owners from paying business tax if not already required. Property owners must register emergency short term rentals with the city.

Michael Tenner, an attorney representing The Peninsula Beverly Hills – a five-star hotel on South Santa Monica Boulevard – spoke at the meeting in support of the ordinance, but asked the council to consider changes.

“We applaud the council for taking such swift action to help the people that have been devastated by this tragedy,” Tenner said. “We also want to let the council know and the public know that both our hotel and other hotels ... have plenty of occupancy. If there are any fire victims that need immediate assistance with lodging, our hotels and others are ready, willing and able to help them right now.”

He asked that the council set a short-term rental minimum of seven days. He also asked that the

city bring the ordinance back to a City Council hearing after the 90 days have expired to consider if it should be extended. Lastly, he suggested that the elimination of the transient occupancy tax also apply to evacuees staying in hotels.

The council ultimately agreed to eliminate transient occupancy tax for evacuees staying in hotels.

“Sure, a lot of these people are going to have their hotel tabs picked up by insurance companies. But these are also people who would otherwise not be staying at our hotels. They would be staying at their own homes,” Councilman Craig Corman said. “In a sense, if we are insisting that they pay the [transient occupancy taxes], we are indirectly profiteering in some ways from the fires, which I think is not the right way to approach this problem. I do think that waiving the [transient occupancy tax] for the hotel stays for these people is the right thing to do. It's the ethical thing to do. And in my mind it doesn't matter how much money we're talking about. These are people who have been displaced. They're in pain.”

The council did not decide to bring the item back to a public hearing, instead allowing the city manager to extend the ordinance if needed. The council also did not set a rental minimum of seven days.



photo by Tabor Brewster

One of the ordinances suspends transient occupancy taxes for evacuees staying in short-term rentals and hotels, including the Peninsula Beverly Hills.

“If people are out of their homes because of the fires for two days or four days or seven days, it doesn't matter. They're out of their homes for the fires, and we're trying to give them some help,” Corman said.

The second ordinance extends the business tax deadline from Jan. 31 to March 31 for businesses offering “personal services,” which includes hair and nail salons. According to a city staff report, “business owners providing person-

al services have been adversely impacted [by the fires] due to the impacts on their clientele and are worried about meeting their financial obligations.”

“The impact of the fires are going to affect many people and it's going to have a domino effect in many ways and I think this is great for us to do this right now,” Councilwoman Mary Wells said. “We should also keep our eyes open for other areas in the future that may need to be addressed.”



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 13, 2025

TIME: 1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

LOCATION: Meeting will be held in person at:

Commission Meeting Room 280A
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Members of the public may also participate via teleconference; details provided below

PROJECT ADDRESS: **9882 Santa Monica Boulevard**
(between Charleville Boulevard and Lasky Drive)



The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2025, will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider the following:

A request for a one-year time extension for a previously approved Conditional Use Permit to allow an addition to an existing hotel villa by approximately 1,200 square feet, which would allow for an internal reconfiguration of the villa and the construction of an additional bedroom on the property located at **9882 South Santa Monica Boulevard** (The Peninsula Hotel). The Planning Commission previously approved the entitlement on December 14, 2023 (Planning Commission Resolution No. 2045). Pursuant to Beverly Hills Municipal Code §10-3-2862, the period may be extended no more than two times for additional one-year periods. However, the period may be extended no more than two times for additional one-year periods. The requested one-year time extension would extend the existing approval until December 14, 2025.

This project was previously assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000 et seq.), and the environmental regulations of the City. A Class 1 Categorical Exemption (Existing Facilities) was previously issued pursuant to Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines. There have been no substantial changes to the project and no substantial changes to the environmental that would cause the project to significantly impact the environment. Therefore, there is no substantial evidence that the approval of the requested extension may have any significant environmental impact. The original Class 1 Categorical Exemption continues

to represent the independent judgement of the City and no additional environmental review is required under CEQA.

How to Participate

In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate in, watch, or listen to the commission meetings through the following methods:

In Person: Submit a speaker card to the Recording Secretary at the meeting.

Oral Comment: Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 1 when prompted. You will be placed on a brief hold and called upon to make a comment at the appropriate time.

Video Comment: <https://www.beverlyhills.org/BevPublic>, enter passcode: 90210 when prompted.

Written Comment: Email commentPC@beverlyhills.org

Audio Only: Call (310) 288-2288, select **Option 2** when prompted.

Watch LIVE: BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable or www.beverlyhills.org/watchlive

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 11:30 AM on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the Planning Commission.

Written comments should identify the Agenda Item number or topic in the subject line of the email. In order to be read at the meeting, written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately three (3) minutes of speaking time. If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Any written comments received by the end of the day on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Tuesday, February 4, 2025, but prior to the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission under separate cover.

According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Alexandria Smille, Associate Planner** in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1162**, or by email at asmille@beverlyhills.org. Copies of the project plans and associated application materials are on file in the Community Development Department and can be reviewed by contacting the project planner listed above.

Alexandria Smille, Associate Planner



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-2400 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.

Cinema-surrealist legend David Lynch dies

BY RANCE COLLINS

It seems sacrosanct to give David Lynch a straightforward obituary. The writer and director was known for confounding cinematic stories, often entirely open for interpretation. Famously, or perhaps infamously, he never explained what exactly was and was not real in the surrealist “Mulholland Drive” (2001).

What is certain is the filmmaker was a Los Angeles cult icon. Born on Jan. 20, 1946, in Montana and raised in Virginia, he grew up loving movies. His favorite was “The Wizard of Oz” (1939). He knew he wanted to be an artist from an early age and attended Washington, D.C.’s Corcoran School of the Arts and Design. Later, he spent time at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Finally, after an aborted stint in Europe, he landed at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. After completing several short films, he transferred yet again, this time to the newly established American Film Institute Conservatory in L.A.

It was at AFI, through several false starts, that he would ultimately complete his first feature film, the divisive “Eraserhead” (1977). The body horror flick became a popular midnight movie, following in the footsteps of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” (1975) and Pink Flamingos (1972). Its success captured the attention of Hollywood, including Mel Brooks, who would produce Lynch’s next feature. That film, “The Elephant Man” (1980), received widespread



photo courtesy of IMDb

David Lynch was nominated for three Academy Awards and received an Honorary Oscar in 2019.

acclaim, earning Lynch two Oscar nominations for direction and screenplay. The movie itself was nominated for Best Picture. This sparked a period of major success for Lynch, with the high-profile cult classic “Dune” in 1984 and then the neo-noir “Blue Velvet” in 1986, which earned him a second Oscar nomination. “Wild at Heart” (1990) followed, which split critics with its overt violence and sexual content, though it still received the Palme d’Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

In 1990, Lynch created the surrealist mystery series “Twin Peaks,” which was a phenomenon in its first season on ABC, as viewers anxiously tuned in each week hoping to find out who killed Laura Palmer. While the series fell in the ratings after the killer’s reveal, it spawned a spin-off film in 1992, “Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me,” and has maintained an enthusiastic fan base. In 2017, an additional season was produced for Showtime, with Lynch and much of the original cast returning.

His next film, “Lost Highway” (1997), continued in the same vein as “Blue Velvet,” with a modern take on 1940s Hollywood film noirs. “The Straight Story” (1999) presented a more, pardon the pun, straightforward narrative.

“Mulholland Drive” was, in many ways, the culmination of the director’s work. Originally shot to be a television pilot, it was retooled as a movie, ultimately crafted as an intentionally confusing narrative that blurs the line between dream and reality. He received another Oscar nomination for his direction. Lynch’s final film was “Inland Empire,” also set in Los Angeles – which, in typical Lynch fashion, received polarizing, though mostly favorable, reviews from critics and struggled to find an audience at the box office. Like many of his other films, however, it ultimately achieved cult status on home video and, later, streaming.

Lynch also dabbled in other artistic endeavors, including painting, furniture design, literature and electropop music. He was also a practitioner of transcendental meditation, and established the David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness-Based Education and Peace.

His daughter, Jennifer Lynch, was born in 1968 to his first wife Peggy Reavey. He later had a son, Riley Sweeney Lynch, with his editor Mary Sweeney in 1992. The couple married in 2006, but soon

filed for divorce. His last marriage was to actress Emily Stofle in 2009. While the two filed for divorce in 2023, it was not final at the time of his death.

Lynch discovered or advanced the careers of many major Hollywood stars including Laura Dern, Kyle MacLachlan, Naomi Watts, Anthony Hopkins, Patricia Arquette and Isabella Rossellini –

whom he dated for five years.

Lynch was a longtime smoker and suffered from emphysema. He was evacuated from his home during the California wildfires and died on Jan. 15 at his daughter’s home, just five days shy of his 79th birthday.

Speaking of his love of Los Angeles, Lynch once said it was “the intense light” that appealed to him, though he noted that the city is “always changing.”

“It takes longer to appreciate L.A. than a lot of cities, because it’s

so spread out, and every area has its own mood,” he said. “What I really like about it is, from time to time, if you drive around – especially at night – you can get a little gust of wind of the great days of the silver screen. All there in, like, living memory. It just makes you wish that you’d lived in those times. I think that if you could go back, that’s the one place that you want go back to. Maybe they didn’t appreciate it at the time, but it was an incredible place to be at the beginning of cinema.”

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

LOCATIONS:	Citywide, West Hollywood, California
REQUEST:	The City Council will hold a public hearing to consider adopting an Ordinance approving a zone text amendment to the City’s regulations governing the construction and conveyance of accessory dwelling units (“ADUs”) and junior accessory dwelling units (“JADUs”) to implement recent state regulations.
PERMIT(S):	Zone Text Amendment, and any other required permits.
APPLICANT(S):	City of West Hollywood
TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:	Monday, February 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
ZONES:	Citywide
ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:	Statutorily exempt from CEQA under Public Resources Code Section §21080.17 and categorically exempt pursuant to Section §15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

To comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call, or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6800 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Tahirah Farris, Senior Planner at (323) 848-6472; or via email at: tfarris@weho.org

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

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

Notable Quotes

“The good news is when we are in full-on sisterhood, women are the most powerful, political force in America.”

Cecile Richards (1957-2025)

Richards was the longtime Planned Parenthood president and co-founded the women’s political action group Supermajority. Her mother was Gov. Ann Richards, the only woman and the last Democrat to lead the state of Texas. Cecile Richards made one of her last public appearances on Nov. 20, 2024, when she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Biden. She died of brain cancer at her Manhattan home on Jan. 20 at the age of 67. She is survived by her husband and three children.

*source: brainyquotes.com.

LA STRONG

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

As wild fires ravage large swaths of LA, Belmont Village Senior Living sends thoughts and prayers to everyone impacted by this tragedy. Our hearts go out to anyone who has endured the loss of a home, of treasured belongings, of a livelihood and, most of all, the loss of life.

We are deeply inspired by local first responders whose courage and commitment exemplifies the best of humanity. Also by the countless men and women from other cities, states and even other countries who rushed into our City to join front lines.

At Belmont Village Senior Living we continue to work tirelessly to keep our residents and our associates safe and to help protect the well-being of all seniors. We are especially grateful to community partners—hoteliers, transportation companies, and many more who have helped effectuate seamless evacuations when called upon. We cannot express enough gratitude to our own team members for their grit, intelligence and determination to keep our seniors safe.

We will endure as a City, and emerge from this ordeal resilient and proud. In challenging times, community matters more than ever.

Patricia Will



Founder and CEO
Belmont Village Senior Living

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Dealing with life's hard whisky truths

Epic troubles seem to produce an ozone of their own ... a purpose, a courage.

And if the French can rebuild Notre Dame Cathedral in five years, that should give us high hopes for Altadena and the Palisades. Maybe start with a few altars.

Look, I write these stupid little songs every week, which obviously have led to significant fame and great fortune. Other than that, it is mostly through my fumbling and failures that I have picked up anything of real value in life.

Financial success can be overrated, though – truth be told – I really wouldn't mind one of those fry-pan Tesla trucks. You know, if only to make my off-road evacuations more stylish, yet laughable too. Tesla trucks aren't even trucks, are they? They're more like Batmobiles for morons.

Point is – and I will hit this with the biggest sledgehammer in my tool kit: It is in our struggles where we learn anything useful at all. Pick

by
Chris
Erskine



your prophet: Jesus or Gandhi, Dylan or Springsteen, Michelangelo or Kelly Clarkson.

Struggle is where life's hard whisky truths reside.

As we often hear, "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger," but it can also make you bitter and no fun to be around. Cranky old people are a kind of curse, and I vow never to be one, though I obviously have my moments. Who doesn't?

Live awhile and the cumulative toll of awful events can either destroy you or make you wiser and more interesting. That's a choice – if you can keep from losing what's left of your mind and soul.

Such a roller-coaster. A lingering, existential dread is a lousy thing to pal around with.

The first trace of it came in late December when we hadn't had a drop of rain. On hikes into the cereal-dry foothills, you'd feel – as Poe put it – a silken, sad, uncertain rustling.

"Tis some stranger tapping at the chamber door ..."

Rain will be our holy water, of course. I predict a soggy, somewhat wonderful February, which is when the rains usually arrive – by tradition, just as the kids' baseball practices are supposed to start.

Obviously, I'm a self-trained prairie philosopher. I learned at the knee of John Prine and from the ceaseless blizzards and ice storms of my Midwestern youth. In those, we often lost heat, but we always had blankets and homes and warm dogs up against our backs.

Been thinking about that old home. I grew up in a cozy house where no one had to call you when the pork chops were on the table – you just knew. There were pencil marks on the back of the kitchen door, recipes taped to the insides of cabinets.

When the garage door opened, the whole house thudded. It was as if someone walloped a giant Seussian drum.

To lose a family home like that must be almost harder than losing a loved one. Folks might be repelled by that notion, but if you've seen the hollow eyes of these fire victims, you know something tender and internal has been ripped away.

"The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know," said Einstein.



photo by Chris Erskine

Could I ever give up the sea breezes and the sunshine that warms our shoulders ... the Dodgers ... the Hollywood Bowl?

Indeed, it is in the margins of human knowledge, in the troubles and the various trapdoors, where we learn all we don't know.

Surely, family and friendship are a home all their own, a place of warmth. But that doesn't necessarily provide a place to tuck away your t-shirts or a kitchen to knock about in, rattling the utensils in the door, as you search for the favorite old whisk to make your Sunday pancakes.

Agonizing, isn't it? Poignant ... ridden with anxiety. I'm starting to wonder if blizzards might be better. I'm not quite there yet. Not sure I could ever give up the sea breezes and the sunshine that warms our shoulders ... the Dodgers ... beach bars ... the Hollywood Bowl.

And how would I ever replace all these freeways?

I think it helps to believe in good

outcomes. Even if you don't believe in Jesus, or society's concept of a traditional God, maybe you can believe in good outcomes and our human need to deliver them to those we love. In the very worst times, we deliver them to total strangers too.

That's a faith and spirituality all its own, this compassion we're able to summon at such critical junctures.

You see a bit of it in weddings – and in candlelight services at Christmas – this belief that, by banding together, we can generate good outcomes for those we love.

Amen to that, Brother Jesus.

And to the cathedrals of the human heart.

Email the columnist at Letters@ChrisErskineLA.com



photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

Cedars-Sinai contributed more than \$250,000 in emergency grants to nonprofits and in-kind donations for wildfire response and recovery efforts.

Cedars-Sinai continues support in wake of devastating wildfires

As firefighters continue efforts to save lives and structures, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is focused on responding to the immediate needs of Los Angeles communities.

The medical center has issued more than \$250,000 in emergency grants to nonprofit organizations assisting residents, workers and business owners affected by the fires, and is supporting first responders on the front lines. Nine organizations have received grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$50,000 to help address the community's relief and recovery efforts.

"Whether it's direct aid or volunteer efforts, Cedars-Sinai will continue to leverage all of its resources to help rebuild and strengthen our community," said Erin Jackson-Ward, executive director of grantmaking and social impact at Cedars-Sinai. "So many of our community members are facing tremendous loss and uncertainty, and we feel a deep responsibility to support our beloved city during this challenging time."

Grant recipients include the Los Angeles Fire Department Wildfire Emergency Fund, United Way of Greater Los Angeles Wildfire Response Fund, California Community Foundation Wildfire Recovery Fund and the Pasadena Community Foundation's Eaton

Canyon Fire Relief and Recovery Fund. Also, the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, Food Access Los Angeles, Inclusive Action for the City, Institute of Popular Education of Southern California Essential Workers Fund and the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles Community Response Fund received grants to help pay for immediate response needs. Funding to the YMCA will provide free daycare for children of first responders, essential workers and displaced and evacuated families. Other grants are focused on providing mental health services to people who have been impacted as well as direct assistance to low-income workers and people displaced by the fires.

"We recognize that the road to recovery will be long, but Cedars-Sinai is committed to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Los Angeles," said Arthur J. Ochoa, senior vice president of advancement and chief advancement officer for Cedars-Sinai. "As Angelenos grapple with the aftermath of these devastating wildfires, we want the message from our institution to be clear. We are in this together, and we will emerge from this crisis stronger than before."

For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING INFORMATIONAL OUTREACH MEETING

Monday, February 10, 2025 | 6 - 7 PM

Join the City of Beverly Hills for an in-person meeting on our Affordable Housing Program. Learn about our Placement Program, our income criteria and affordable unit rental rates, along with details about current affordable units located within the City. This program will be hosted by the City's housing consultant, House Keys, which manages and monitors our Affordable Housing Program.

This meeting is tailored to anyone looking for Affordable Housing resources with the City of Beverly Hills.

In Person: Municipal Gallery | City of Beverly Hills City Hall
Second Floor, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Virtual Participation via Zoom

Zoom Link: <https://beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/my/community>

Meeting ID: 880 146 2711 | **Passcode:** 90210

Call in number: 310-285-1020

For additional information on the City Affordable Housing Programs, visit: www.beverlyhills.org/affordablehousing

✉ AFFORDABLEHOUSING@BEVERLYHILLS.ORG

Larchmont United introduces new advocacy group to the neighborhood

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

With the goal of bringing people together and improving the community, a coalition of residents is forming the Larchmont United Neighborhood Association and is seeking people in the areas between Arden Boulevard, Wilton Place, Melrose Avenue and Beverly Boulevard to join the group.

Larchmont resident Sam Uretsky, who serves as the organization's president, said residents throughout the area want more representation as well as an entity that provides advocacy and guides improvements, which he said the neighborhood lacks at the moment. Homeowners and residents are welcome to join. Known as LUNA, the organization is hosting a launch event on Feb. 2 from 9 a.m.-noon in a parking lot at the northwest corner of Larchmont Boulevard and Rosewood Avenue.

"This came about from my working with different groups around Larchmont over the past four years, and people on the board represent most, if not all, of the activist efforts that have happened in Larchmont in the last four years," Uretsky said. "We've had an informal activist effort for sensible land use – supporting affordable housing but sensible development in our neighborhood – as well crime and security issues that peo-

ple all around the neighborhood have. And we also coalesced around the fact that we need a neighborhood association that is responsive to the neighborhood, that is willing to invest in the neighborhood, that represents the next generation of leadership in the neighborhood, and the group that we got together is just that."

Uretsky said LUNA has been granted nonprofit status, allowing it to accept donations and lobby for government resources to improve the neighborhood. LUNA plans to host special events such as a spring block party. He added that although the area is north of Beverly Boulevard and is mostly composed of apartments and single-family residences, the group also plans to work with business and property owners on the stretch of Larchmont Boulevard south of Beverly Boulevard to First Street.

"We included the one block of Larchmont between Beverly and

First because we believe that block is a shared resource among three or four neighborhoods," Uretsky said. "All the neighbors go to it regularly, and we want to be supportive of the merchants on that block and their issues and needs. We want to help that that area grow as well."

Uretsky said LUNA plans to form close ties with the Los Angeles Police Department and Councilman Hugo-Soto-Martinez, 13th District, who represents the area. The organizations will also work with other neighborhood groups such as the Hancock Park Homeowners Association and the Windsor Square Association, he added.

Hancock Park Homeowners Association president Cindy Chvatal-Keane said she is enthusiastic about working with LUNA and added that Uretsky has been an ally on neighborhood issues, including limiting large developments that could change the character of residential communities.

"It's pretty exciting news," she said. "We look forward to working with any of the associations in our area."



photo by Keith Johnson

Larchmont resident Sam Uretsky encourages residents to join the new neighborhood organization. A launch event is planned on Feb. 2.

NCJW/LA seeks volunteers to help sort donations for fire victims

The National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles is holding a donation sorting event on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. as part of relief efforts for victims of the recent wildfires.

As individuals and families work to rebuild their lives, NCJW/LA and the Council Shops are offering help. The organization has received an influx of clothing and household item donations and is preparing to distribute them to people in need.

Volunteers are being sought to help with sorting at the event, which will be held at the NCJW/LA Donation Center at 4625 W. Washington Blvd. The donations will be distributed at giveaway events in February.

NCJW/LA is also extending support to displaced individuals and families impacted by the wildfires, offering \$100 vouchers per person per household to shop at the Council Shop stores.

Anyone interested in volunteering should email volunteer@ncjwla.org. For information, visit ncjwla.org/lafire.



photo courtesy of NCJW/LA

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FEMA encourages Californians to apply for fire aid

As wildfire response efforts continue, Californians should listen to instructions from state and local officials and take steps to stay safe such as immediately evacuating when told to do so, paying attention to local alerts and using a face covering when outdoors.

Los Angeles County residents with wildfire damage are encouraged to apply for FEMA assistance.

If your primary home was affected by the fires, FEMA may be able to help cover certain costs – such as paying for essential items, finding a place to stay, replacing personal property and making basic repairs to a home. However, FEMA assistance is designed to help those who do not have insurance and those whose insurance policies don't cover basic needs. Those who have insurance should file a claim as soon as possible and be ready to provide coverage information when applying to FEMA.

There are several ways to apply for FEMA assistance: online at disasterassistance.gov and in Spanish at disasterassistance.gov/es; calling the FEMA helpline at (800)621-3362 for assistance in multiple languages; and on the FEMA app for mobile devices.

An accessible video about how to apply, is available at youtube.com/watch?v=HhtlyTX49RE.

FEMA and the federal government remain steadfast as disaster response continues. In addition to helping individuals and families recover, FEMA is supporting the state and local governments by funding 100% of the cost of debris removal and lifesaving and life sustaining activities – including fire suppression efforts – for 180 days.

The federal government is committed to supporting response activities in California and helping the community recover. FEMA is the lead federal coordinating agency for the state-led response and relies on the expertise of the federal interagency for the historic response and recovery mission.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is providing engineering and public works expertise to assist with the planning and coordination among its disaster response partners.

More than 880 National Guard members from California, Nevada and Wyoming are activated and engaged in multiple air and ground firefighting efforts.

The U.S. Small Business

Schiff and Padilla welcome mayors to Washington

U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) and Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) met with nearly 20 mayors from across California as they visited the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 17 as part of the United States Conference of Mayors.

The group discussed a variety of issues facing California cities including accessible and affordable homeowner insurance, housing affordability, homelessness and building disaster resilient infrastructure.

Attendees included Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman, in addition to the mayors of Alameda, Anaheim, Bakersfield, Berkeley, Bell Gardens, Coronado, Lancaster, Mission Viejo, Palo Alto, Riverside, San Ramon, Sunnyvale, Dublin, Santa Ana, West Sacramento, Fremont, Union City, Perris, Maywood, Lynwood, Milpitas and Fresno.

For information, visit schiff.senate.gov.

Administration announced that small businesses, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters can apply for federal disaster loans to offset losses from physical damage caused by the wildfires. People should not wait for a FEMA grant to apply for an SBA loan. To apply online and learn more, sba.gov/disaster.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for California, providing health care providers and



photo courtesy of FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is offering aid to those affected by the wildfires in Southern California.

suppliers greater flexibility to meet emergency health needs of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. The

HHS Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response supports regional and state operation

centers and monitors state and local public health and medical needs. For information, visit fema.gov.

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Metro looks at resources to help victims of wildfire

Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Chair Janice Hahn, in partnership with Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger and Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, introduced a proposal on Jan. 16 to use Metro resources to support displaced wildfire victims.

The motion is scheduled to be considered at the full Metro Board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 23. If approved, residents displaced by the wildfires will qualify for Metro's LIFE reduced fare program.

"Metro has resources we should put to work as we respond to these wildfires, get help to victims, and plan for recovery," Hahn said. "That will mean not only supporting our employees who have been displaced but also expanding the LIFE program so fire victims can ride Metro for free. When recovery efforts get underway, Metro has resources that can help – whether that is our fleet, our personnel's expertise or Metro's dozens of properties and vacant lots."

The proposal introduced by Hahn, Horvath and Barger authorizes Metro's CEO Stephanie Wiggins to modify the eligibility of the LIFE reduced fare program for at least six months to include indi-

viduals displaced by wildfires. It also allows for the mobilization of outreach teams to evacuation centers and resource centers to assist wildfire survivors in registering for programs.

"As we work to bring every resource to our residents impacted by the wildfires – including Metro employees – it's important that our Metro Board is also at the table," Barger added. "Thousands of residents are now without a reliable means of transportation and our Metro system may play a crucial role as an option for residents to get to work and to our Disaster Recovery Centers to access support. It's our duty to uplift our residents and employees when they need it most."

"The devastation caused by the Eaton and Palisades fires has left lives lost, homes destroyed and thousands displaced," Horvath said. "This motion ensures we are leveraging every resource available to provide impacted residents and Metro employees access to reduced fare programs, disaster assistance and direct outreach and support. These recovery efforts are vital to helping our communities rebuild with the urgency and care they deserve."

The motion also authorizes Wiggins to identify and provide assistance to Metro employees who have lost their homes in the wildfires or have been displaced. At least 19 Metro employees have reported losing their homes in the wildfires and at least 46 have been displaced.

For information, including registration for Metro's LIFE program, visit metro.net.



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

The LIFE program offers free and reduced fare rides on Metro buses and trains.

Subway work brings traffic impacts along Wilshire

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is providing updates on subway construction along Wilshire Boulevard for the D Line subway extension project.

Street restoration work continues on the first segment of the project from Wilshire/Western to Wilshire/La Cienega. Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction between Oxford Avenue and St. Andrews Place through April. Left turns are restricted from Wilshire Boulevard to Western Avenue and from eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound St. Andrews Place.

Near the Wilshire/La Brea station, street restoration work is ongoing, as well as underground work on the station. Crew are working at street level in K-rail work zones near Detroit Street. A separate K-rail work zone is in place in the middle of Wilshire Boulevard between Courtyard Place and Masselin Avenue in the Miracle Mile for construction in the subway tunnels.

For approximately four months, a K-rail work zone is located in the middle lanes of Wilshire Boulevard between Fairfax and Spaulding

avenues. Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction.

Street restoration and subway station work is also ongoing at Wilshire/La Cienega. Through March, Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction at La Jolla Avenue, where a K-rail enclosure is in place on the west side of the Wilshire/La Jolla intersection. Wilshire Boulevard is also reduced to two lanes in each direction between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards, and northbound La Cienega Boulevard is reduced to two lanes just north of Wilshire Boulevard.

Piling and potholing work will begin soon at the Wilshire/Rodeo station. Work will take place in multiple stages during daytime hours along Wilshire Boulevard between South Cañon and Beverly drives. Crosswalk closures will be required at the intersections of Wilshire Boulevard and Beverly and South Cañon drives.

For questions and concerns about the D Line Extension project, call the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6934, email the project team at purplelineext@metro.net, or visit metro.net.



photo by Edwin Folven

Restoration work is ongoing along curbs and sidewalks near the Wilshire/La Brea subway station.

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

- LOCATIONS:** 9200 Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood, California
- REQUEST:** The City Council will hold a public hearing to consider a request to construct a new one-sided static, internally-lit billboard with two faces and site improvements, subject to a Development Agreement and as part of the Sunset Boulevard Off-Site Signage Policy.
- PERMIT(S):** Billboard Permit, Development Agreement, Zone Map Amendment, and any other required permits.
- APPLICANT(S):** Jeffrey A. Seymour, Seymour Consulting Group
- TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:** Monday, February 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
- ZONES:** SSP (Sunset Specific Plan)
- ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:** Negative Declaration and subsequent Addendum prepared for Sunset Boulevard Off-Site Signage Policy.

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

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

To comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call, or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6800 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

For further information regarding this item, contact Jennifer Davis, Senior Contract Planner at (323) 848-6508, or via email at: jdavis@weho.org.

Melissa Crowder,
City Clerk

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

RESTAURANT NEWS

Ladyhawk serves up fan favorites

For Dine LA, Ladyhawk's buzz-worthy menu (\$75 per guest) will feature an outstanding selection of fan-favorite dishes like tabouleh, whole fish with spicy zhoug and Wagyu sirloin shawarma. To finish, guests will get a choice between a delicious olive oil cake with orange marmalade or a delicate rose and strawberry dessert. Ladyhawk is located at 623 La Peer Dr. For information, visit ladyhawkrestaurant.com.

Tourism and Banc of California will donate \$5 per reservation made to The American Red Cross (up to \$100,000). THE Blvd is located at 9500 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit theblvdrestaurant.com. The Hideaway is located at 421 N. Rodeo Drive. For information, visit thehideawaybeverlyhills.com.

Farmers Market vendors show up for Los Angeles

As California continues to navigate the impact of the wildfires, The Original Farmers Market in Los Angeles and its merchants are rallying to support first responders and evacuees. From complimentary meals and groceries to discounts and donations, the market is dedicated to lending a helping hand during these challenging times. Special offers can be viewed at

farmersmarketla.com/market-buzz/wildfire-support.

Among the specials, Mercato Grocery and meal delivery is offering \$15 off delivery fees with code DELIVERY15, valid through Jan. 25. Participating grocers can be found at mercato.com/shop/the-original-farmers-market.

Coffee Corner has complimentary coffee or tea for first responders. Ettore is providing free meals and fresh fruit for evacuated residents and first responders, discounted meals for all Angelenos and free delivery via DoorDash.

Kaylin + Kaylin Pickle is donating 10% of proceeds from the K+K Pickle Tasting Bar and Topped Pickle Bar to the California Community Foundation. Mediterranean Market has free groceries for first responders and complimentary baklava for everyone.

The Shaving Octopus has free haircuts, shaves and beard trimming services for firefighters, valid through Feb. 15. Appointments can be made at theshavingoctopusbarbershop.com.

Janie and Jack customers can make donations to Baby2Baby at checkout to support children and families in need. The Dog Bakery



photo courtesy of Pez Coastal Kitchen

Pez Coastal Kitchen provided meals after the devastating wildfires.

Pez steps up for the community

When the fires broke out, Pez Coastal Kitchen partnered with SoCal Gas to provide relief for fire responders and those affected by the wildfires. The restaurant opened its doors in Pasadena for a buffet dinner alongside essential supplies for displaced families.

Now, Pez's Pasadena and Downtown Los Angeles locations will celebrate the city and its res-

idents throughout Dine LA week, offering a special menu filled with bold flavors, fresh ingredients and specialty dishes. For information, visit discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/pez-cantina/dinela and discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/pez-coastal-kitchen/dinela. Pez Cantina is located at 401 S. Grand Ave. Pez Coastal Kitchen is located at 61 N. Raymond Ave.

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has a special for anyone in need of free dog food. Those affected by the fires can fill out a form found at rockykanaka.com/dogfood. It will be shipped or can be picked up from the Farmer's Market. Customers can also sponsor a bag of food for those in need.

Sal's is back in WeHo

Sal's Place has returned to West Hollywood for the winter and spring seasons. Situated just off Robertson Boulevard, this iconic spot is renowned for their exceptional hospitality offering a familial experience led by esteemed owner Siobhan Carew and her dedicated Provincetown, Massachusetts team. Guests can indulge in signature Italian dishes, timeless cocktails and soon to be new creations crafted from seasonal ingredients sourced directly from the Santa Monica Farmers Market. Each dish is thoughtfully prepared to highlight the rich flavors of Italian specialties, while the beverage menu features both crafted cocktails and non-alco-

holic options that delight the senses. Ideal for intimate gatherings, the restaurant grew in popularity last season, thanks to its welcoming atmosphere and outstanding cuisine. With a focus on fresh, locally sourced ingredients, Sal's Place continues to be a favorite for both locals and visitors alike. Sal's Place is a cash-only restaurant. Reservations can be made via phone at (508)487-1279. Sal's Place is located at 350 N. Robertson Blvd.

10,000 Fatburger meals donated to fire victims and responders

Fatburger is supporting those impacted by the Los Angeles wildfires, donating 10,000 meals to first responders and fire evacuees. Fatburger, via its food truck, the "Fatmobile," has been and will continue to serve up free meals at

first responder sites and shelters. The community has given Fatburger so much over the years so this is just one small way to support those protecting the community and for those dealing with the heartbreak of losing their homes. For information, visit fatburger.com. Fatburger has various Los Angeles County locations, including 8500 W. Third St. and 7450 Santa Monica Blvd.

Starbird gives back to LAFD

In support of the Los Angeles Fire Department and its unwavering dedication to the community, for every \$10 meal donation made through Starbird's mobile app or website, Starbird will match the contribution, ensuring twice the impact. The funds will go directly toward providing meals for various fire stations across Los Angeles, with a goal of delivering over 1,000 meals in the coming weeks. For information, visit starbirdchicken.com. Starbird is located at 7150 Beverly Blvd.



photo courtesy of Teleferic Barcelona

Teleferic Barcelona is getting into the Dine LA spirit with some of guests' favorite dishes.

Teleferic Barcelona offers authentic Spanish specials for Dine LA

From Jan. 24-Feb. 7 as part of Dine LA, Teleferic Barcelona in Brentwood will be offering guests a selection of authentic Spanish tapas and paellas for \$55/person. The menu will include classics like crab croquetas, patatas bravas, chicken empanadas and a paella mixta with pork, mushrooms, chicken, gulf shrimp and octopus (vegetarian paella also available). End your meal with decadent nutella churros. For information, visit telefericbarcelona.com. Teleferic Barcelona is located at 11930 San Vicente Blvd.

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El Capitan takes guests to a 'Brave New World'

Marvel Studios' newest feature, "Captain America: Brave New World" arrives at El Capitan Theatre Feb. 14-March 1.

Tickets are on sale now including two fan event screenings. Guests can see costumes from the movie on display and take pictures at Captain America and Red Hulk statue photo ops.

Guests can also be among the first to see "Captain America: Brave New World" with two early screenings at 4 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13.

Two fan event screenings will take place at 7:15pm on Thursday, Feb. 13 and Friday, Feb. 14, each with their own exclusive items included with a ticket. Each fan event ticket is \$65.

Attendees at the Thursday Fan Event will receive one Captain

America Funko POP!, Captain America Tote Bag, popcorn tin with popcorn, fountain drink and event credential and lanyard with their ticket.

Attendees at the Friday Fan Event will receive one Captain America Tote Bag, Captain America Sipper, popcorn, fountain drink and event credential and lanyard with their ticket.

A special military hero offer is available at all showtimes, while supplies last. Receive one complimentary Limited Edition 1000 pin when guests show their valid military ID. Offer only valid on day and time of ticket purchased.

Choose a side with the Red Hulk Pack and Captain America Pack. The Red Hulk Pack includes one reserved seat, one Red Hulk popcorn totem with popcorn and one

Red Hulk totem cup with fountain drink. The Captain America Pack includes one reserved seat, one Captain America helmet popcorn container with popcorn and one Captain America drink vessel with fountain drink. Each pack is \$80.

A Cap's Crew Bundle is available for \$125 and includes four tickets, four regular popcorns and four fountain drinks. Specialty concession items will be available for purchase for ticketed guests, while supplies last.

Daily showtimes for Marvel Studios' "Captain America: Brave New World" Feb. 14-March 1 are 9:45 a.m., 12:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$24 for adults and \$21 for children and seniors.

Sensory inclusive screenings are available Feb. 22 at 12:45 p.m. and Feb. 25 at 7:15 p.m. Open caption

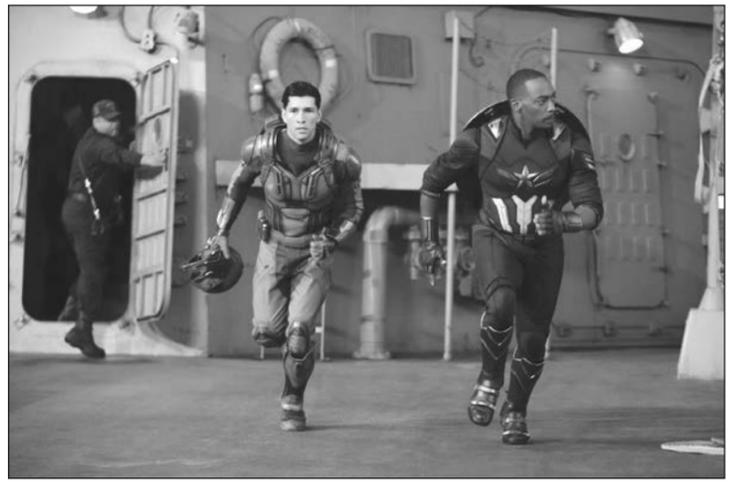


photo courtesy of Marvel

The latest in the "Captain America" saga hits the El Capitan Theatre on Valentine's Day.

screenings are available Feb. 22 at 4 p.m. and Feb. 26 at 7:15 p.m. Spanish dubbed screenings are available Feb. 23 at 4 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 7:15 p.m.

Tickets are on sale at elcapitantheatre.com and fandango.com/el-capitan-theatre-aacon/theater-page. El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd.

Opera exploring WWII Japanese internment camps to premiere

In 1942, during World War II, 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry – two-thirds of whom were American citizens – were unjustly incarcerated in concentration camps within the United States. Inspired by these events, a new American opera titled "The Camp" makes its world premiere, presented in partnership with the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, with four performances from Feb. 22-March 2 at the JACCC Aratani Theatre.

Created by librettist Lionelle Hamanaka, a descendant of camp survivors, and composer Daniel Kessner, "The Camp" tells the moving story of the Shimono family, Japanese Americans forcibly removed from their suburban home in Southern California. After Mas, a fisherman and the head of the household, is arrested by the FBI on suspicion of espionage, the family is reunited in a desolate incarceration camp. As the family struggles to survive the emotional and physical toll of their wrongful imprisonment, this poignant, new opera illuminates the remarkable strength of familial bonds and the power of collective resistance in the face of injustice.

On Feb. 19, three days before the engagement, the annual Day of Remembrance is observed. Feb. 19,

1942, was the day that President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which gave the U.S. Army the authority to remove civilians from the military zones established in Washington, Oregon and California during WWII. This wrongful detainment of Japanese Americans far exceeded any similar actions taken against the millions of German and Italian Americans.

The JACCC Aratani Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St. Tickets (\$20-85) are now on sale at jaccc.org/events/the-camp-an-opera-in-two-acts.



photo courtesy of JACCC

Tiffany Ho will appear in "The Camp" Feb.22-March 2.

Art takes flight at Craft in America Center

The Craft in America Center presents "Chris Maynard: Soar" running through Saturday, April 26.

Maynard's art challenges the way people look at the natural world by calling attention to one of the most common and complex natural objects: feathers. Maynard carves feathers into intricate art to make their natural beauty more noticeable. His work highlights the patterns and colors of feathers, which to him represent flight, transformation and a bridge between present life and dreams.

"We want to fly but cannot," Maynard said. "But birds can, so their feathers become symbols of this yearning. Feathers are perfect by themselves."

Presenting them slightly altered, he encourages people to see feathers in new ways, promoting beauty and new connections. The project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Craft in America Center is located at 8415 W. Third St. For information, call (323)951-0610, or visit craftinamerica.org.



photo courtesy of Chris Maynard

Chris Maynard's "White Amarillo Tempest" (2017) is included in the exhibition.

Winter concerts series takes the Pendry stage

The city of West Hollywood 2025 Winter Sounds Free Indoor Concert Series will take place on select Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. between Saturday, Jan. 25- and Saturday Feb. 22 at The Sun Rose at Pendry West Hollywood, located at 8430 Sunset Blvd. Doors open at 6 p.m. and concerts begin at 7 p.m. Early arrival is suggested.

On Saturday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. the Winter Sounds Concert Series will kick-off with MAE.SUN and Gengis Don and the Empire. MAE.SUN (aka Hailey Niswanger) is a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist and composer who creates immersive, meditative sonic worlds. Gengis Don is a dynamic force in today's music scene, known for his innovative approach as a drummer, producer,

songwriter and engineer.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. the next concert in the series will feature Chien Chien Lu and Danny Janklow + Elevation Band. Chien Chien Lu is a vibraphonist, percussionist, and composer whose distinctive approach to contemporary jazz reflects her Taiwanese roots, classical music training and love for groove-driven rhythms. Saxophonist Janklow is an influential voice in contemporary music, blending the language of jazz with elements of R&B, funk, and indie soul. His performances are deeply personal, rooted in themes of equality, justice and love.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. the Winter Sounds Concert Series finale will feature Theo Croker.

Croker is a storyteller who communicates through the voice of his trumpet.

West Hollywood's 2025 Winter Sounds Free Indoor Concert Series is organized by West Hollywood's Arts Division. Winter Sounds concerts are free and guests must be 21 years of age and older to attend. RSVP is recommended but does not guarantee admittance. Seating is first-come, first-served, limited to availability. Early arrival is suggested. \$15 validated valet parking at Pendry West Hollywood is available for attendees. Street parking may also be available, read local street signage. Rideshare is suggested. For information about the performers and to view the series, visit weho.org/wintersounds.

Costume Guild raises funds for wildfire relief

The Costume Designers Guild has announced that the 27th Costume Designers Guild Awards will incorporate a meaningful new effort, dedicated to supporting those affected by the recent devastating wildfires in Los Angeles. The entire International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees has launched a significant fundraising initiative to aid those communities affected by these unprecedented events, and the Costume Designers Guild Awards is committed to contributing to this effort.

In support of the IATSE Emergency Relief Fund, the CDGA is adding an online auction element, partnering with Propstore (propstore.com), an auction house which specializes

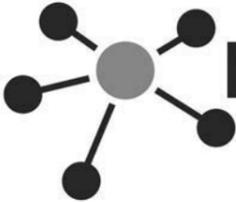
in rare pop culture and entertainment collectibles, featuring extraordinary items provided by members of the costume community. Planning to raise awareness across multiple channels, the CDGA will include donation links on the ticketing sales site, in press materials and the awards magazine, at the event itself. By aligning with this initiative, the Costume Designers Guild is encouraging the community to come together and generously support this important cause. The proceeds from this auction will go directly to the IATSE Emergency Relief Fund.

"Our community has been through so much and we believe in using our platforms to benefit those affected," CDG executive director

Brigitta Romanov said. "We also are convinced of their ultimate strength and resilience over adversity."

The annual awards ceremony will take place live on Thursday, Feb. 6 at The Ebell of Los Angeles. The CDGA is the one night a year when the attention of the world turns to costume design. Actors, filmmakers, costume designers and artists come together to celebrate.

Western Costume returns as a premiere sponsor of the 27th CDGA. Tickets to the event, including a donation link to support the IATSE fund, are now available at eventeny.com/events/ticket/?id=16067. The Ebell of Los Angeles is located at 4401 W. Eighth St.



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Oscars prep: 'Conclave,' 'A Real Pain' sail; 'Emilia Perez' sinks

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

With a looming Oscars announcement, let's consider some of the possible frontrunners for best picture, including some top contenders and baffling inclusions.

"Conclave"

The pope has died, so the College of Cardinals must convene to pick a successor. Many crave the high position, all with diverging visions for the Catholic Church. To ensure a smooth and ethical transition, Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) oversees the papal conclave. He doesn't want the job. In fact, he recently tried to resign, but the former pope prevented that. He had his reasons, but we might never know what they were. That also goes for the unexpected arrival of Cardinal Benitez (Carlos Diehz), secretly named and serving communities in

Kabul.

Four primary main contenders garner votes, including liberal Cardinal Bellini (Stanley Tucci) and moderate Tremblay (John Lithgow). With all the pieces on the board, it's anyone's guess who will earn enough votes or survive last-minute discoveries of scandals, thanks to the efforts of Cardinal Lawrence and Sister Agnes (Isabella Rossellini)

"Conclave" knows how to tell a story with focus. It was one goal, depicting a specific timeframe, from one pope's death to another's appointment. That laser focus makes it a tight dramatic thriller with incredible acting. Few films with a PG rating are this enthralling. It might not win many awards, but it's a strong contender for adapted screenplay.

"A Real Pain"

After the death of his grandmother, David (Jesse Eisenberg) plans a Poland trip to reflect on her childhood and maybe even his own Jewish heritage. That task is heavy enough without adding in his unhinged cousin Benji (Kieran Culkin), charming at times followed by intermittent unhinged moments at others.

"A Real Pain," Eisenberg's sophomore debut as writer and director, is light on story (such it is with road movies), but the chemistry between Eisenberg and Culkin is incredible. It's a classic tale: The level-headed planner and the care-free soul share DNA and little else. But there's love and care.

Culkin already earned some awards for his role, but calling him a supporting character seems odd. He shares the screen almost as much as his co-star. No matter, he seems a shoo-in regardless of the category.

"Emelia Perez"

"Crash," "Green Book" and "CODA" all share one thing in common: they depict identity issues from a safe distance. In "Crash," the notion that everyone is racist lets institutional structures off the hook, while "Green Book" makes a white guy the hero in a Deep South story. Meanwhile, Apple's "CODA" tells the story of a deaf family from the perspective of the only hearing fam-



photo courtesy of Netflix

Zoe Saldana stars as Rita in "Emilia Perez."

ily member.

"Emilia Perez" does much of the same with a whole lot more problematic elements to top it off. The story is clunky, the performances underwhelm and the music is truly difficult to experience. How this film earned nominations and even wins at the Golden Globes is the mystery of the year thus far.

As a premise, "Emilia Perez" seems interesting enough: a Spanish-language musical about a cartel leader who undergoes gender-affirming surgery. To help Emilia (Karla Sofia Gascon) reach this goal, she seeks the help of a lawyer, Rita (Zoe Saldana). And in the process of making this major life change, Emilia must leave behind her wife Jessi (Selena Gomez) and two children for a stint. Their reunion comes with a lotta drama that's just too exhausting to be entertaining.

Give it a try if you wish, but it's hard to enjoy. To start, shouldn't a

musical include songs that are enjoyable? This ain't it. Early on, the lyrics' simplicity undermines the story. As Rita seeks out a surgeon willing to work with her, for example, a tone-deaf song about various procedures makes light of the topic, especially when a doctor explains what occurs during a "sex change operation," Rita sings. "Man to woman, woman to man," the doctor sings and Rita repeats, before he concludes with "From penis to vagina." Watch the whole song. It ain't funny, ironic or even campy. It's just full-blown cringe.

Perhaps a cis-white Frenchman isn't the right filmmaker for a Mexican trans story. Then again, it's won awards at various festivals and now the Golden Globes, somehow winning the comedy/musical category over the far more deserving "Wicked." Not bad for a film GLAAD deems "not good trans representation."



photo courtesy of Searchlight Pictures

Kieran Culkin and Jesse Eisenberg make "A Real Pain" a contender.

Janna Ireland photography on view at Hollyhock

Commissioned on the occasion of Hollyhock House's centennial, "Janna Ireland: Even by Proxy" presents 21 photographs by the artist that introduce new perspectives on Los Angeles' only World Heritage site. Ireland's photographs privilege the quiet, subtle details of Hollyhock House and make visible the care and conservation that sustain the site over time. The exhibition is open through Sept. 27.

The title of the exhibition comes from Frank Lloyd Wright's autobiography, in which he describes the process of realizing Hollyhock House. For Ireland, Wright's phrase "even by proxy" points to the fraught relationship between client

and architect in building the house as well as the ongoing project of preservation.

"Even by Proxy" is presented in partnership with Project Restore and the Julius Shulman Institute at Woodbury University.

Ireland lives in Los Angeles, where she is an assistant professor in the Department of Art and Art

History at Occidental College. Her photographic work is primarily concerned with the themes of family and domestic life, the built environment, and interactions between humans and the natural world.

For information, visit hollyhock-house.org/on-view. The Hollyhock House is located at 4800 Hollywood Blvd.



photo by Janna Ireland

Unique perspectives on the Hollyhock House are presented in Janna Ireland's work.

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Beverly Hills instructor recognized as California Teachers of the Year finalist

Beverly Hills Unified School District announced that Jesse Braun, an esteemed educator at Beverly Vista Middle School, has been named a 2025 California Teachers of the Year finalist by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. The prestigious recognition highlights Braun's exceptional dedication to his students, his innovative approach to education and his unwavering commitment to fostering a love of learning.

Braun, who serves as a middle school library, yearbook and home hospital teacher, has consistently demonstrated an extraordinary ability to connect with students and create a dynamic, inclusive and engaging learning environment. Known for his creative teaching methods

and personalized support, he has made a profound impact on the lives of his students and the broader Beverly Hills community.

"Jesse Braun's recognition as a finalist for the 2025 California Teachers of the Year is a testament to his incredible passion for education and his tireless efforts to inspire students to achieve their fullest potential," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy said. "We are immensely proud to have an educator of his caliber representing our district and serving as a role model for our students and staff."

The California Teachers of the Year program, established in 1972, honors outstanding educators who exemplify excellence in teaching and serve as ambassadors for the

profession. Finalists were selected through a rigorous evaluation process, which included reviews of their applications, classroom environments, teaching techniques and interviews. Braun's recognition places him among a distinguished group of educators making a difference across the state.

In addition to his role as an educator, Braun is involved in supporting the academic and emotional well-being of students. His work as a home hospital teacher underscores his commitment to ensuring all students, regardless of circumstances, have access to quality education. Through his leadership in the yearbook program, Braun empowers students to capture and celebrate their school's story, fostering a sense of community and



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Jesse Braun, left, is a teacher at Beverly Vista Middle School.

pride.

Braun's recognition as a 2025 California Teachers of the Year Finalist brings honor not only to Beverly Vista Middle School but also to the entire BHUSD community. As a district committed to edu-

ational excellence, BHUSD celebrates the remarkable achievement and remains inspired by Braun's dedication to shaping the future of education.

For information, visit cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/ct.

Local LAUSD magnet schools earn academic merit awards

For the second consecutive year, Los Angeles Unified School District magnet schools have set a new record for excellence in educa-

tion. Magnet Schools of America has announced that 89 Los Angeles Unified magnet programs are ranked among the nation's best, the

highest number in the district's history and a significant increase from last year's record-breaking 48 programs.

Local award-winning magnet schools include the Hollywood High School Performing Arts Magnet and Bernstein Cinematic Arts and Creative Technologies Magnet, which received Merit Awards of Excellence, and the John Burroughs Middle School Gifted and Highly Gifted Magnet, Fairfax High School Police Academy Magnet and Hollywood High School New Media Academy Magnet, which earned Merit Awards of Distinction.

MSA's National Merit Awards program honors the top magnet schools in the United States. The awards recognize magnet schools that demonstrate commitment to high academic standards, curriculum innovation, successful desegregation and diversity efforts, and consistent delivery of high-quality education.

"This year's unprecedented recognition demonstrates the unparalleled dedication of our edu-

cators, staff and families in delivering world-class opportunities for our students," LAUSD Superintendent Alberto Carvalho said. "To see 89 of our magnet schools honored on a national stage is a true testament to the innovation and excellence happening every day in Los Angeles Unified classrooms."

"Congratulations to the L.A. Unified schools on receiving this national recognition of their exemplary magnet programs."

Board Member Nick Melvoin

The district's magnet programs span a variety of themes, including STEM, visual and performing arts, public service, communication arts, liberal arts and gift-

ed education. The programs equip students with real-world industry experience, foster partnerships with community organizations and provide pathways to success in higher education and careers.

The LAUSD offers over 330 magnet programs serving nearly 89,000 students from kindergarten through 12th grade. The programs provide rigorous, theme-based instruction and foster lifelong connections between students and communities.

"Congratulations to the L.A. Unified schools on receiving this national recognition of their exemplary magnet programs," Board Member Nick Melvoin said. "We are proud to have nearly doubled the number of schools receiving this honor from last year, and will continue working to ensure every child has access to a high-quality education in L.A. Unified."

For a full list of the award-winning schools and the district's magnet programs, visit lausd.org/page/18918.



photo by Edwin Folven

John Burroughs Middle School Gifted and Highly Gifted Magnet was among the honorees in the LAUSD.

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West Basin announces 'Being Water Wise Is...' art contest

The West Basin Municipal Water District is providing an opportunity for students to showcase their artistic skills through the annual "Being Water Wise Is..." art contest. The contest offers a chance for students to use their imagination and skills to create artwork that illustrates how conserving water positively impacts their homes, schools and communities.

Students in grades 3-12 attending schools in the West Basin service area are eligible to participate in this competition which explores a wide range of artistic mediums from three-dimensional sculptures and photography to digital art, fabric, chalk and watercolors. The con-

test invites students to create powerful artwork that emphasizes sustainable water use in a way that speaks to their unique experiences and perspectives.

"For over 20 years, this art contest has provided a platform for more than 10,000 students to share their passion for water conservation," West Basin Board president Desi Alvarez said. "This is a fun and engaging opportunity for young minds to raise awareness about sustainability and water conservation in their communities through their creativity. We look forward to seeing how students will blend their artistic talents with a vital environmental message."

Artwork from 15 winners will be showcased through social media, newsletter campaigns and at a ceremony in April. Grand prizes, which include an iPad, \$25 gift card for art apps and a stylus, will be awarded to one winner in each of the elementary, middle, and high school categories. Additionally, up to four honorable mentions from each category will receive an iPad and a list of top 10 art apps to download.

Teachers can enhance the contest experience by requesting art supply kits and scheduling virtual or in-person art lessons through West Basin's website. The program offers a unique chance for educators to integrate the theme of sustainability into classrooms while inspiring the next generation of environmental advocates.

The submission deadline is Friday, March 14, at 5 p.m.

For information, visit westbasin.org/art-contest.



photo courtesy of West Basin

Student winners from the 2024 art contest celebrated their achievement alongside West Basin's Board of Directors and program sponsors.

DodgerFest gives fans a chance to help victims of wildfires

The 2024 World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers will once again host the annual DodgerFest celebration presented by Budweiser on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tickets go on sale to the general public on Jan. 23 and are \$20, with

a portion of proceeds going to relief efforts for the Los Angeles wildfires. The festival will take place in Dodger Stadium Parking Lots B, D and P due to the ongoing renovations inside the stadium.

DodgerFest includes exciting activities for fans such as an on-

stage interview show featuring Dodger players, coaches and alumni. Merchandise stores and concession stands located in Left Field Reserve (adjacent to Lot B) and Top of the Park (adjacent to Lot P) are open during the event. VIP tours themed on Jackie Robinson, in addition to a stadium tour, will be available for purchase. Additionally, fans may purchase photo opportunities with the 2024 World Series trophy, participate in selfie and autograph and meet-and-greet sessions and enjoy a Vin Scully Press Box experience. All VIP tours and experiences will go on sale on Tuesday, Jan. 28.

The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation will host its annual Yard Sale in Lot D with one-of-a-kind Dodger items, including jerseys and T-shirts. LADF will also once again hold its Mystery Bag fundraiser where fans can purchase bags containing autographed baseballs, jerseys and photos, while supplies last. LADF will donate proceeds from the Yard Sale and Mystery Bag fundraiser to wildfire relief efforts. DodgerFest partners Golden Road, Jim Beam, Hornitos Tequila, Health Ade, Kaleo and 76 will offer fan-friendly activations.

Parking is free and auto gates will open at 10 a.m. Event gates open at 11 a.m. To purchase tickets, visit dodgers.com/dodgerfest.



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Dodgers

DodgerFest will be held on Feb. 1 in Lots B, D and P at Dodger Stadium.

BHUSD unites with authors to rebuild libraries lost in fires

Recent wildfires have damaged several elementary schools in the Los Angeles area, leaving many without libraries and classroom book collections. In response, Beverly Hills Unified School District PTAs have joined forces with Los Angeles author Kristi R. Bradbury and over 100 authors from around the world to restore hope and rebuild vital resources for students.

"We're calling on the entire community to join us in this important effort," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy said. "This is about more than books - it's about hope and recovery for all students impacted by this unimaginable tragedy. Together, we have the power to make a profound difference."

To participate, community members can visit bhUSD.org/books. Select a book, choose the

Hawthorne Campus as the delivery address and the book will be shipped directly to support the rebuilding efforts.

This initiative highlights the compassion and generosity that define Beverly Hills. Following the wildfires, BHUSD was one of the first to extend support to neighboring schools. Dr. Pamela Magee, principal of Palisades Charter High School, shared her gratitude for BHUSD's quick action in offering space for their staff to meet after being displaced.

With the collaborative efforts of PTAs, the support of Bradbury and the contributions of authors worldwide, BHUSD is trying to replace every book lost in the fires. The entire community is encouraged to take part in the effort, showing solidarity with educators and students during a challenging time.

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GMCLA two-steps into the Saban this March

Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, now in its 46th year, will present "Rhinestone Cowboys" as part of its 2024-25 season on March 22-23. The country music celebration will feature hits from icons who inspired generations to today's country superstars and new voices from the genre.

The nearly 200 chorus members, led in performance by music director and conductor Ernest H. Harrison will perform – and sometimes dance – more than 20 songs. The concert will feature choreography by Ray Leeper.

"At this difficult time, we're holding so many Angelenos in our

hearts. The GMCLA family knows that Los Angeles will once again prove it is resilient – or, as we say, L.A. Strong; and we hope that our music can play a small role in healing and rebuilding connections," executive director and producer Lou Spisto said. "It's been years since GMCLA performed a country music tribute, and the sound of country has never been more popular, more diverse, or more present in every corner of the country and this city. I'm certain that the chorus will bring something extraordinary to this genre and we can give our audiences a joyous and uplifting experience at 'Rhinestone Cowboys' in

March."

It's time for country music to get a GMCLA makeover as GMCLA's two hundred fabulous artists will sing, strut and two step to the first ladies and gay icons of country with Dolly, Reba, Shania, Kacey, The Chicks and more. The chorus will also celebrate today's hippest and gayest artists and allies reinventing country like Beyoncé, Brandi Carlile, Lil Nas X and Chappell Roan. Audiences will hear chart-toppers like "That Don't Impress Me Much" (Shania Twain); "Old Town Road" (Lil Nas X); "Love Story" (Taylor Swift), and of course, "Rhinestone Cowboy" (Glenn Campbell), and many more incredible hits. Sequin studded line dancing, and production numbers from Shania's Twain's "Man I Feel Like a Woman" to Chappell Roan's "Pink Pony" will make this a true GMCLA extravaganza.

"Rhinestone Cowboys" will take place on Saturday, March 22 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 23 at 3:30 p.m. at the Saban Theatre, located at 8440 Wilshire Blvd. Tickets range from \$45-125 and are available at gmcla.org. The parking facility located at 8484 Wilshire Blvd. (at La Cienega) is the most convenient structure for theatre parking.



photo by Gregory Zabilski

The next GMCLA concerts will be held March 22-23.

FireAid concert lineup announced

Bringing together some of the top names in music and entertainment, the Intuit Dome and Kia Forum will host FireAid on Thursday, Jan. 30, to raise money for rebuilding communities devastated by wildfires and supporting efforts to prevent future fire disasters throughout Southern California. The one-night-only event will start at 6 p.m. It will feature performances by Billie Eilish and Finneas, Earth, Wind & Fire, Gracie Abrams, Green Day, Gwen Stefani, Jelly Roll, Joni Mitchell, Katy Perry, Lady Gaga, Lil Baby, P!nk, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Rod Stewart, Sting, Stephen Stills, Stevie Nicks, Tate McRae and performing together for the first time, Dave Matthews and John Mayer.

Tickets for both concerts are on sale through Ticketmaster.

Fans across the globe will be able to make contributions to the cause, as FireAid will be broadcast and streamed live on Apple Music and the Apple TV app, Max, iHeartRadio, KTLA+, Netflix, Paramount+, Prime Video and the Amazon Music Channel on Twitch, SiriusXM, exclusively on "LIFE with John Mayer," Spotify, SoundCloud, Veeps, YouTube and at select AMC Theatre locations. iHeartRadio will serve as the national audio partner to FireAid, using its more than 860 radio stations, digital platforms and the iHeartRadio app.

Contributions made to FireAid will be distributed under the advise-

ment of the Annenberg Foundation for short-term relief efforts and long-term initiatives to prevent future fire disasters. The Annenberg Foundation, with decades of philanthropic leadership in the community including rapid response, will help coordinate a team to direct funds for the greatest impact. All proceeds from the FireAid benefit concert at Intuit Dome and Kia Forum will go directly to the event's designated beneficiaries, as the L.A. Clippers will be covering the costs associated with the event.

The FireAid benefit concert is produced by Shelli and Irving Azoff and the Azoff family, in conjunction with Live Nation and AEG Presents.

For information, visit fireaidla.org.

Music supervisor guild bestows honors

The Guild of Music Supervisors has announced its top honorees for the 15th annual awards ceremony on Feb. 23. The Icon Award will be given to Grammy and Academy Award winning composer and lyricist Stephen Schwartz, acclaimed for his songwriting in beloved films such as "Wicked," "Godspell," "Enchanted" and the animated classics "Pocahontas," "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "The Prince of Egypt."

The Icon Award was created to celebrate those who have made legendary contributions to the music and film industry. The recipient of the Legacy Award will be given to music supervisor Bonnie Greenberg known for her work on films like "My Best Friend's Wedding," "The Mask" and "The Hunting Ground." Greenberg has produced numerous gold and platinum albums and received various awards for her craft in music supervision. The Legacy Award is bestowed to a music supervisor who has made an impact within the industry over the course of their career.

Previous recipients of the Icon Award include Robbie Robertson, Paul Williams, Diane Warren, Quincy Jones, Burt Bacharach,

Kenny Loggins and Marc Shaiman, while previous recipients of the Legacy Award include Allan Mason, Pilar McCurry, Mitchell Leib, Maureen Crowe, Bob Hunka, Joel Sill, Gary Lemel and Chris Montan.

The awards ceremony will take place on Sunday, Feb. 23 at The Wiltern Theatre, located at 3790 Wilshire Blvd., honoring the craft of music supervision. Further information and details about tickets can be found at gmsawards.com.



photo courtesy of the Guild of Music Supervisors

Stephen Schwartz will receive the Icon Award from the Guild of Music Supervisors.

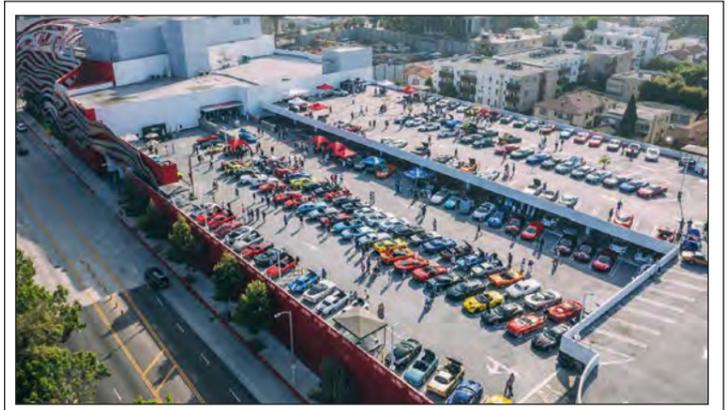


photo courtesy of the Petersen Automotive Museum

The Petersen Automotive Museum's Jan. 26 cruise-in will benefit organizations connecting to the county's fire relief efforts.

Petersen cruises for L.A. County

The Petersen Automotive Museum will host a charity cruise-in on Sunday, Jan. 26, to thank first responders and support recovery efforts from the devastating Southern California fires. In partnership with Clarios and OPTIMA Batteries, proceeds raised from the Cruise-In will benefit the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation and the LAPD West Bureau. In addition, the American Red Cross will be on hand with an information booth and Blood Donation Center. The museum has partnered with an items collection organization and will accept donations for distribution to evacuation centers and families impacted by the fires.

"We're committed to showing up for communities in need, and the Petersen Automotive Museum is part of our extended community," said Adam Muellerweiss, chief sustainability officer at Clarios. "It's our privilege to stand with the heroic L.A. County first responders during these challenging times."

"The devastation caused by the fires is heartbreaking, but we have been inspired by the dedication of first responders and the resiliency of our community," said museum executive director Terry L. Karges. "We are proud to team up with OPTIMA Batteries, Clarios and our incredible car community to support the ongoing recovery efforts."



photo courtesy of Intuit Dome

The stadium in Inglewood will host a benefit concert to support victims of the wildfires that have devastated Los Angeles communities.

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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 Jan. 12 and Jan. 18. 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

Jan. 12

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Carolyn and Marilyn at 12:20 p.m.

At 1:10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8700 block of Charleville.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo at 5:52 p.m.

At 6:21 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. Palm.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8900 block of Olympic at 11:40 p.m.

Jan. 13

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9700 block of Wilshire at 1:20 p.m.

At 1:31 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 500 block of N. Palm.

Jan. 14

At 11 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 200 block of N. Crescent.

Jan. 15

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 8:21 p.m.

At 9:07 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. Cañon.

Jan. 16

At 2:37 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 600 block of N. Alta.

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

At 9:16 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Cañon.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 100 block of N. La Cienega at midnight.

Jan. 17

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9400 block of Charleville.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 5:25 p.m.

Jan. 18

At 2:04 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near La Cienega and Whitworth.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Cañon at 2:06 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9700 block of Olympic.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

Jan. 12

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 6:16 a.m.

At 7 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 700 block of San Vicente at 9:25 a.m.

At 2:21 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a locker in the 8600 block of Santa Monica at 10 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Sierra Bonita.

Jan. 13

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson at 12:10 a.m.

At 10:15 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1400 block of N. Hayworth.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 4:50 p.m.

Jan. 14

At 10:30 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Fountain and Gardner.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7600 block of Hampton at 11:33 a.m.

At 3:30 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1200 block of N. Flores.

An unknown suspect burglarized a locker in the 8600 block of Santa Monica at 10:26 p.m.

At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9200 block of Sunset.

Jan. 15

At 9:50 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8200 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8900 block of Norma at 1:45 p.m.

At 11:28 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Gardner.

Jan. 16

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 2:20 a.m.

At 4:35 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1200 block of N. Flores.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of Crescent Heights at 5 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9200 block of Doheny Road.

Jan. 17

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7600 block of Hampton at 12:17 p.m.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Almont and Melrose.

Jan. 18

At 12:15 a.m., an unknown sus-

pect pickpocketed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 12:15 a.m.

At 1 a.m., a robbery occurred in the 900 block of N. Hilldale.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson at 1:27 a.m.

At 8:30 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 900 block of Orange Grove.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Kings at 11 a.m.

Defendants face long prison terms for conspiracy

A cryptocurrency businessman who dubbed himself "The Godfather" and a former Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputy have agreed to plead guilty to federal criminal charges for their roles in a conspiracy that targeted multiple victims and violated their civil rights through intimidation, extortion, illegal search warrants and abuses of police power.

The Justice Department announced on Jan. 17 that Adam Iza, 24, who has residences in Beverly Hills and Newport Coast, is charged with conspiracy, wire fraud and tax evasion. Iza has been in federal custody since September 2024. Eric Chase Saavedra, 41, of Chino, a former LASD deputy and federal task force officer, was separately charged with conspiracy and filing a false tax return. Iza and Saavedra entered a plea agreement with federal authorities stipulating they will plead guilty to the felony charges.

According to the plea agreements, Iza hired off-duty LASD deputies to act as his personal enforcers against enemies. As part of the conspiracy to violate civil rights, Iza had deputies assist him in carrying out extortion, intimidation, setting people up for arrest and abuse of legal process. One of the deputies Iza employed was Saavedra, who was assigned to LASD's Operation Safe Streets Bureau and served as a federal task force officer assigned to the United States Marshals Service's Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force.

Saavedra founded a private security company, Saavedra & Associates LLC, which provided private security for clients and often employed active LASD deputies

and other law enforcement officers. From August 2021 to March 2022, Iza – who at the time lived in a Bel Air mansion – hired Saavedra & Associates to provide him with 24-hour private security at a cost of approximately \$100,000 per month. Iza hired the company again from July 2024 until his arrest in September 2024.

Starting in fall 2021, Saavedra illegally used his LASD credentials to access sensitive law enforcement databases to obtain personal identifiable information for Iza, including information on people with whom Iza had personal or business disputes, their associates and family members, prosecutors said. Saavedra knew he was not authorized under LASD rules to access the information for non-law enforcement matters or to share it with private clients, authorities added. He did so to impress Iza with his access to law enforcement information and to continue to receive lucrative business from Iza, according to court documents.

Saavedra admitted that he used his powers as a sworn law enforcement officer to improperly obtain court-authorized search warrants related to individuals with whom Iza had disputes, including a warrant to search an individual's residence that Saavedra helped facilitate, and a warrant to obtain information associated with another individual that Saavedra directly obtained.

Iza, Saavedra and others used confidential information obtained in their official capacities to locate, intimidate, harass, threaten and extort individuals with whom Iza had disputes and their associates, according to court documents. They

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8500 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 8:21 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of N. La Brea at 10 p.m.

Los Angeles Police Department

The LAPD is experiencing technical difficulties in posting incidents at crimemapping.com and is working to provide updates as soon as possible.

also used Telegram and other encrypted communications apps to avoid law enforcement detection.

Iza and Saavedra also admitted to federal tax crimes. Iza willfully avoided approximately \$6.7 million in federal income tax due in 2021. Saavedra received approximately \$373,146 in unreported income and filed a false tax return in 2021.

Iza faces up to 35 years and Saavedra faces up to 13 years in federal prison. The FBI and IRS are investigating the case with assistance from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Effective January 1, 2025

This is to provide public notice that DOCS Surgical Hospital, located at 6000 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, will be closing temporarily on January 1, 2025, in order to complete construction of an entirely new hospital facility to replace the existing facility. The new facility, which will be a state-of-the-art hospital facility located at the same address and which will meet all seismic safety and other legal requirements, is expected to open after approximately one year.

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
8700 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Kaiser Permanente
West Los Angeles
Medical Center
6041 Cadillac Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Southern California Hospital at
Culver City
3828 Delmas Terrace
Culver City, CA 90232

DOCS Surgical Hospital provides services to Medicare patients, as do all of the above facilities.

Further information regarding the Hospital's temporary closure may be obtained by contacting the facility or its owner:

Facility:
DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC
6000 San Vicente Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Tel. (323) 930-1040

Owner:
DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC
8436 W. Third St. Suite 900
Los Angeles, CA 90048
Tel. (310) 746-5918
Attn: Khawar Siddique, Co-CEO

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.

Authorities take steps to protect residents from insurance fraud

California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara and Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman launched a rapid response program on Jan. 17 to prevent and prosecute insurance fraud targeting wildfire survivors.

Lara has deployed the Department of Insurance's Disaster Assistance Response Team to wildfire-affected areas to protect survivors from scams and fraud. In coordination with the Contractors State License Board and other state agencies, DART educates residents about rights, checks contractor and vendor licenses and ensures compliance with state regulations.

DART also provides guidance to help homeowners understand insurance coverage, identify legitimate

contractors and comply with regulations, such as the seven-day ban on public adjusters soliciting business after disaster areas reopen.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office's fraud and corruption prosecutors work with county and state agencies to hold individuals and businesses accountable for fraud, including insurance, public benefits and charitable donation scams. Penalties for fraud can include fines and time in jail or prison.

Call (800)927-4357 to schedule a one-on-one appointment with a Department of Insurance representative. Consumers who have questions on their insurance or wish to file a complaint against a public adjuster can visit insurance.ca.gov.

Homeless count rescheduled for Feb. 18-20

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority has announced new dates for the 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, which was postponed due to the recent wildfires. The rescheduled count will take place over three nights on Feb. 18-20.

"The safety of our volunteers and unsheltered neighbors is vital," LAHSA CEO Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum said. "We are grateful for the flexibility and understanding of our partners and volunteers as we strive for a safe count."

The annual homeless count provides critical data that is used to address needs across Los Angeles County. On Tuesday, Feb. 18, the count will be held in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys, and the metropolitan Los Angeles area. On Wednesday, Feb. 19, the count will take place in the San Gabriel Valley and East Los Angeles.

The count in the Antelope Valley, West Los Angeles, South Los Angeles and South Bay/Harbor areas will take place on Thursday, Feb. 20.

LAHSA emphasized the importance of volunteer community members to the success of the rescheduled count.

"We're facing unprecedented challenges this year, so the success of the homeless count depends now more than ever on community involvement. We urge everyone who can join us as a volunteer," Adams Kellum said.

For information and to volunteer, visit theycountwillyou.org.

Simon Wiesenthal Center responds to ceasefire

In light of the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, which has ushered in an initial six-week period of raised hopes for the release of hostages, the Simon Wiesenthal Center – a leading international Jewish human rights organization with nearly 50 years of leadership combating antisemitism – is standing with the Jewish community.

"The Simon Wiesenthal Center stands in solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people around the world upon the release of the first three hostages from the 97 being held by Hamas. We shed tears of joy for those freed, while our hearts remain heavy with anguish for those still held who continue to endure unimaginable suffering and those who did not live to see this day," read a statement by the Simon Wiesenthal Center. "Hamas' heinous and inhumane actions, initiated with the barbaric assault on Oct. 7, 2023, persist as a stain on humanity, overshadowing even this initial deal with the specter of ongoing brutality. The Simon Wiesenthal Center emphasizes that critical to long-lasting peace is the removal of the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza, whose ultimate goal is the destruction of the Jewish state. We remain resolute in our pursuit of justice and our unyielding demand for the safe return of every hostage. May their freedom come swiftly, and may peace and security be restored to all."

For information, visit wiesenthal.org.

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

To: All Interested Persons and Agencies **From: Community Development Department**
Project Title: 1000 North La Brea Avenue Project **Date: January 23, 2025**

Lead Agency: City of West Hollywood **Project Applicant:** 1014 North La Brea Owner, LLC
Community Development Department 4700 Wilshire Boulevard
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles, California 90010
West Hollywood, California 90069

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared for the proposed 1000 North La Brea Avenue Project (proposed project). The City of West Hollywood (City) is the local lead agency and, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is responsible for preparation of the EIR.

Project Location:

The project site is located at 1000, 1014, 1020, and 1028 North La Brea Avenue on the northeast corner of the North La Brea Avenue and Romaine Street intersection in the City of West Hollywood. The site encompasses 43,316 square feet, or approximately 0.99 acre, and consists of three contiguous parcels: Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 5531-014-015, -016, and -017. As detailed further in the Draft EIR, the project site was developed with a concrete batch plant located at 1000 and 1014 North La Brea Avenue that was operated by CEMEX until expiration of their lease in December 2024, and a 11,906-square-foot vacant warehouse building at 1020 and 1028 North La Brea Avenue. The project site is not identified on standard government databases for hazardous materials sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Project History:

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft EIR was issued for a 30-day public review period starting on November 23, 2023. Based on feedback from the public, the City distributed a revised NOP on December 21, 2023 that extended the review period by an additional 20 days to January 12, 2024 to allow the public more time to review and comment. During the scoping period, a public scoping meeting was held on November 30, 2023, and comment letters were received in response to the NOP and Initial Study. The Draft EIR focuses on the environmental impacts identified as potentially significant during the Initial Study process.

Project Description:

The project involves the demolition of on-site buildings and structures for the construction and operation of a 34-story (approximately 352-foot-tall) mixed-use residential and commercial building with 514 apartment units and 30,000 square feet of commercial/retail use on the ground floor. The ground floor would include an entry plaza open to the public, a café with outdoor seating, and other residential amenities. The project would provide seven floors of parking, including two subterranean floors, totaling 674 parking spaces. Other amenities include outdoor gardens, a fitness center, recreation rooms, a library, an outdoor swimming pool, and a firepit. Approximately 27,976 square feet of common open space and 32,420 square feet of private open space would be provided throughout the building. The rooftop would also include a solar photo-voltaic system and an emergency helipad structure, which would exceed the finished 352-foot height of the building by an additional 25 feet. The project would also integrate up to seven billboards proposed to be a combination of static and/or full motion video with varied dimensions throughout all facades of the building.

Summary of Impacts:

A Draft EIR has been prepared pursuant to the CEQA statutes (Cal. Pub. Res. Code, Section 21000 et. seq., as amended) and implementing guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., Title 14, Section 15000 et. seq.). No impacts to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, and mineral resources would occur as a result of the proposed project. Impacts related to air quality, biological resources, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, land use and planning, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/circulation, utilities and service systems, and wildfire would be less than significant. Impacts to cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and tribal cultural resources would be less than significant with mitigation measures incorporated. No significant and unavoidable impacts were identified for the proposed project.

Public Comment Period:

The public comment period for this Draft EIR will begin on **January 23, 2025**, and end on **March 10, 2025** (*comment letters must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 10, 2025*). The City requests that comments be limited to the material contained in the Draft EIR.

Copies of the Draft EIR are available for review at the Community Development Department (8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069) and at West Hollywood Library (625 North San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069). The document is also available on the City of West Hollywood website, www.weho.org. Please submit comments in writing to:

City of West Hollywood Community Development Department
Attn: Antonio Castillo, Senior Planner
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, California 90069
Email: ACastillo@weho.org

Public Meetings:

Two public meetings will be held during the Draft EIR public comment period to solicit comments from interested parties on the content of the Draft EIR. The first will be a Transportation Commission meeting and will be held at the date, time, and location specified below:

Date: **February 19, 2025**

Time: **6:30 p.m.**

Location: **West Hollywood City Hall, Community Conference Room, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069**

The second will be a Planning Commission meeting and will be held at the date, time, and location specified below:

Date: **March 6, 2025**

Time: **6:30 p.m.**

Location: **West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069**

If you require additional information, please contact Antonio Castillo in the City of West Hollywood Community Development Department at (323) 848-6854.

Wallis partners with LA Ballet for 'Memoryhouse'

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts and Los Angeles Ballet are proud to present "Memoryhouse," a full-evening work by LAB's artistic director Melissa Barak, performances will take place in the Bram Goldsmith Theater at the Wallis in Beverly Hills Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

This presentation of "Memoryhouse" is the start of a new partnership between The Wallis and Los Angeles Ballet. "Memoryhouse" is an abstract work composed of vignettes commemorating World War II and in particular, the Holocaust. Set to Max Richter's powerful album of the same name, "Memoryhouse" will

reflect on both the somber as well as more heroic moments that illuminate this period in human history.

"Dance is tricky in a sense," Barak said. "The story of the Holocaust has such a darkness and a weight to it, the last thing you would want is for dance to take something of that nature too literally. For me, it was all about keeping it symbolic, removing the personal emotion as performers and to approach it as a ballet that focuses on symbolism and poetry."

The Wallis along with the Holocaust Museum LA is also presenting a screening of "Making of Memoryhouse" on Thursday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. in The Wallis

Lovlace Studio Theater. The documentary film follows choreographer Barak as she dives in headfirst with her creative team to bring this ballet inspired by the Holocaust to emotional life. Through performance and rehearsal clips, as well as interviews and powerful survivor testimony, audiences are brought into the creative process where Barak works on building a theatrical dance experience like no other. The post-screening conversation will feature Barak, Holocaust survivors and HMLA's chief impact officer Jordanna Gessler.

Tickets are available at the wallis.com. The Wallis is located at 9390 Santa Monica Blvd.



photo by Cheryl Mann Photography

The Los Angeles Ballet will perform Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

L.A. gears up for Lunar New Year celebrations

The Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs Performing Arts Division presents the third annual Lunar New Year Celebration, featuring activities from Jan. 25-Feb. 15.

First launched in 2023, the Lunar New Year festivities are expanding to 10 events at multiple sites throughout Los Angeles. This year, communities will celebrate the Year of the Snake and festivities include Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese culturally specific dance, food and arts festivals, film screenings, live theater, street fairs, parades and storytelling sessions. DCA brings the programs to the public through close collaboration with community partners to highlight the diversity of traditions. Families and individuals are invited to enjoy the joyous

community gatherings. All events are free and open to the public.

The Lunar New Year event kicks off with the Lankershim Lunar Block Party on Saturday, Jan. 25, from noon to 4 p.m. at 5108 Lankershim Blvd. The party includes performers, food trucks and traditional Korean Lunar New Year games.

The 11th annual Port of Los Angeles Lunar New Year Celebration will also be held on Jan. 25, from 3-7 p.m. at 301 S. Avalon Blvd., in Wilmington. The celebration features cultural entertainment, crafts, a petting zoo and firework finale.

The 126th Annual Golden Dragon Parade will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 1-4 p.m. at Chinatown Central Plaza, 823 N.

Hill St. The parade, which features floats, festivities and performers, will wind through Chinatown.

Events in the local area include the LNY Short Film Screening featuring the work of Asian filmmakers on Saturday, Feb. 1, from noon-4 p.m. in the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre, 4814 Hollywood Blvd. Enjoy a Night Market at Koreatown Plaza, 928 S. Western Ave., on Feb. 1 from 5-8 p.m., featuring food and live performers. The K-Popalooza is scheduled on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 3-6 p.m. at Emerson College Los Angeles, 5960 Sunset Blvd. The event that celebrates the amazing community behind the music, culture and fandom of K-Pop.

For information and a complete schedule, visit culture.lacity.gov.

LACMA programs offer reset

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art is offering programs to promote rest and foster a sense of peace during difficult times as part of its Art + Wellness series.

Relax with "Mindful Monday: Cultivating Empathy and Connectedness @ Home" on Mondays, Jan. 27, Feb. 24 and March 24, at 4 p.m. The online events are free, but RSVP is required.

"Art & Meditation: Nature on Notice" is scheduled on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 1:30 p.m. at Charles

White Elementary School, 2401 Wilshire Blvd. It is part of the "Nature on Notice: Contemporary Art and Ecology" exhibition organized by LACMA at the school. Admission is free, but RSVP is required.

Also at Charles White Elementary School, "Sound Bath: Nature on Notice" will be held on Saturday, March 8, at 2 p.m. General admission is \$15.

LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. For information about programs and events, visit lacma.org.

spcaLA works to reunite pets and owners displaced by fires



photo courtesy of spcaLA

The nonprofit animal welfare organization is housing animals and pets displaced by the recent fires in Los Angeles.

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles has opened the spcaLA Pet Adoption Center in Los Angeles to house the pets of fire evacuees. Reunifications have begun and many happy pets have reunited with their weary but grateful humans.

"It has been our honor to provide this comfort to people displaced by the fires," spcaLA President Madeline Bernstein said. "Knowing their pets are safe and cared for has allowed them to have space to begin the next steps."

Those displaced by the fires can call (323)730-5300 for information on temporary pet housing.

The pets in spcaLA's care include dogs, cats, kittens and a litter of puppies. The most unusual guest, Ducky, a 30-year-old green parrot, went home on Jan. 16.

The spcaLA Pet Adoption Center is located at 5026 W. Jefferson Blvd.

For information, visit spcala.com

Ice rink open in WeHo

The city of West Hollywood has opened its ice rink at West Hollywood Park. West Hollywood recognizes the challenges that communities across the region are facing and believes in the importance of creating moments of connection and joy during difficult times. The opening of the ice rink at West

Hollywood Park offers a space for comfort and togetherness as we all navigate recent events.

The rink will be open through Jan. 26. Ice skaters are invited to book a 90-minute ice-skating session: Mondays-Thursdays from 4-9:30 p.m.; Fridays from 2-9:30 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays

from noon-9:30 p.m.

The cost per session is \$15 for ages 3-14 and \$20 for ages 15 and older. The price per session includes skate rental. For tickets and information, visit go.weho.org/icerink. Please note current outdoor air quality conditions and consider use of a well-fitting N95 or P100 mask.

The rink is located in West Hollywood Park, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd.

Postponed Critics Choice Awards scheduled for Feb. 7

The Critics Choice Association has announced that the 30th annual Critics Choice Awards will now take place on Friday, Feb. 7.

The Critics Choice Awards, hosted by Chelsea Handler, will broadcast live on E! on Friday,

Feb. 7 from the Barker Hangar, located at 3021 Airport Ave., Suite 203, in Santa Monica. The show will also be available to stream the next day on Peacock. There will no longer be a "Live from E! Critics Choice Awards" two-hour

red carpet special ahead of the telecast.

The awards show was previously scheduled on both Sunday, Jan. 12 and Sunday, Jan. 26, but was postponed due to the wildfires.



photo © Cara Romero, digital image © Museum Associates/LACMA

Cara Romero's "Water Memory" (2015) was gifted to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art by Dr. Loren G. Lipson.

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Cedars-Sinai receives \$10 million gift to support health care goals

Cedars-Sinai announced a \$10 million gift to establish the David and Meredith Kaplan Presidential Chair, building on a history of visionary impact and dedication to advancing health care leadership and innovation across Los Angeles.

The inaugural holder of the chair is Cedars-Sinai president and CEO Dr. Peter L. Slavin. The gift supports his leadership vision to continue to advance Cedars-Sinai's mission as a model for quality care, research, education and community service.

Slavin is completing his first 100 days at the helm of Cedars-Sinai. Over the last year, the nonprofit academic medical institution announced the creation of the Cedars-Sinai Health Sciences University, surpassed a billion-dollar milestone in its fundraising cam-

paign, developed plans for 56 additional beds to treat inpatients, worked to expand the Emergency Department and partnered with local nonprofits to bring greater visibility to critical issues such as health equity.

"Meredith and I are so passionate about the cause of health care, specifically as it relates to Cedars-Sinai, and the David and Meredith Kaplan Foundation fully supports the direction Dr. Slavin is taking to elevate existing healthcare enterprises and brainstorm new ones," said David Kaplan, co-founder of global investment management company Ares Management Corporation and chair of the Cedars-Sinai Board of Directors.

"What Dr. Slavin has shared about his goals and priorities for Cedars-Sinai, including plans for

expansion in crucial areas like the emergency department, are touchpoints for us from a philanthropic standpoint. Our reasons for giving align with Dr. Slavin's choices for allocation of resources," said Meredith Kaplan, who co-leads the family's philanthropic efforts.

The Kaplans are longtime supporters of Cedars-Sinai, most notably donating \$5 million in 2020 to establish the David and Meredith Kaplan Distinguished Chair in Children's Health, held by Dr. Ophir Klein, executive vice dean of children's health and executive director of Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children's. In 2015, the family donated \$1.5 million to create the David and Meredith Kaplan Endowed Care Navigator in Emergency Medicine.

"This continuing partnership with the Kaplans is so meaningful to Cedars-Sinai and to me personally as the holder of this new leadership chair," Slavin said. "Their contributions have fortified our efforts as an academic medical center to



photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

With their latest gift, Meredith and David Kaplan are supporting the goals of Dr. Peter L. Slavin, Cedars-Sinai's president and CEO.

bring the best care, training and scientific research to our patients, our community and the world. We thank them for the past and present achievements that their transformative gifts and volunteer service have

facilitated, and we also thank them for the impact their philanthropy will have on the future of this temple of healing."

For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

Armenian nonprofit welcomes Geragos to board of directors

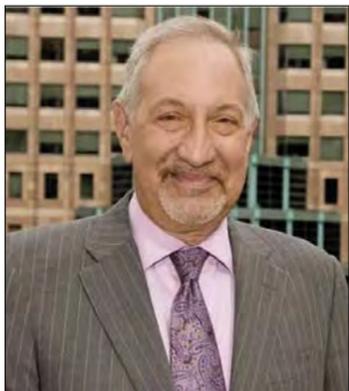


photo courtesy of TAAL

Attorney Mark Geragos will assist TAAL in its efforts to protect the Armenian community.

The Truth And Accountability League has announced that attorney Mark Geragos has joined the nonprofit's board of directors.

TAAL, an Armenian-focused advocacy organization founded in 2020 in response to an increase in anti-Armenian racism and hate crimes, monitors and addresses discrimination, bias, disinformation, propaganda and slander against the Armenian people and culture. Geragos was an executive producer and the largest funder of TAAL's documentary "Motherland."

"[Having] Mark on our board is not just the usual honor and privilege, but a gamechanger for

TAAL and a big win for the Armenian community," founder Vic Gerami said. "The world knows Mark as a renowned celebrity attorney responsible for getting justice for countless people. Mark's immense generosity, philanthropic projects and championing of many causes make him a lionheart and a hero that makes Armenians proud."

Geragos brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in advocacy to the organization. He was a past board member of the Armenia Fund International Board of Trustees and host of the annual Thanksgiving Telethon. He has held

many additional roles with Armenian organizations, including founding member and chairman of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry and member of the Advisory Committee of Birthright Armenia.

"I'm excited to join the Truth And Accountability League's board of directors. They do tremendous work for the community," Geragos said. "I've known Vic for some time and seen his commitment in the last five years to combat disinformation, slander, propaganda and the defamation of the Armenian people. We've had political advocacy, philanthropy and other types of organizations, but never one that directly deals with the information and cyber war we face now. I call on everyone to

throw their support behind TAAL in the battle to call out misinformation whether it is public policy, academics or in the media. I look forward to TAAL's upcoming projects and campaigns."

Geragos secured a landmark victory for Armenian Genocide victims, survivors and the Armenian community as the lead attorney in groundbreaking federal class action lawsuits against New York Life Insurance and AXA Corporation. The lawsuits resulted in a \$37.5 million settlement for insurance policies issued during the Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman Empire. Geragos is also currently suing the Turkish government for reparations related to genocide.

For information, visit truthandaccountabilityleague.org.

Red Cross offers fire assistance to impacted Angelenos

The American Red Cross is offering help to Los Angeles residents impacted by recent fires.

In addition to assisting those currently in shelters, the Red Cross is providing financial assistance to residents within the fire perimeters of Eaton, Palisades, Hurst and Kenneth, as defined by Cal OES.

This week, the Red Cross began outreach to specific individuals whose primary residences were located within the defined areas. The individuals are eligible for the initial Red Cross Immediate Financial Assistance program. For those the Red Cross has contact information for, an invitation is being sent to enroll via email, text message or phone call directly from the American Red Cross.

Residents who receive an invitation to complete an application for financial assistance can complete the entire process virtually by calling (800)REDCROSS or (800)733-2767 to enroll, confirm eligibility and receive financial assistance.

Please be aware of scams or people posing as Red Cross representatives. Eligible residents will receive an invitation via email, text and phone call. Residents who are unsure whether the Red Cross has reached out should call (800)REDCROSS or (800)733-2767.

Receiving Red Cross financial assistance does not make someone ineligible for FEMA assistance. The Red Cross is only part of the solution to recovery, and it encourages people who were affected by the recent wildfires to apply for federal Disaster Assistance at disasterassistance.gov or by calling (800)621-3362. FEMA approval is not required to be eligible for Red Cross financial assistance.

The American Red Cross remains committed to providing individuals affected by the devastating wildfires with safe shelter,

access to food, basic health services and emotional support. All Red Cross services, including immediate financial assistance, are available to individuals regardless of nationality, race, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. The Red Cross is a charity, not a government agency, and people do not need to be American citizens to receive help. Red Cross financial assistance is not a loan and does not need to be repaid.

For information, visit redcross.org/la.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The Red Cross began outreach to residents who live in areas impacted by the fires, including the Pacific Palisades neighborhood.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

Leaders pledge support after 2007 fire in Griffith Park



State and city officials toured a charred section of Griffith Park in this photograph from the May 17, 2007, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News after a large brush fire erupted in the Hollywood Hills. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, center, was joined by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles City Councilmen Tom LaBonge and Eric Garcetti, California Assemblyman Mike Feuer and Los Angeles Dodgers owners Frank and Jamie McCourt, who donated \$100,000 to restoration efforts after the blaze. The Griffith Park fire, which erupted on May 8, 2007, forced the evacuation of approximately 300 homes and threatened landmarks including the Griffith Observatory, Greek Theatre and Hollywood Sign. The fire burned 817 acres of uninhabited park space. Firefighters prevented the flames from destroying structures and no lives were lost. During the tour, the public officials vowed to restore the park after the fire. LaBonge helped spearhead the work, leading re-planting projects and the restoration of Dante's View, a garden and lookout site near Mount Hollywood.

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Relief efforts continue in fire zones

From page 1

directed my departments and agencies to act fast to protect neighborhoods from potentially hazardous debris flows," Newsom said. "By stationing resources and staff in key locations, we can help make a difference as we transition from fire response to storm preparedness."

Although rain will dampen areas susceptible to fires over the weekend, a red flag warning remains in place through at least Thursday, Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. for Los Angeles and Ventura counties, according to the National Weather Service. On Wednesday, Jan. 22, the Hughes fire broke out in the Castaic area in the Santa Clarita Valley, prompting evacuation orders as it grew.

On Jan. 21, Bass, alongside Councilwoman Traci Park, 11th District, former White House Infrastructure Coordinator and former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu and the newly-appointed chief recovery officer Steve Soboroff surveyed the damage in the Pacific Palisades.

"The people of America stand shoulder to shoulder with Los Angeles," Landrieu said. "Mayor Bass and her team are laser focused not only on the immediate response, but also on the long road ahead to recovery and rebuilding. Together, we'll ensure the city emerges stronger than ever."

Landrieu was mayor of New Orleans between 2010-18, a period that included extensive recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina

in 2005. Bass said that Landrieu will be playing a "key role" in the Palisades efforts, acting as an adviser on disaster recovery.

As of press time on Jan. 22, the Palisades fire burned 23,448 acres and was 68% contained, according to CalFire. The Palisades fire has destroyed entire neighborhoods, leaving blocks that once contained homes and businesses unrecognizable. At least 6,662 structures have been destroyed. Eleven people have died as a result of the Palisades fire.

The Eaton fire burned 14,021 acres and was 91% contained, according to CalFire. Similar to the Palisades fire, the Eaton fire has leveled entire communities in Altadena, destroying at least 9,418 structures. Seventeen people have died in the Eaton fire.

The fires have affected school communities across Los Angeles. At least a dozen schools were damaged or destroyed in the firestorm, including Palisades Charter High School — which recently asked the Los Angeles community for help in finding a place to hold classes. The school began holding classes via Zoom on Jan. 21.

According to PCHS Principal Dr. Pamela Magee, the school is evaluating several options for a return to in-person classes, based on where students are currently located. The school's director of operations Rafael Negroe said in a board meeting on Jan. 21 that the school has "several meetings this week" with partners that may provide temporary facilities. The school has created a relief

fund to raise money for its recovery. To donate to Palisades Charter High School's recovery efforts, visit givebutter.com/raiseepali.

Similarly, the Los Angeles Unified School District Education Foundation on Jan. 17 established emergency relief funds for schools affected by the fires. The fund will deliver financial support to impacted families, ensure learning continues without interruption and provide mental health services to affected students.

"These wildfires have destroyed schools, displaced families and communities, and disrupted the learning of countless young Angelenos. The LAUSD Education Foundation Emergency Relief Funds are a commitment to help our Los Angeles Unified family recover and rebuild their futures," LAUSD Superintendent and LAUSD Education Foundation Board Member Alberto Carvalho said. "The foundation will work alongside the district to understand and match the needs of the community with the generosity of countless individuals, philanthropies and corporations."

To donate, visit lausedfoundation.org.

Relief efforts have raised substantial funding for organizations around Los Angeles. On Jan. 12, real estate developer and former mayoral candidate Rick Caruso announced a \$5 million donation to the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation. He encouraged others to donate, with the



photo by Tabor Brewster

Crews are removing hazardous debris in fire impacted areas ahead of potential rain this weekend.

goal of raising \$20 million for the foundation. On Jan. 22, Caruso and the foundation announced they reached their goal.

"Today, we celebrate an achievement that reflects the extraordinary generosity and resilience of our city — we have reached our \$20 million goal for the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation. Every day these heroes risk their lives to keep us safe, and these funds will ensure they have needed equipment to protect the lives of our residents," Caruso said. "This moment proves that when we come together, there is no challenge we cannot overcome. Los Angeles is stronger when we stand united, and this is a shining example of the spirit that defines our city. I encourage us all to continue to embody this generosity and commitment as we

rebuild and prepare for a safer, stronger future."

Liz Lin, president of the Los Angeles Angeles Fire Department Foundation, expressed the foundation's thanks in a statement.

"We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible outpouring of support from our community," Lin said. "Thanks to Tina and Rick Caruso and their generosity, as well as the contributions of so many compassionate Angelenos, we have raised an unprecedented \$20 million in just one week. These critical funds will go directly toward equipping our brave firefighters with the essential tools and resources they need to combat the ongoing crisis facing our region."

To donate, visit supportlafdkindful.com.

ERA awaits possible publication

From page 3

Longtime ERA activist Zoe Nicholson heralded the development as pivotal for the fight for the amendment.

"There are two things required in the constitution for an amendment, one, a super majority of the states have to ratify it, and secondly, that it goes into effect two years from that occurrence," she said.

Nicholson, now 76, was on the frontlines of the Women's Liberation movement in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1982, she fasted with six other women at the Illinois statehouse in attempt to convince the state to ratify the ERA. Nicholson was also present in Virginia in 2020, when it became the 38th state to ratify the amend-

ment, which is the number necessary for inclusion in the Constitution. Based on that ratification, the ERA could be argued as having gone into effect on July 27, 2022 — exactly two years later.

The debated ratification deadline of June 30, 1982, is ironically, the day Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, was born. The deadline is argued by some to be unconstitutional, an opinion seemingly shared by Biden.

"We recall all of the trailblazing women who, since the early days of women's suffrage, have fought like hell for what they deserve: equal rights under the law," Horvath wrote in a statement. "Thank you,

President Biden, for your decency and heart, and for doing the right thing for women across our beautiful country. I look forward to the archivist publishing the Equal Rights Amendment, affirming what our President has declared today: it is the law of the land."

"We should be living as if it's true simply because it's the right thing to do, not because it's written down in a hall, or because Congress voted XYZ," Nicholson said. "I am grateful to Joe ... I think somebody approached him where he lives, which is his heart ... And I think somebody, and that person was [Sen. Kirsten] Gillibrand (D-New York), said, 'Look, we know [that accord-

ing to a recent] poll was just recently taken that 76% of America believes that equal rights for women is the correct thing to do. You're not going to make enemies by doing this, Joe, and don't annihilate the movement.'"

Nicholson added that people don't understand how change happens in society, noting that while the Emancipation Proclamation was made in 1863, it took many years to be fully realized.

"What people really are confused about change actually happens in within the people, and it goes up the ladder of power, and the laws reflect what the culture has already decided to support. So it happens through the arts, through film, through poetry, through live action, through activism," she explained.

She noted that Jan. 17 was one of the best days of her life, and it

changed her status from an ERA icon and authority on the women's suffrage movement, to an "icon of persistence." On Jan. 27, Nicholson will offer her book, "The Hungry Heart," which documents her fast and fight for women's rights, free for download on her official website, zoenicholson.com.

Legal battles are expected to debate whether or not the amendment will be included in the Constitution. Still, the move was celebrated by many celebrities, public officials and feminist leaders. Former Secretary of State, Senator and First Lady Hillary Clinton referenced her famed 1995 speech from the United National Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

"Women's rights are human rights, and human rights are women's rights," Clinton wrote.

Executive orders anger LGBTQ+ community

From page 1

programs and restrictions on gender affirming care erase protections against the LGBTQ+ community," West Hollywood Councilman Danny Hang said. "West Hollywood will do what it can to remain a beacon of light for our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters everywhere. We will work with our state legislators to do what we can to further Trump-proof California in order to protect our LGBTQ+ community, to make sure everyone knows they are welcome and safe in West Hollywood and across the state."

West Hollywood Councilman John Erickson said that the actions were an attempt to make a common enemy in order to distract from Trump's agenda.

"He's actually trying to dismantle our systems — our education systems, the Justice Department and other

federal agencies that work to make the lives of everyday Americans better," Erickson said. "He's trying to distract us with social issues, rather than educate people and unite us as a country."

"Transgender and intersex people are already subject to incredible levels of discrimination, hatred and violence," Councilman John Heilman added. "Instead of recognizing that transgender and intersex people are people, the administration has decided to amplify hatred and violence."

AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which provides LGBTQ+ medical care and particularly HIV/AIDS treatment, said it will not waver in its mission.

"AHF's commitment to serving all communities in need remains the same as it has always been regardless of how the political winds blow,"

AHF president Michael Weinstein said.

The Log Cabin Republicans, an organization dedicated to representing conservative LGBT people, posted on social media in support of Trump on Jan. 20, noting "the greatest comeback in American history starts NOW."

The majority of LGBTQ+ organizations, however, have taken a different stance.

"We know that our work is being targeted by the Trump administration and Republican-controlled Congress, but we remain unwavering in our commitment to providing the life-saving services that are essential to our community," Los Angeles LGBT Center president Joe Hollendoner said. "The center will fight to protect federal funding for Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act,

HIV services and LGBT-specific intimate partner violence programs, despite scare tactics by members of the Trump administration to cut these services. We also will remain a sanctuary for gender affirming care, comprehensive reproductive services, immigration/asylum services and supportive services for LGBTQ+ children, youth and families."

Hollendoner noted that the organization has operated under hostile environments before.

"The center has always been a beacon of hope in times of crisis, and today, we affirm that our commitment is stronger than ever. We will not back down. Our resolve is clear: we will fight for justice, equality and the dignity of all queer and trans people, regardless of who occupies the White House," he said.

Local faith leaders, too, responded to the actions, including Hollywood United Methodist Church senior pastor Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner.

"President Trump's actions are

both un-Christian and unscientific, and an attempt to erase the beautiful, gender expansive members of our community — intersex, non-binary and trans," Adair Bonner said. "Historically, political leaders have misused the phrase 'God created them male and female' as a religious support for prejudice, when in fact that scripture from our creation narrative is not an exclusive statement. Rather, we receive it as an expansive not a restrictive statement when understood in the context of the patriarchal time period in which it was written — expressing the sacred truth that it was not only men that mattered and were made in the divine image, but rather the whole spectrum of gender from male to female. In our congregation, we will continue to celebrate and include in faithful leadership the trans and non-binary members of our community, and support LGBTQIA couples in building their families and raising their children."

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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. Withdraw, as from a habit
5. Engrossed
9. Ennui, with "the"
14. "Othello" fellow
15. Puerto Rican singing star
16. City north of Saigon
17. Funnyman Laurel
18. Philbin co-host
19. Cow part
20. Nursery Rhyme character
23. Lima's locale
24. Sailing
25. Cir. midpoint, abbr.
28. Germany's ___ von Bismarck
31. Sports reporter Kremer
33. First animal shelter
36. Blabs
39. Bulletproof ___
40. Nursery rhyme title
44. "Help ___ the way!"
45. Theater backdrop fabric
46. Paddle
47. Write in the margin
50. Boss' memo request
52. Duet necessity
53. Place for a mural
56. Talk effusively
59. Nursery rhyme character
63. One of the Staple Singers
66. Fabric dyed for hunting purposes
67. "___ cost you!"

Down

1. Candle blower's secret
2. Take pleasure in
3. "It's only ___!"
4. Amateur
5. "Gilmore Girls" character
6. During
7. Jayapura city's locale
8. Colliery carriers
9. Himalayan kingdom
10. Gaga or Godiva
11. Secondly
12. Soil loosener
13. Mister, politely
21. ___-frutti
22. Item in a pod
25. Belief
26. Car brand
27. Critic, at times
29. Danson, of Cheers
30. Cutlass or Delta 88
32. Commonly rented item
33. "I can take ___!"
34. Disseminate again

68. Scrooge's visitor
69. Latch ___ (adopt enthusiastically)
70. MSN's butterfly, e.g.
71. Pillow treats
72. Confused
73. Polaroid

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71							72			73		

35. Environmental protection treaty
 37. Corporation type
 38. Antitoxin fluids
 41. "CSI" evidence
 42. Put down, slangily
 43. Insect stage
 48. Surprising plot turns
 49. "Have some!"
 51. Class members
 54. Maj.'s superior
 55. Spanish plain
 57. Attack
 58. Andrew Wyeth's model
 59. Mailing to Santa
 60. CPR pros
 61. Cowboy's footwear
 62. Direct impact fall
 63. Studio with a roaring lion logo
 64. Tuna type
 65. From, in Frankfurt
- answers on page 26

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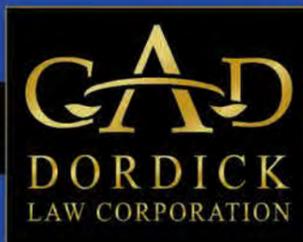
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