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BEVERLY PRESS

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Volume 35 No. 40

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

October 2, 2025

Convention Center project moves ahead in Los Angeles

■ Price collapses during groundbreaking ceremony

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Los Angeles City leaders gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 1 for the \$2.6 billion L.A. Convention Center Expansion and Modernization Project, a major effort to revitalize Downtown Los Angeles ahead of the Olympic Games in 2028.



photo courtesy of Curren Price's office
L.A. City Councilman Curren Price collapsed during a groundbreaking ceremony for the project.

At the ceremony, Los Angeles City Councilman Curren Price, 9th District, collapsed after suffering what was described as a "health-related" incident. Price was taken to a hospital and is undergoing medical treatment for dehydration, the councilman's office confirmed.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass gave final approval on Sept. 24 to the Convention Center project after the expansion was approved by the City Council.

"I am signing the final approval to begin construction on the Convention Center, a transformational project for downtown and our entire city," Bass said. "This project is more than just a building,

it is about revitalizing the heart of our city and bringing good-paying jobs and tourism straight to downtown. Thank you to the City Council for your partnership and dedication in moving this vital initiative forward with me."

See **Convention Center** page 21

Colorful living artwork sprouts on Wilshire

■ Artist Jeff Koons 'Split-Rocker' comes to LACMA

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A monumental artwork is taking shape on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard in the Miracle Mile, greeting drivers as they pass under the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's new David Geffen Galleries.

Artist Jeff Koons' 37-foot-tall sculpture "Split-Rocker" (2000) will be adorned with living plants and flowers and is clearly visible from the street. Koons traveled to LACMA from his home in New York on Sept. 22 to affix the first of approximately 50,000 living plants that will cover the outdoor art piece. The sustainable native plants will bloom year-round in Southern California's warm climate, making "Split-Rocker" a distinguishable landmark on LACMA's campus next to the new galleries, scheduled to open in April 2026.

LACMA announced the acquisition of "Spilt-Rocker" in June as part of the museum's plans for



photo by Edwin Folven

"Spilt-Rocker" will be covered with living plants when completed on Wilshire Boulevard, next to LACMA's new David Geffen galleries.

outdoor public art throughout 3.5 acres of open space created by the David Geffen Galleries' elevated design.

"Jeff is a master of bringing bold playfulness together with

layers of deeper artistic meaning," LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director Michael Govan said when the piece was announced. "We are thrilled to

See **'Split-Rocker'** page 21

Louis Vuitton flagship store OK'd in Beverly Hills

■ Project will transform Rodeo Drive and Santa Monica Boulevard

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Planning Commission on Sept. 25 unanimously approved the Frank Gehry-designed Louis Vuitton development on Rodeo and Beverly drives.

The project, titled the Louis Vuitton Rodeo Drive Experiential Flagship store, includes 105,214 square feet of retail, museum, exhibition and rooftop dining space across four land parcels – 456 N. Rodeo Drive, 468 N. Rodeo Drive, 449-453 N. Beverly Drive and 461-

465 N. Beverly Drive.

The separate parcels will be connected with an underground service tunnel and two pedestrian bridges above the public alley. The structure will be three stories tall at approximately 45 feet, with additional rooftop elements extending an additional 15 feet for a total of 60 feet tall.

John Mulliken, senior vice president of store planning for Louis Vuitton Americas, presented the project to the Planning Commission.

"Our experiential flagships are a combination of a retail experience, a culinary experience and a cultural experience. All of these are brought together in one location for the 468

[N. Rodeo Drive] project," Mulliken said. "We combined the experiential flagship of Louis Vuitton with the dynamic architecture of Frank Gehry on the world-famous Rodeo Drive, and we feel as though we're able to create a culturally vibrant destination in the northern approach of the Golden Triangle."

The project features Gehry's signature contemporary architectural style, and parallels the Walt Disney Concert Hall in its swooping, reflective structures that make up the building.

The Rodeo Drive portion of the project will contain 45,433 square feet of retail space in addition to a rooftop terrace. The store includes 6,217 square feet reserved for "very important client" salons on the second and third floors and rooftop. According to city staff, the rooftop will host "invitation-only special events and product launches" approximately 12 times per year.

The 54,723-square-foot portion of the project on Beverly Drive will include a museum and exhibition space, gift shop, bookstore and related retail. A 150-seat fine dining restaurant with indoor and outdoor space will be included on the

See **Project** page 22



photo by Jon Viscotto

The West Hollywood City Council helped celebrate the opening of the Holloway Interim Housing Project on Sept. 30.

Interim housing opens at former WeHo motel

■ Facility will bring 20 homeless individuals indoors

BY SAM MULICK

West Hollywood celebrated the opening of the Holloway Interim Housing Project on Sept. 30 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house tour of the

former Holloway Motel property turned transitional housing complex.

The opening ceremony was attended by the West Hollywood City Council, Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood), representatives from the office of U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale), Los Angeles County Supervisor

See **Interim housing** page 22



rendering courtesy of Gehry Partners LLP/Gruen Associates

The 105,214 square-foot project was designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry.

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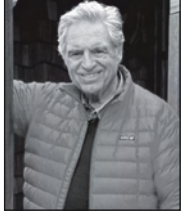
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CALENDAR

Thomas Callaway

The Virginia Robinson Gardens welcomes Thomas Callaway for “Gone West-From East Coast to West, My 80-year Pursuit of an Artistic Life” on Friday, Oct. 3, from 10:30 a.m.-noon. Callaway has been a respected leader in the Los Angeles design community since 1989. Owner and principal designer at Thomas Callaway Associates, Inc., he has designed and renovated residences across America. Tickets are \$40 for members; \$45 for non-members. 1008 Elden Way. robinsongardens.org



Jazz at LACMA

Celebrate L.A.’s finest jazz musicians with Jazz at LACMA, presented on Friday evenings from 6-8 p.m. on the Smidt Welcome Plaza. Enjoy a concert by the Tamir Hendelman Trio on Friday, Oct. 3. Award-winning pianist Hendelman has performed with the Jeff Hamilton Trio, the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, Houston Person, Barbra Streisand, Phil Upchurch and Barbara Morrison. He also leads his own trio, which made its recording debut in 2008. Admission is free. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.

‘Ledisi: For Dinah’

The LA Phil presents “Ledisi: For Dinah” on Friday, Oct. 3, at 8 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. The Grammy-winning vocalist celebrates her new album dedicated to “The Queen of the Blues,” Dinah

Washington. Raised in Alabama, Washington sang the blues and jazz with the same charm she brought to pop. Ledisi brings the same spirit to her music, imbuing Washington’s classic songs with neo-soul and contemporary jazz. Tickets start at \$29. 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.com.

Perfume Genius

Perfume Genius performs on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 8 p.m. at The Ford. As Perfume Genius, Mike Hadreas has made romantic and curious music that explores the intimacies, challenges and joys of queer life. His feel for the texture of human relations and his ability to articulate connection in a handful of words has made him a Grammy nominee and an icon of the queer underground music scene. On his latest album “Glory,” he writes from a new vantage point – on the other side of struggle – with sweetness, menace and comedy. Tickets start at \$40. 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East. theford.com.

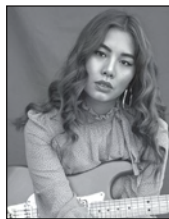


Rogue Machine

Lauren Gunderson’s production “anthropology,” directed by John Perrin Flynn, launches Rogue Machine’s new season on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 8 p.m. The high-stakes AI thriller is wrapped in emotional urgency, questioning how far someone will go to uncover truth and what technology can and can’t help resolve in relationships. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Monday; 2 p.m., Sunday through Nov. 9. Tickets start at \$45. 7657 Melrose Ave. roguemachinetheatre.org.

JJI: Classical Goes Electric

BroadStage presents “JJI: Classical Goes Electric” on Sunday, Oct. 5, at 11 a.m. on the main stage. The adventurous and captivating guitarist JJI takes the stage with “Classical Goes Electric” as part of the Sunday Morning Music-Santa Monica series. JJI is equally at home with acoustic and electric guitar, and her concert programs range from traditional and contemporary classical to free improvisation. Tickets start at \$55. 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. broadstage.org.



‘Best in Drag Show’

Enjoy the “Best in Drag Show,” a long-running one-of-a-kind drag beauty pageant on Sunday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m. at the Orpheum Theatre. The event supports the Alliance for Housing and Healing and housing services for people living with HIV/AIDS. The show features over-the-top characters, elaborate costumes, celebrity judges and surprises as the queens stage a no-holds-barred fight for the title of Miss Best in Drag Show. Tickets start at \$25. 842 S. Broadway, downtown. eventbrite.com/e/best-in-drag-show-2025-tickets-1024298252647.

Small Business Expo

The Small Business Expo Los Angeles, a networking event for small business owners, entrepreneurs and startups ready to grow, returns on Wednesday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Pasadena Convention Center. Every year, thousands of motivated professionals gather to learn, connect and discover the resources necessary to succeed. The expo

includes expert-led workshops, keynote speeches and opportunities to connect with new vendors and partners. 300 E. Green St. thesmallbusinessexpo.com/city/los-angeles.

French Heritage Society

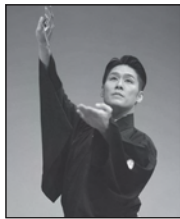
Join the Southern California Chapter of the French Heritage Society for a festive evening of Oscar-winning music by French composers on Thursday, Oct. 9, from 6-9 p.m. at the Beverly Hills Women’s Club. Music by composers Georges Delerue, Alexandre Desplat, Camille and Clement Ducal, Maurice Jarre, Michel Legrand and Gabriel Yared will be performed. Tickets are \$125. 1700 Chevy Chase Drive. frenchheritagesociety.org/fhs_events/champagne-music-and-the-movies.

East West Players

East West Players, the nation’s longest-running Asian American theater and the largest producer of Asian American artistic work, presents “Paranormal Inside” running from Thursday, Oct. 9, through Sunday, Nov. 2, at the David Henry Hwang Theater. Just in time for Halloween, the supernatural thriller reunites audiences with Max and Delia, who were at the heart of EWP’s 2022 production “The Brothers Paranormal.” Max and Delia are once again navigating the perilous intersection of grief, ancestry and identity as a sinister spirit threatens to upend their fragile peace. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Monday; 2 and 8 p.m., Saturday; and 5 p.m., Sunday. 120 Judge John Aiso St., downtown. eastwestplayers.org.

Japanese dance

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles welcomes Ichinosuke Umekawa for a dance demonstration and workshop on Thursday, Oct. 9, at 8:30 p.m. Umekawa is a renowned Japanese classical dancer, or buyoka, whose background in ballet and kabuki allows him to explore new possibilities in Japanese dance, known as buyo. He brings a highly refined and modern approach to classical dance that preserves Japanese tradition while incorporating contemporary expression and a global perspective. Umekawa will perform four dances (including one with a yokai subject related to the ongoing exhibition “Yokai Parade”) and will lead an introductory buyo workshop. Admission is free but registration is required. 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 100. jflalc.org.



CASA 0101 Theater

CASA 0101 Theater presents the world premiere of Josefina López’s “Eléctrico” running from Friday, Oct. 10, through Sunday, Nov. 2. “Eléctrico” is set in spring 1910 in a small Texas town close to the Mexican border, a few months before the Mexican Revolution began and 62 years after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Raymond Brown, a passing electrician who is white, is caught in a racial struggle when he discovers the real reason why the electricity went out. The production is part of CASA 0101 Theater’s ongoing 25th anniversary season and is directed by Corky Dominguez, produced by Emmanuel Deleage and stars Robert Moris Castillo and Corina Calderon. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at \$25. 2102 E. First St. casa0101.org.



photo by Tabor Brewster

Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian highlighted public safety initiatives at the annual “Evening with the Mayor” event.

Nazarian delivers state of the city address in Beverly Hills

■ ‘Evening with the Mayor’ emphasizes unity, progress

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Business leaders, elected representatives, police officers, firefighters and Beverly Hills residents gathered at Greystone Mansion on Sept. 25 for the annual “Evening with the Mayor” hosted by the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce. Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian delivered the “state of the city” address at the event, which also featured live music, hors d’oeuvres and networking opportunities for residents.

“I am proud to stand here tonight and tell you that the state of our city is strong,” Nazarian said.

Since taking office in April, Nazarian has focused on the overarching goal of “unity” through various initiatives and community events, including “Straight Talk with Sharona,” “Spotlight with Sharona,” “Sunday Socials with Sharona,” “In the Know with Mayor Nazarian” and “Sharona’s Innovation Circle.”

“In a time of deep division, my goal has been to bring our city closer together – to bridge generations, unite residents of different backgrounds, cultures and faiths, and strengthen the bond between our businesses and our neighborhoods. Simply put, my mission is to unite every part of our community,” Nazarian said in her address. “I want to end this year as mayor with a safer, stronger, more united Beverly Hills. We started strong, and now, at the halfway mark, we have already made a difference together.”

The mayor said the city’s top priority remains public safety and announced a 20% year-over-year decrease in crime in Beverly Hills since 2024. She credited the drop-off to the work of the Beverly Hills Police Department and its advanced resources including the Real Time Watch Center.

“This City Council has always been committed to providing our police and fire departments with the equipment, technology and resources they need to ensure their success – and that commitment remains unwavering as we spend over 52% of our budget on public safety,” she said.

She added that the city is actively recruiting new police officers ahead of the opening of the Metro subway stations and the 2028 Olympics.

Nazarian also highlighted upcoming public safety initiatives still in the works, including AI Blue Scribe, an artificial intelligence program that will standardize police report writing, and BHPD Live Link, software that will allow residents to receive real-time updates on calls to the Beverly Hills Police Department. She also addressed the need to prepare for wildfires following the January fires that destroyed large portions of the Pacific Palisades and Altadena. She added the Beverly Hills Fire Department is currently planning a large-scale evacuation drill for the north area of the city, which is most susceptible to fire risk. The drill will be conducted on Sunday, Nov. 9, with details to be announced.

Nazarian addressed several challenges facing the city, as well – including a projected budget deficit in the next two to three years and an influx of builder’s remedy projects that are transforming the city’s skyline.

A Los Angeles Superior Court Judge recently ruled in favor of a developer of a project at 125-129 S. Linden Drive in a lawsuit that alleged the city unlawfully blocked the development from moving forward. The ruling will force the city to process the application. Following the ruling, the developer doubled the size of the tower from 19 to 36 stories.

“California’s affordable housing crisis has created real challenges, not just for Beverly Hills, but for communities across the state ... many California cities face the same loss of local control under builder’s remedy,” Nazarian said. “While litigation has not been successful, I believe the best path forward is collaboration. This is the moment that calls for strong leadership.”

By working with developers, we can encourage adjustments that help these projects fit more harmoniously into the character and scope of our community.”

Nazarian also reaffirmed her commitment to fighting anti-semitism through the “Never Again is Now” campaign.

“Through education, awareness and dialogue, we bring our communities together – across

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BEVERLY PRESS
PARK LABREA NEWS

Founded 1946

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The Beverly Press and Park Labrea News are weekly newspapers, published on Thursdays. Mail subscription is \$120 annually. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising, Feb. 10, 1960 by Superior Court Order No 736637. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising in the City of Beverly Hills and the County of Los Angeles, Dec. 22, 2020 by Superior Court Case Number 19STCP04891. Government Code 6008.

BHUSD responds to cease and desist letter

■ District denies violation of Brown Act

BY TABOR BREWSTER

On Oct. 1, the Beverly Hills Unified School District responded to a cease and desist letter that was issued to the school board on Sept. 9 that alleged violations of the Brown Act, which ensures transparency in public meetings. The district denied violating the Brown Act in its response.

Attorney Daniel Lifschitz threatened litigation against the Beverly Hills Unified School District and its Board of Education. The cease and desist letter came amid turmoil over a resolution that would have required the display of the flag of Israel on school campuses that was quickly reversed following safety threats.

Lifschitz, who is a parent of a BHUSD student, accused the board of violating California Government

Code 54954.3, which guarantees the right to public comment on each agenda item voted on by a government entity. The code states that a public comment period is not required for an agenda item that has already been heard, however, it requires that the school board must provide a new opportunity for public comment if an agenda item has been substantially changed.

“Over the past few months, the board has repeatedly violated the public comment obligation by taking public comment on agenda items at the start of meetings, only to then substantially change and pass those items within the space of the same meeting, robbing the public of any opportunity to address what the board actually votes on once its marathon redlining sessions conclude,” Lifschitz said. “This includes the Standards-Based Instructional Environment resolution on July 16, the anti-semitism resolution on Aug. 26 and the flag ban resolution on Aug. 29.”

While the district acknowledged in its response that the Brown Act requires an item to be re-agendized and a new public comment period to be held if the item is substantially changed, it argued that no statute requires it to be re-agendized if the item is changed within the same meeting.

“The board has not violated the Brown Act’s public comment requirements,” read the letter, signed by attorney Joseph R. Sanchez of Best Best & Kreiger. “[Lifschitz’s] interpretation would effectively prohibit normal legislative deliberation and require multiple public comment periods for every agenda item that undergoes any modification during discussion – a requirement found nowhere in the Brown Act or supporting case law.”

The cease and desist letter provided the board 30 days to commit to following the guidelines of public comment. Lifschitz said that the commitment must be approved during an open session meeting. However, in its response, the dis-



photo by Tabor Brewster

BHUSD parent Daniel Lifschitz alleged the school board violated the Brown Act by limiting public comments.

trict declined to Lifschitz’s demand.

“The board will continue to conduct its business in full compliance with the Brown Act while preserving its ability to engage in meaningful deliberation and consideration of the matters properly before it,” the letter read.

Lifschitz said he was disappointed in the response from the board’s

counsel, as it “misapprehends the relevance” of the case law relating to the cease and desist letter and “effectively writes out the ‘substantially changed’ clause from Section 54954.3.”

“I will liaise with counsel on the matter to see if escalation can be avoided and take next steps as appropriate,” Lifschitz said.

Beverly Hills suspends negotiations with labor union

■ Management and Professional Employees Association raised concerns over bonus pay

BY TABOR BREWSTER

After a monthslong impasse, the Beverly Hills City Council on Sept. 30 unanimously voted to suspend negotiations with the Management and Professional Employees Association and implemented a final offer that the union opposed.

The union represents approximately 142 city employees across different departments including senior planner, city arborist, library administrator, human resources manager and deputy city clerk.

The city’s current memorandum of understanding with the union expires on Oct. 2, 2026. However, the agreement contained a reopener clause that allowed both parties to renegotiate a specific element of the contract. The section of the agreement under renegotiation was a pay for performance program that allows employees to earn additional compensation based on performance evaluations deemed exceptional. The reopener allowed the city to propose a new evaluation system to determine bonus pay to employees based on the evaluation.

In August 2024, the city proposed a new method of evaluating employees that provides eight categories for performance. To qualify for the bonus, the city proposed that each employee would need to “exceed expectations” in at least five of the eight categories. However, the union proposed that the employee should “exceed expectations” in at least two of the eight categories. Through negotia-

tions, the city reduced its proposed number to four of the eight categories and the union increased its suggested number to three of the eight categories. However, neither party was willing to change this offer and the city declared an impasse on March 17.

To resolve the issue, the City Council held a public hearing on Sept. 30.

“We deeply value the work we do for this city and we take great pride in serving the residents, businesses and visitors of Beverly Hills. Our 142 members are committed professionals who want to continue working hand-in-hand with leadership to strengthen our organizations that we all care about,” Management and Professional Employees Association President Tania Schwartz said. Schwartz is the city’s senior management analyst in the Public Works Department.

Schwartz explained that under the current point-based evaluation system, an employee is evaluated across 10 categories and can receive up to 20 points for exceptional performance.

“To qualify for pay for performance, the threshold is eight points, which is 40% of the maximum available. For employees evaluated in fewer categories, which happens, the threshold is scaled accordingly for seven points out of 18, which is 39%, or six points of 16, which is 35.5% ... The association’s proposal maintains that balance. We’re just asking for what was already negotiated,” she said. “By contrast, the city’s proposal raised the threshold to 50%, a clear departure from the historical standard and the original intent of the reopener.”

Following a discussion, the City Council unanimously agreed that

the city’s offer was final, and voted to implement it despite the union’s opposition.

“When you look at whether someone should qualify for a bonus, I think exceeding expectations half the time is not an unreasonable standard,” Councilman Craig Corman said. “I think exceeding it only 37.5% [of the time] seems very low. So between those two choices ... I

would opt for the 50%, but I would also keep in mind that we are going to have a new negotiation next year ... We’ll have data next year when you negotiate the new contract, and if it turns out that fewer employees are in fact getting bonuses, and the budget for the pay for performance bonuses is not being used up in the way it was in the past, then I think it’s a subject to revisit.”

“For a city, we never want to get to this point,” Mayor Sharona Nazarian said. “We always prefer to

find common ground and to complete our negotiations with clear intentions and this is very difficult ... We deeply value our employees. They are our leaders, especially this group ... I understand that three out of eight is what was preferred but it looks like that was not a system that was as effective as the new one that’s been created.”

The city will begin negotiations on the next memorandum of understanding with the union in approximately six months.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The city and labor union could not reach an agreement on the criteria necessary for employees to qualify for bonus pay.

Man accused of peeping in windows arrested in WeHo

■ Suspect has long history of similar crimes, police say

BY SAM MULICK

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station deputies arrested a man for indecent exposure on Sept. 28.

On that date, Jackie Harrington, 58, approached a victim in the laundry room of a West Hollywood apartment and exposed himself, according to a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department bulletin.

Prior to his arrest, multiple neighborhood residents posted videos on the message board site Nextdoor showing Harrington walking around apartments with what appeared to be an open alcohol container, peeping in windows and doors and masturbating. Sheriff's deputies identified Harrington while he was waiting at a bus stop on Sunset Boulevard, according to media reports.

Harrington was on parole at the time and had been arrested for previous acts of peeping and burglary dating to 2019, according to media reports. Court records showed that Harrington's arrest record went as far back as 1988, including arrests in Santa Monica and Beverly Hills.

West Hollywood resident Lala K., who declined to provide her last name out of safety concerns, said that Ring camera footage captured Harrington entering her apartment complex in the 7600 block of Hampton Avenue around 10:30 p.m. on Sept. 21, peering into a unit and masturbating.

Chloe, a Los Angeles resident who lives near the West Hollywood border and declined to provide her last name out of safety concerns, said security footage captured Harrington outside her apartment around 4:30 a.m. on Sept. 21. Harrington stared into the apartment for about 10 minutes and also stared through a neighbor's window while holding a beer can, before leaving the scene. Chloe added that she stayed with a friend for more than a week following the incident and would only return



photo courtesy of LASD
Jackie Harrington, 58, was arrested for indecent exposure in West Hollywood.

home if Harrington remained in custody.

"[My landlord] is upping their security measures and adding in additional gates and things like that, so there's no chance of anyone walking onto the property anymore," Chloe said. "I'd rather be safe than sorry, but I'm frustrated that this is something that I have to do in what should be a really safe neighborhood."

During a Sept. 29 Public Safety Commission meeting, Sgt. Jason Duron of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station alleged that Harrington was previously released from jail due to the leniency of former L.A. County District Attorney George Gascón.

"One of the reasons why he had a lot of releases from prior cases was because there was a prior regime at the [District Attorney's] office and some of their standards for arrests weren't being prosecuted and he qualified for a lot of those," Duron said. "This is a new arrest—we're hoping that this one will have some penalty or some sticking measures to it."

Harrington was transferred to the Inmate Reception Center in Downtown Los Angeles on Sept. 29, where he is being held on \$30,000 bail. There was no further information on his arraignment available at press time. The West Hollywood Sheriff's Station is seeking additional victims of Harrington. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Sheriff's Station at (310)855-8850.

Man who killed dog in WeHo charged with three felonies

■ Charges include animal cruelty and burglary

BY SAM MULICK

A 27-year-old man was charged with three felony counts for allegedly breaking into his former roommate's apartment in West Hollywood, burglarizing the unit and killing the tenant's dog on Sept. 4.

Anmol Bhatia was charged with animal cruelty, first-degree residential burglary and vandalism, Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman announced on Sept. 24. The L.A. County Sheriff's Department released a video showing Bhatia entering the apartment

and advancing toward the dog. Bhatia killed the dog, vandalized the apartment and fled the scene, according to the sheriff's department.

"The level of animal cruelty in this case is deeply disturbing," Hochman said. "Our office does not tolerate animal abuse, and we are fully committed to pursuing justice on behalf of these voiceless victims. Just as we aggressively prosecute residential burglary, we will prosecute animal cruelty."



Anmol Bhatia

See **Suspect** page 22

Details remain a mystery with body in trunk

■ Singer D4vd cancels tours and moves out of house amid investigation

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The investigation continues into the death of Celeste Rivas Hernandez, 15, whose body was found in the trunk of a Tesla registered to the singer-songwriter known as D4vd.

The LAPD's Robbery-Homicide Division released a statement on Sept. 29 with information on the status of the ongoing investigation.

"At this time, we can confirm that Celeste Rivas Hernandez is deceased, and her body was found in the front trunk area of a Tesla belonging to David Burke. The vehicle had been parked at the location from which it was towed for several weeks, so Ms. Rivas Hernandez may have been deceased for several weeks before the discovery of her body," the LAPD statement read. "The Los Angeles County Medical Examiner has not yet determined the cause or manner of Ms. Rivas Hernandez's death. As such, it remains unclear whether there is any criminal culpability beyond the concealment of her body. [Robbery-Homicide Division] is thoroughly examining every aspect of this case to uncover the truth and seek justice for Celeste Rivas Hernandez and her family. Further updates will be provided as appropriate, but at this time, we are unable to answer addi-



photo courtesy of Esmeralda Lozano, GoFundMe
Celeste Rivas Hernandez was reported missing in April 2024.

tional questions."

Hernandez had been missing for nearly 18 months before her decomposed body was discovered in the vehicle's trunk on Sept. 8 after it was impounded at Hollywood Tow on Mansfield Avenue. The vehicle was towed to the lot on Sept. 5 from the 1400 block of Bluebird Avenue in the Hollywood Hills after the LADOT declared the Tesla abandoned. The car was ticketed for a parking violation 11 days prior to being towed. Police believe Hernandez's body was in the trunk for weeks.

The Tesla is registered to David Anthony Burke, 20, of Houston, who performs under the stage name D4vd. Burke was renting a house on Doheny Drive, two blocks from

where the vehicle was towed. He occupied a residence there for approximately 19 months before moving out on Sept. 24, days after Hernandez's body was found and police searched the location. Burke canceled his ongoing U.S. tour and upcoming European tour amid the investigation. The LAPD has not named Burke a suspect.

The cause of death is being investigated by the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner, which is awaiting the results of toxicology testing.

The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner has not provided any further details. The cause of death is currently listed as deferred pending further tests and a hold has been placed on the release of information.

Hernandez, of Lake Elsinore, was reported missing by her family in April 2024. She was 13 at the time of her disappearance. A GoFundMe campaign was established by Esmeralda Lozano on behalf of the Rivas Hernandez family. Donations are sought and more than \$24,800 has been raised.

"She was a beloved daughter, sister, cousin and friend. Her family is heartbroken and devastated by this tragic loss," read a statement on the GoFundMe webpage.

Anyone with information is urged to call the LAPD's Robbery-Homicide Division at (213)486-6890. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD's hotline at (877)LAPD247.

Woman stabbed during brawl in WeHo dies

■ Victim was critically injured during a brawl in WeHo on Sept. 14

BY SAM MULICK

The victim of a stabbing in West Hollywood's Rainbow District died from her injuries on Sept. 16.

The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner confirmed that Maritza Gonzalez, 20, succumbed to her injuries in the hospital following a stab wound to the chest. Gonzalez was stabbed in the early morning on Sept. 14 outside Beaches WeHo in the 8900 block of Santa Monica Boulevard during a fight that spilled over from a larger brawl, according to the L.A. County Sheriff's Department.

Gonzalez was transported to a hospital in critical condition. The sheriff's department issued a notice that Gonzalez was still alive on Sept. 18, but the medical examiner's office listed her death on Sept. 16. Lt. Michael Modica clarified that Gonzalez was declared brain dead on Sept. 16, but remained on life support until Sept. 20 in order to donate her organs.

One person of interest was detained on the afternoon of Sept. 14, Modica said. The case was presented to the L.A. County District Attorney who rejected it for further investigation, he added. The person of interest is still in custody and is cooperating with sheriff's deputies. There is no threat to the community, Modica said.

A GoFundMe campaign orga-

nized by family member Arturo Solis raised more than \$46,000 for Gonzalez's family as of Oct. 1.

"Maritza was only 20 years old—a vibrant, kind and charismatic young woman whose smile could light up any room," read the GoFundMe. "She was the youngest of four children and the only daughter of Cecilia Solis and Armando Gonzalez. Her three older brothers adored her deeply, and she was truly the pride and joy of her family."

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information is urged to call detectives with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau at (323)890-5500. To donate to the GoFundMe, visit gofundme.com/f/q863j-in-loving-memory-of-maritza.

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Subway work angers Beverly Hills temple

Construction extends past High Holy Days

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Members of a Beverly Hills synagogue on Wilshire Boulevard are upset about Metro construction during the High Holy Days, considered the most important period of the year by the Jewish community.

Work on the D Line subway extension project has been ongoing for years near Wilshire and La Cienega boulevards, where the first segment is scheduled to open by the end of 2025. Construction is currently ongoing within K-rail work zones at many locations along the south side of Wilshire Boulevard between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards.

Representatives of the Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts, which owns and holds services at the Saban Theatre, 8440 Wilshire Blvd., said the recent work has been troublesome. During the High Holy Days, which began at sundown on Sept. 22 with Rosh Hashanah and conclude with Yom Kippur at sunset on Oct. 2, the temple welcomes large groups of congregants for special services and were told by Metro the work would be completed in front of the theater by the High Holy Days, said Kasey Carter, executive director of Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts.

"The fact is it is still a mess," Carter added. "It's an eyesore and we believe it is unsafe for our elderly members."

The temple is upset about work occurring on the southeast corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Hamilton Drive, where portions of the sidewalk and curb areas are fenced off. Metro completed work directly in front of the Saban Theatre's

entrance prior to the start of the High Holy Days and installed a special temporary ramp in front of the venue to provide access compatible with the American Disabilities Act. However, work on the corner — directly west of the front of the theater — is still ongoing.

A permanent pedestrian ramp is being installed at the corner for American Disabilities Act compliance, and it required the de-energization of a Southern California Edison electrical box in the ground where the ramp is going, according to Metro. Known as a pull box, the underground concrete box houses the power feed for street lighting and traffic signals. Metro worked with Southern California Edison to expedite the process and quickly sought city of Beverly Hills approval for the work, but the work was unable to be completed before the High Holy Days.

"Metro's contractor has been working as quickly as possible to complete civil restoration work within the city of Beverly Hills. Unfortunately, certain construction activities and utility work will extend beyond the High Holy Days. The sidewalk fencing around the theater is safe for pedestrians and in compliance with city standards," Metro spokesman Dave Sotero said. "Metro has held multiple meetings with representatives of the Saban Theatre to inform them of our ongoing construction progress. We have addressed their primary concern that restoration in front of the theater be completed prior to the High Holy Days in 2025. Metro prioritized this section of work for completion, specifically along Wilshire Boulevard between Hamilton Drive and Gale Drive. The Wilshire Boulevard frontage of the Saban Theatre was restored, and a portion of the temporary construc-

tion fencing was removed on Sept. 12 in advance of the theater's requested milestone."

Sotero said Metro wants to complete the work at the corner as quickly as possible and said extra steps were taken to ensure the front of the theater was clear and accessible.

"Because the southeast corner of Hamilton Drive and Wilshire Boulevard does not currently have a pedestrian ramp, Metro installed a temporary ramp directly in front of the Saban Theatre. The ramp was constructed with temporary asphalt and enhanced with a green grass façade to improve aesthetics. The temporary ramp is intentionally wider than required to ensure safe and convenient pedestrian passage. Beyond this location, continuous sidewalk access has been established along the entire south side of Wilshire Boulevard," Sotero said. "Metro's contractor does not anticipate completing street, sidewalk, curb and gutter work before Kippur on Oct. 1. Upon completion of the required SCE work, the contractor still has additional work to complete prior to casting the final sidewalk and removing the fencing in the area. We anticipate completion of all work in October."

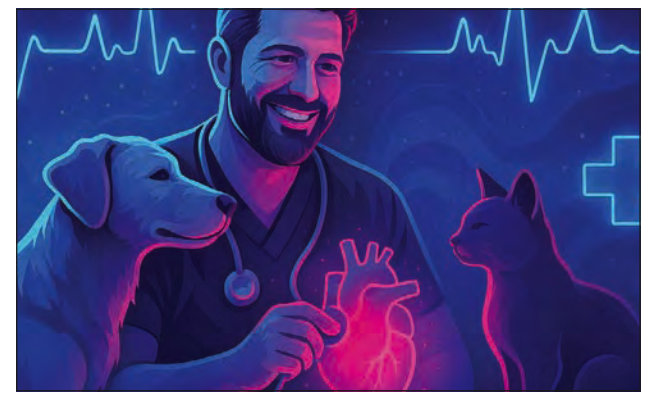
A crew was working at the site on Oct. 1. Metro planned to temporarily halt work in Beverly Hills on Yom Kippur, Oct. 2. A temporary pathway remains in place from Hamilton Drive providing access to the temple. Carter said workers from Southern California Edison showed up on Rosh Hashanah, but the temple's services were held as planned without disruption. She hopes things go as smoothly on Yom Kippur.

"It's frustrating," Carter said. "We feel that it's dangerous to have people walking by."



photo by Edwin Folven

Metro completed construction directly in front of the Saban Theatre's entrance prior to the High Holy Days, but the entrance remained partially blocked from the corner of Hamilton Drive.



The Healing Power of Pets

For many of us, pets are more than companions — they're family. But beyond wagging tails and comforting purrs, science shows that pets can quite literally heal us. Their impact on human health is more powerful than many people realize.

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Fewer Doctor Visits, Better Mental Health

A study published in BMC Geriatrics found that seniors who lived with pets reported 30% fewer doctor visits compared to those without. The American Heart Association reports that dog ownership is linked to a 24% lower risk of death from any cause, largely due to the exercise, companionship, and stress reduction dogs provide. Pets also reduce loneliness — one of the biggest predictors of poor health in older adults — by up to 36%.

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Pet ownership doesn't just improve individual health—it strengthens communities. Dog owners walk on average 22 more minutes per day than non-dog owners, helping meet daily exercise goals. Locally, parks and sidewalks become social hubs where pets spark conversations and friendships. This added layer of social connection reduces isolation, one of the largest public health issues today.

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So the next time you curl up with your dog or cat, remember: they're not only giving you unconditional love. They're giving you measurable health benefits, backed by science.

About Dr. Ameis

Dr. Ezra Ameis is an ER veterinarian and independently owns Paw Priority in West Hollywood, which provides general practice, urgent care, and acupuncture.



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Parents ask BHUSD to recognize minority students

Campaign follows antisemitism resolution

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Several parents are asking the Beverly Hills Unified School District to recognize students of color and students from marginalized groups including those who are Black, Hispanic, Asian-American and Pacific Islander, LGBTQ+ and have disabilities. At a school board meeting on Sept. 30, parents implored the district to pass resolutions recognizing the groups, including a resolution on Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month, after the district passed a resolution that recognizes May as Jewish American Heritage Month.

Parent Victoria Tate said the group of concerned parents drafted proposed resolutions recognizing the months dedicated to marginalized communities and submitted them to the board. However, the resolutions were not placed on the agenda for the Sept. 30 meeting.

"We have made multiple requests for this board to address the racism and disparate treatment that Black and Latin children in this district face," Tate said.

Parent Loly Perlmutter asked the district to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month by inviting Latino authors to visit the district and present their writing to students. Hispanic Heritage Month began on

Sept. 15 and ends on Oct. 15.

"This is an opportunity to come together to celebrate books and writers of Latin America, and we would like to bring this to the board to have an opportunity to have one of the writers come into the district or the library to bring up more of the culture and the background of Latin American writers," Perlmutter said. "At this time there is nothing at any school regarding [Hispanic] culture and I think this is an opportunity ... for the children to enjoy Hispanic Heritage Month."

While the district has not formally recognized Hispanic Heritage Month this year through a resolution, BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss celebrated the month on Sept. 16 in an Instagram post that also highlighted the district's newly-formed Spanish language

program in elementary schools.

"'Habras Espanol?' Did you know over 60 million people in the United States speak Spanish? I couldn't be more proud of our new Dual Language Academies this year at both El Rodeo and Horace Mann," he wrote. "Happy Hispanic Heritage Month to all!"

The district declined to provide a comment on the parents' requests to recognize minority students.

The concerns from parents follow a resolution that was passed on Aug. 26 titled "Combating Antisemitism through Education, Awareness, Remembrance and Support," which recognizes May as Jewish Heritage Month, commemorates International Holocaust Remembrance Day in January, des-

See **District** page 21

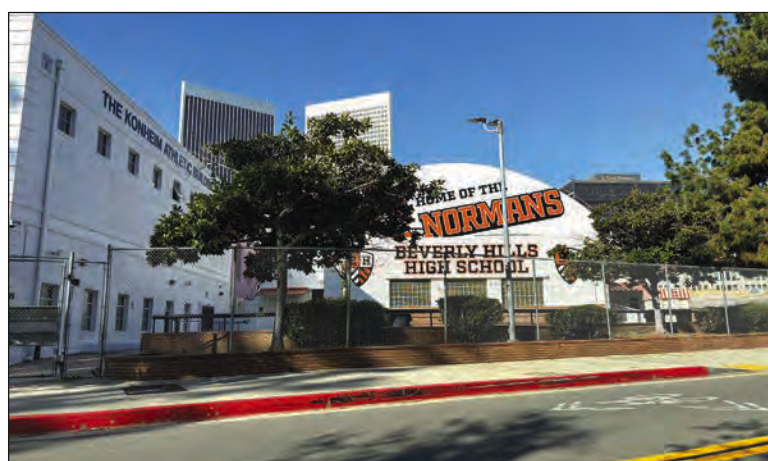


photo by Tabor Brewster

Several Black students and teachers have reported being the victims of racism in the school district.

Hollywood reacts to Trump's tariff 'on any and all' foreign films

BY RANCE COLLINS

On Sept. 29, President Donald Trump wrote in a post that he would immediately impose a 100% tariff on movies produced outside the United States.

Trump, claimed that the industry was "DYING a very fast death." He pointed out incentives that were being offered by other countries to produce content, surmised that it was a concerted effort by foreign nations and "a National Security threat."

"It is, in addition to everything else, messaging and propaganda," he continued, then announcing that he was authorizing the Department of Commerce and the U.S. Trade Representative to institute the tariff "on any and all" movies that come from what he called "Foreign Lands."

There was little additional information provided after the announcement. While some American films are produced, in part, in other countries, there have been efforts by the state of California – and particularly Los Angeles County, in which the headquarters of all major U.S. film studios are located – to bring production back to the studio lots. This summer, the state legislature passed a \$750 million tax credit, encompassing a wide range of film and television projects. So far, the

incentives have seemed to lead to an uptick in production within Los Angeles, with the California Film Commission reporting in August a 400% spike in tax credit applications.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, who proposed the tax credit, is opposed to the tariff, and his office said in a statement, "The governor tried to explain this to Trump months ago – when this was initially proposed – that his actions will cause irreparable damage to the U.S. film industry. [The] move is 100% stupid."

U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) represents Hollywood, as well as Burbank and other studio hubs. Prior to her political career, which includes a long stint in the state legislature, Friedman was a film producer, bringing to the screen such '90s films as "It Takes Two" and "House Arrest."

"We could certainly make it easier on the local level to shoot," she said. "We need to level the playing field with what other countries are offering productions, and other countries see the value in these good, high-paying, upwardly mobile jobs that are created through the film and television industry. They are offering tax credits, and that's why a lot of these American productions are shooting overseas."

Friedman pointed out that the specifics on how the tariff would be

implemented are uncertain.

"I don't understand how this would work ... to double the budget of a film or to make it more expensive to watch it, it's very confusing. The proposal itself is confusing, and when I talk to people in the industry, they don't understand how it's even supposed to work. But secondly, and more importantly, I'm very concerned that this would raise the price for consumers. And the last thing I want is that when people go to the movies, they see a ticket price double. Or if they're streaming, that it's their streaming service is more money because of this," Friedman said.

While Trump's announcement was marked as effective "immediately," it is unclear when or how it will take effect.



photo by Edwin Folven

Hollywood-based studios could be affected by the Trump administration's tariff on foreign-produced films.

Jewish day school educators surprised with cash prizes

BY SAM MULICK

Four Jewish day school educators were surprised with \$18,000 cash prizes across Los Angeles County as part of the Milken Family Foundation's annual Jewish Educator Awards.

During all-school assemblies, surprise awards were given to: Nili Isenberg, a middle school Judaic Studies teacher at Pressman Academy in Los Angeles; Jared Stein, director of instrumental music at de Toledo High School in West Hills; Hadassah Weiner, girls elementary principal at Yeshiva Rav Isaacsohn Toras Emes Academy in Los Angeles and Rabbi Reuven Youkhehpaz, the fifth grade boys Rebbe at Yeshiva Aharon Yaakov/Ohr Eliyahu in Los Angeles. The awards recognize the profession of teaching and educators who make a big impression on students to inspire the next generation of educators.

"Developing our community's future leaders starts with outstanding educators like Nili Isenberg, Jared Stein, Hadassah Weiner and Rabbi Reuven Youkhehpaz," said Milken Family Foundation

Executive Vice President Richard Sandler. "Every day they prepare the future leaders of our community by teaching them Torah so they will know who they are, where they come from and why it matters."

During the Sept. 29 ceremony, cheering fifth grade students chanted Youkhehpaz's name when he was announced. Youkhehpaz, visibly emotional, embraced his colleagues and dean of school Rabbi Shlomo Goldberg before accepting the prize. Youkhehpaz thanked Goldberg for supporting his teaching.

"Any accomplishments on my part, it's all due to the guidance and the teachings of Rabbi Goldberg, and not just Rabbi Goldberg, but the camaraderie and actions that exist in the school, amongst the ordained, amongst the morals and amongst the administration that they're willing to guide you, but not micromanage you," he said. "I feel very grateful. This is not [how] I expected ... my day [to] go today – that's for sure. I thought it would end with dismissing kids to carpool, but I am very grateful to be honored for this, and also to the Milken Foundation for considering me."



photo courtesy of Milken Family Foundation

Rabbi Reuven Youkhehpaz celebrated after being awarded with the Milken Family Foundation Jewish Educator Award.

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Drescher adds style, flair to the Walk of Fame

BY RANCE COLLINS

Hollywood Boulevard turned leopard print on Sept. 30, when the flashy girl from Flushing got a star on the Walk of Fame. Fran Drescher, who just wrapped a consequential four-year tenure as SAG-AFTRA president, finally made her permanent mark, flanked by co-stars and union colleagues. It also just so happened to be her 68th birthday.

Best-known to audiences for her starring role in the long-running sitcom “The Nanny,” New York-born Drescher has been a familiar face in film and television since her movie debut in 1977’s “Saturday Night Fever.” The 1980s also saw her give memorable performances in “Ragtime” and “This Is Spinal Tap.” Beyond “The Nanny,” she’s appeared in “The Beautician and the Beast,” “Hotel Transylvania,” and – coming this December – the highly-anticipated Timothée Chalamet-led film “Marty Supreme,” playing Chalamet’s mother.

A stalwart activist, Drescher is a uterine cancer survivor and launched the nonprofit Cancer Schmancer advocating for early detection screenings. Perhaps her most lasting mark, however, has been her run as SAG-AFTRA’s president, a role she stepped into as the industry recovered from the pandemic in 2021. In 2023, SAG-

AFTRA (along with WGA) went on strike, which led to a near-four-month standoff with film and television studios.

“[She] led us through the strike that ended with a \$1 billion deal,” said Peter Marc Jacobson, her ex-husband and co-creator of “The Nanny.”

A fair chunk of her ceremony was spent discussing her SAG-AFTRA tenure, with “Abbott Elementary” and “The Parent Trap” actress Lisa Ann Walters stepping in to discuss Drescher’s capabilities as a union leader.

“Full disclosure, she was not running [for SAG-AFTRA president] with my party, but what I quickly discovered – along with others from my group – was that Fran had this wonderful quality of not giving a [crap] who had the good idea,” Walters said. “She wouldn’t tolerate unkindness or folks wallowing in old grudges. She listened to bright ideas wherever they came from, and I quickly discovered that I agreed with her vision regarding our membership partition, participation in streaming profits – [which] was something I had been saying for years – and there were many other things that she fought for in our contract negotiation that I stood shoulder to shoulder and still do with her belief and her tenacity and courage. And she led with

courage and strength and humor and humanity and femininity, and I became a fan all over again.”

Also on hand were two of her three nanny responsibilities from the hit ‘90s sitcom, Nicole Tom and Madeline Zima, who played Maggie and Grace, respectively.

“She taught me about fashion and acceptance and how to stay single for most of my life,” Tom joked. “But seriously, Fran, I love you, and I’ve always looked up to you, even though I had to wear flats.”

“Fran Drescher is not just a household name,” Zima said. “She is the household. She’s the glamorous aunt, the no-nonsense mom, the best friend who tells you when your outfit needs a little more leopard print, and the neighbor whose laugh you can hear through the dry-wall, and you’re so glad for it. When ‘The Nanny’ first hit our airwaves or screens in the ‘90s, she didn’t just change television. She redecorated [it]. Suddenly – the working-class Jewish woman from Queens – they weren’t side characters anymore. They were the stars. They were smart. They were sexy. They were hilarious.”

Jacobson talked about the writing team’s long history together, which was fictionalized in the TV Land series “Happily Divorced.”

“When I met Fran, we were 15 years old in high school, and we both remember that the day we met, she was coming down the steps, and I was going up the steps, and I thought to myself, ‘That is the most beautiful girl I have ever seen.’ And then she spoke,” Jacobson cracked.



photo by Rance Collins

Fran Drescher accepted her star on her birthday, Sept. 30.

“But leave it to Fran Drescher to turn those adenoids into a cottage industry.”

“The things you hear about Hollywood is all true,” Drescher said upon accepting the star. “It’s the land of dreams, but staying grounded and authentic is imperative, keeping old friends with you, close to you, and never forgetting where you came from is essential. Learning to love yourself, regardless of rejection or praise, rich or poor, young or old. None of that should define who you

are – not in show business, not in any business. Everyone who crosses your path, everything that happens is an opportunity on your journey of self-refinement. We are very imperfect beings, learning and growing along the way through all the pitfalls and mistakes made to do it right, we must make kindness and compassion our compass to dreams coming true. Make your reach greater than your grasp.”

Drescher’s star is located at 6623 Hollywood Blvd.

Notable Quotes

“There is still so much in the world worth fighting for. So much that is beautiful, so many wonderful people working to reverse the harm, to help alleviate the suffering. And so many young people dedicated to making this a better world. All conspiring to inspire us and to give us hope that it is not too late to turn things around, if we all do our part.”

Dr. Jane Goodall (1934-2025)

The esteemed British ethologist, anthropologist and activist died of natural causes on Oct. 1 at the age of 91 in California.

*source: janegoodall.org



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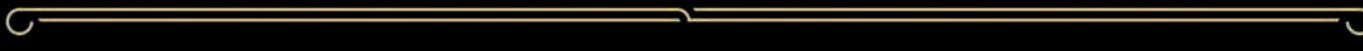


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*Well it's a marvelous night for a moon dance,
With the stars up above in your eyes,
'Neath the cover of October skies...*

I'll sleep when October is over, and not much before. There is chili to be made, Dodger Dogs to grill, heroes to cheer and harass.

Soon, that harvest moon will lick the gritty overpasses and pumpkin patches of sunbaked Los Angeles. No one would ever mistake it for Vermont. But if you squint a little, what do you see? Sheboygan on a hazy autumn night? Pittsburgh when the demons are on duty? And that eternal, lusty ocean. Amen.

To me, October always has



by
Chris
Erskine

puppy breath. It is the month of mirth and imagination.

Meanwhile, my favorite love poem is not from Edgar Allan Poe, as you might guess. But from his too-young first cousin, who also happened to be his wife (romance was a lot weirder back then, trust me):

*Ever with thee, I wish to roam,
Dearest, my heart be thine,
Give me a cottage for a home,
And a rich old cypress vine..."*

The love note goes downhill from there. In its entirety, you'd see that it is what's called an acrostic poem, meaning the first letter of each line spells out "Edgar Allan Poe."

Guess they had a little more time on their hands back then. Or a little more heart.

These days, poetry is about as relevant as cave drawings, which is what lures me to it on occasion. More and more, I prefer irrelevant things that no one else dares to think about anymore.

So, I like cowboy bars, one-eyed jacks and whisky neat. I don't mind when I see that "Windows is closing down"; I feel it's doing me a huge fave.

I also no longer make dinner reservations online, for it triggers this chain of confirmations – almost a full-blown relationship. The whole thing becomes a comical back-and-forth. Then again, what isn't comical?

*Out of the cloud folds of garments shaken,
Over the woodlands brown and bare,
Over the harvest fields forsaken,
Silent and soft and slow,
Descends the snow.*

That's Longfellow, duh. As with Beyonce or Taylor Swift, you probably have his poster on your bedroom wall, framed by fairy lights. After all, Longfellow had a face like a cold front. Cute!

If you haven't read much Longfellow, I'll save you precious time. The above poem is the very best Longfellow. It's called "Snow-flakes."

Have I lost you yet? You may be wondering: "When's he going to get to the Dodgers, or show pictures of those goofy grandkids? When's he going to gush about the perfect bratwurst?"

Well, I'll get there in time. The Dodgers seem one of those teams that turn it on only when they have to, and not before. Never been a fan of that sort of strategy – seems mercenary, almost deceitful.

Yet, I say "Go Dodgers!" I want to see this big sturdy town jump for joy again. Been a rough year, the worst in a very long time.

"Go Cubs!" too. I rarely root for anyone but underdogs. They have heart, fire, a chip on their shoul-



photo by Chris Erskine

To live well is to love many things, including mustard-laced meat.

ders, jack-o-lantern teeth. Obviously, I'm drawn to complicated causes – troubled teams that have been through all sorts of storms and stress. I suppose these Dodgers qualify.

I've also been closely following my granddaughter's new soccer club. This is her first official team with uniforms, practices, sponsors, an elite coaching staff made up of a couple of the more affable dads.

I mean, talk about storms and stress.

On these autumn mornings, the 4 year olds race in the wet grass, clumping like laundry, eyes wide, tongues hanging out, their cheeks a tartan plaid.

Great teams like this share similar traits. They are delusional about their chances. They would play for free, if forced.

And there is a ruddy camaraderie on the sidelines that borders on psychosis.

See, to live well is to love many things:

*a votive candle cooking the bottom of the pumpkin;
the way Longfellow describes the first snow;
a boisterous Dodger rally in the bottom of the ninth ... whoooooo Freddy Freeman!*

More than ever, we need to lean into the stuff that pulls us all together.

The way October does.

For past columns, or to order books, please go to ChrisErskineLA.com. Thanks.



photo by Chris Erskine

She and her teammates run till their cheeks turn a tartan plaid.

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Starbucks grinds down L.A. locations

BY RANCE COLLINS

The ground for Angelenos' coffee habits shifted on Saturday, Sept. 27, when dozens of Starbucks closed unexpectedly. While the company shuttered hundreds of stores across the country, Southern California was one of the hardest hit areas – and essentially no part of Los Angeles was left unscathed.

Starbucks said it was working to shift employees to other locations, but staff was given little warning of the closures. Most locations were told on Thursday, Sept. 25 – just two days ahead of the closure.

“Partners in coffeehouses scheduled to close will be notified this week,” CEO Brian Niccol said in a statement. “We’re working hard to offer transfers to nearby locations where possible and will move quickly to help partners understand what opportunities might be available to them. For those we can’t immediately place, we’re focused on partner care including comprehensive severance packages. We also hope to welcome many of these partners back to Starbucks in

the future as new coffeehouses open and the number of partners in each location grows.”

The popular West Hollywood Gateway location was closed, at the much-traversed intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and La Brea Avenue. It, however, was just steps away from a second location inside the complex’s Target store that remains open. A couple miles away, a similar choice was made between two neighboring Starbucks sites. Instead of keeping the longtime location inside the 8000 Sunset shopping destination, the company opted to leave the store at 7915 Sunset Blvd. open instead.

Other Starbucks closures had less obvious reroutes. With the location at 257 S. La Cienega Blvd. in Beverly Hills gone, company loyalists must travel roughly a mile in each direction to get their fix. Additional stores affected include 7122 Beverly Blvd. and 5353 Wilshire Blvd., among many more. Signs – including the literal signs – of the company’s prior occupancy were quickly removed from each of

the locations and windows were covered with paper.

“We’ve made the incredibly difficult decision to close this Starbucks location,” read a taped-up sign at 8000 Sunset. “We know this may be hard to hear – because this isn’t just any store. It’s your coffeehouse, a place woven into your daily rhythm, where memories were made, and where meaningful connections with our partners grew over the years. We’re deeply grateful for the community that’s been built here.”

According to Niccol, the decision was made as part of a “Back to Starbucks” plan.

“Our goal is for every coffeehouse to deliver a warm and welcoming space with a great atmosphere and a seat for every occasion,” Niccol said. “During [a] review, we identified coffeehouses where we’re unable to create the physical environment our customers and partners expect, or where we don’t see a path to financial performance, and these locations will be closed.”

U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-



photo by Edwin Folven

The former Starbucks at 257 S. La Cienega Blvd. closed abruptly on Sept. 27.

Glendale), who saw many Starbucks stores shuttered in her district, said that she was disappointed to see the company divest from the area and affect employment.

“Starbucks seems like they’re doing well at the top of the company – let’s say that they’re not able to keep up with the expansion that

they’ve done,” she said. “And I just would urge them to make sure that they take care of their employees, that they give people enough severance to get by so that they don’t lose their health insurance and are unable to pay their rent, [and] that they help them, if possible, get other jobs and find other employment.”

Letters to the Editor

Author Steve Hodel responds to ‘Black Dahlia’ story

Re “The Black Dahlia,” 2025 Our People, Our Places magazine, Sept. 25

Couple of corrections to this article: One, I didn’t discover my father while working at LAPD Hollywood Homicide Division. The case “came to me.” I was long retired (14 years) and at my father’s death in 1999, I learned from my sister, Tamar, the victim of the 1949 incest, that when she was taken to court, from Juvenile Detention, the “police told her they believed our father killed Elizabeth Short.” That started me down a path to prove his innocence.

Two, it’s not “my theory.” In the 1940s, the LAPD was a very corrupt department ala “L.A. Confidential.” Dr. George Hodel was the “V.D. Czar” of L.A. County [and] was basically untouchable. I have recently updated “Black Dahlia Avenger” to be released Oct. 21 with major updates and new evidence, so stay tuned.

P.S.: During one of my high-profile murder investigations in the early 1990s I rented and lived at the Park La Brea Towers for six months. Very nice stay. Enjoyed my time there.

*Detective III Steve Hodel
LAPD Hollywood Homicide (ret.)*

Kimmel show symbolizes creativity and free speech in Hollywood

Re “Kimmel gets back to work in Hollywood,” Sept. 25 issue

I write as a resident of California’s 30th Congressional District to highlight how integral the entertainment industry – especially late-night television – is to our community. ABC’s national headquarters in Burbank lies in the 30th Congressional District, and

“Jimmy Kimmel Live!” is filmed nightly [next to] the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, a vivid reminder that this district isn’t just a collection of neighborhoods – but a hub.

In the wake of ABC’s cancellation decision, the crowds of demonstrators gathering outside the El Capitan make it clear that this isn’t just about one television host. Their chants and signs reflect a broader anxiety: when political or corporate pressures silence programs, it chills free expression for everyone. These protests symbolize the passion of Angelenos to defend both the jobs connected to production and the values of the First Amendment.

Whether or not you enjoy Jimmy Kimmel’s show, its filming here is a symbol, Hollywood’s traditions of dissent, the arts as a voice for democracy and the role of this community in shaping national discourse. We must protect the autonomy of creators and ensure that no show or studio here is silenced by outside forces.

*Pini Herman
Beverly Grove*

Kimmel’s suspension was the result of his own doing

Your article intentionally mischaracterizes the reason for Jimmy Kimmel’s suspension and continuing preemption on Nexstar and Sinclair affiliates. It states that Kimmel “also made ... topical jokes about the president. The jokes, however, caught the attention of [Trump’s] base and administration.” Wrong.

What caught everyone’s attention was Kimmel’s statement, not at all a joke, that, “We hit some new lows over the weekend with the MAGA gang desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them.” Kimmel propounded this intentional lie at a time when the assassin was already known to be another violent left-wing Democrat with a transsexual boyfriend, a penchant for extreme kink and an all-consuming hatred

of conservatives. Kimmel knew exactly what he was doing, and his purpose was clear: to tell other leftist hatemongers to go ahead and kill more conservatives, because I and my colleagues in the media will cover for you and gaslight the public.

Kimmel averaged fewer than 2 million viewers during the second quarter of 2025, hemorrhaging ABC’s money to the tune of approximately \$20 million a year. (Greg Gutfeld averages almost twice as many daily viewers on cable.) Stephen Colbert was canceled for the same reasons, and Jimmy Fallon and Seth Meyers each have one foot in the television grave.

A Media Research Center study showed that 92% of Kimmel’s jokes are aimed at Republicans, 8% at Democrats; and 97% of his political guests are Democrats, 3% Republicans. America is and long has been a center-right country, and there is simply no meaningful constituency for this painfully unfunny brand of left-wing vitriol. Americans long for the days of a genius like Johnny Carson, who went after both sides with equal relish and whose own politics remained an eternal mystery. Meanwhile, outside of a handful of employees whose livelihoods he recklessly risked, nobody will miss Kimmel when he’s gone for good.

*Jordan Chodorow
West Hollywood*

*Editor’s Note:
Charlie Kirk’s murder is an ongoing investigation and not all details have been released.*

Speed cameras can’t come quickly enough

Re “L.A. moves quickly with speed cameras,” Sept. 25 issue

I don’t think that zero cameras installed two years after the program was approved qualifies for “L.A. moves quickly.” This program is moving excruciatingly slowly.

Joe Linton

Dedicated bike lanes are needed to protect cyclists

Re “WeHo approves Fountain Avenue bike lanes,” Sept. 18 issue

Who would take an unprotected bike lane here with all the drivers being distracted and speeding ... that’s suicide. We need dedicated protected lanes with concrete edging or K-rails to prevent bike-vehicle contact which would end up badly for the cyclist.

Drivers here in the L.A. area don’t care, like or think cyclists deserve to be on the road taking up valuable space that slows down their commute by seconds.

*Stephen Mullin
West Hollywood*

LAUSD project on Fairfax will inevitably bring more traffic

Re “LAUSD plans potential housing development on Fairfax Avenue,” Sept. 25 issue

The parking issues on Hayworth are horrific, and this project would need to create adequate parking for the tenants.

The tenants will have jobs with LAUSD and I suspect that the majority of them will not be able to rely upon public transportation to get to work.

*Steve Martin
West Hollywood*

Support for Horvath voiced in potential run for L.A. mayor

Re “Lindsey Horvath considering L.A. mayoral run,” Aug. 6 issue

Lindsey [Horvath] has a stellar record of public service work in her previously elected positions as [West Hollywood] City Council

member and mayor, and now as L.A. County supervisor. There’s no doubt she’s the perfect candidate for mayor of Los Angeles.

*Woody McBreairty
West Hollywood*

Taiwan is key to safer skies at ICAO

LAX connects Los Angeles directly to Taiwan, a vital hub in Asia that links travelers, businesses and families across the Pacific. With one of the largest Taiwanese communities in the United States right here in Southern California, safe and reliable air connections are more than transportation – they are lifelines.

Yet despite this important role, Taiwan has been excluded from the International Civil Aviation Organization since 1971 due to political consideration. Taiwan’s Civil Aviation Administration manages the Taipei Flight Information Region, an indispensable part of ICAO’s network of over 300 FIRs. This means that the crucial airspace for travel between Asia and North America, and the air traffic management gateway to the Asia-Pacific region, must rely on CAA’s limited and indirect information channels instead of direct access to ICAO systems. The irony is striking, as ICAO’s mission is “Safe Skies, Sustainable Future,” but it rejects a key player responsible for major global routes. Political pressure, not safety or performance, keeps Taiwan out.

For Los Angeles, whose prosperity depends on secure and efficient global travel, ensuring Taiwan’s inclusion in ICAO is not just good policy, it is essential. As ICAO convenes its Assembly under the theme “Safe Skies, Sustainable Future,” the time has come to recognize that Taiwan’s exclusion threatens regional and global aviation safety.

*Amino C.Y. Chi
Director General
Taipei Economic and
Cultural Office in Los Angeles*

RESTAURANT NEWS

Little Dom's makes National Pasta Month special

Craving a taste of L.A.'s best pasta for National Pasta Month in October? Los Angeles' modern Italian restaurant, Little Dom's in Los Feliz, has guests covered with new limited-time specials along with a selection of pasta dishes that have made the restaurant a neighborhood favorite for more than 15 years.

Throughout Pasta Month, Little Dom's is offering Mustard Green Lasagnette (available through Oct. 19) – traditional Bolognese method featuring non-traditional meats including alligator tenderloin and wild boar slowly cooked in olive oil with carrots, onions, peppers and garlic; and Parisian Gnocchi (available Oct. 20-31) – a light and fluffy version of gnocchi, slightly toasted in a pan with butter and black pepper and finished with a blend of two cheeses. Add black truffles for extra flare. In addition to the specials,

guests can enjoy staple dishes including spaghetti and meatballs, ricotta cavatelli with vodka sauce and grana Padano, strozzapreti – mushroom Bolognese and grana Padano and pappardelle – spicy sausage, ricotta, English peas and grana Padano.

For information, visit littledoms.com. Little Dom's is located at 2128 Hillhurst Ave.

JINYA unveils tomato basil ramen for fall

With fall in full swing, comfort food season has officially arrived, and JINYA Ramen Bar has the perfect dish to mark the occasion. Meet the Ciao Ramen, created in collaboration with creator QCP, offering a hearty, Italian-inspired bowl layered with rich tomato-basil broth, thick noodles, pork chashu, parmesan and a touch of JINYA's signature flair.

Fall's coziest bowl is a craveable,

Celebrate National Taco Day at Descanso

Descanso Restaurant is celebrating National Taco Day on Oct. 7 with a chef-curated taco platter, inviting guests to try four of its most popular specialty tacos and discover new favorites. Available at the Costa Mesa and recently opened Los Angeles locations, Descanso's National Taco Day Platter includes street-sized versions of the Felipe, The Relleno, Don Chingon and Chicharrón de Pescado tacos for \$15. Each taco is served on a house-made corn tortilla.

The Felipe marries garlic marinated ribeye with poblano chiles, onions, oyster mushrooms, tres quesos, tomatillo salsa cruda and micro cilantro. The Relleno features roasted Anaheim chile with Tatum squash, corn, sweet peppers, tres quesos, salsa verde, onion, cotija cheese and micro cilantro. The Don Chingón boasts spit-roasted al pastor pork with red onion, salsa frita, avocado



photo courtesy of Descanso Restaurant

Descanso's National Taco Day Platter includes street-sized versions of four of its most beloved tacos.

toreado salsa, chamoy and micro cilantro. The Chicharrón de Pescado includes crispy battered tilapia, cabbage slaw, pico de gallo, morita aioli, pickled red onion and micro cilantro.

The platter is available all day on Oct. 7.

For information, visit descansorestaurant.com. Descanso Restaurant is located at 5773 Wilshire Blvd.

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transitional dish that blends the familiar flavors of pasta night with the warmth and depth of ramen. For college students, it's the ultimate warm and hearty "study fuel." With October being National Pasta Month, the Ciao Ramen is a playful nod to noodles, reimagined through a Japanese ramen lens.

For information, visit jinyaramenbar.com. JINYA Ramen Bar is located at 3323 La Cienega Blvd.

Norms launches new menu

Beloved restaurant group and community staple Norms Restaurants debuted a new core menu on Oct. 1 in all Southern California and Las Vegas locations. After more than a year of research and development led by corporate executive chef and vice president of food and beverage David Cox, the team crafted a refreshed menu featuring 160 items, including 32 new dishes. Dishes on the new menu range from breakfast entrees and hearty salads to hand-cut steaks and classic diner favorites, all served with the signature homestyle hospitality that

has defined Norms for more than 75 years. In addition to the core menu, Norms is also launching a new late-night menu at select locations, featuring a concentrated selection of dishes from 11 p.m.-6 a.m. daily.

Inspired by Southern California's rich flavors and dining scene, the new core menu strikes a balance of nostalgic diner dishes with a modern twist into every bite.

Highlights from the core menu includes new cravings for breakfast lovers, such as the French Toast Bigger Better Breakfast – two bacon strips, two link sausages, ham, two eggs and two slices of French toast, served with choice of hash browns, home fries or fresh fruit. Norms has also expanded the selection of bold Latin flavors, including Huevos Rancheros – two crispy corn tortillas topped with black beans, jack and cheddar cheese and two eggs, served with red chili sauce, Spanish rice, avocado and pico de gallo.

While Norms debuts seasonal limited time menus throughout the year, it marks the first time the core menu has been refreshed since 2019.

For information, visit norms.com. Norms is located at 470 N. La Cienega Blvd. and 5453 Hollywood Blvd.

Starbird discovers new Indian flavors

Starbird, one of the nation's first super-premium fast-food concepts, is dramatically shaking up the hot chicken landscape this fall, elevating beyond the Nashville hot chicken craze with the launch of the new Indian Hotbird limited-time menu. The bold and innovative lineup features the Indian Hotbird sandwich, the Indian Hotbird Tender Box and Masala Street Fries, available at all California locations.

Building on the success of its Nashville hot chicken, Starbird is pioneering a new era with the Indian Hotbird, featuring its signature crispy chicken infused with vibrant, flavorful Indian spices to elevate the fast-food experience. With dynamic, complex flavor combinations rarely seen in fast-food, the limited-time menu is a groundbreaking offering that pushes the boundaries of what guests expect from a fast-food chicken concept.

Each item has been carefully crafted to deliver the intense,



photo courtesy of Starbird Chicken

Enjoy a feast of favorites at Starbird.

mouth-watering flavors and inventive culinary creations for which Starbird is known, including the Indian Hotbird Sandwich – hot masala crispy chicken topped with a savory tikka sauce, creamy tamarind mint raita, classic slaw, pickled red onions, cucumber and an Asian herb mix, all served on a soft round bun; Indian Hotbird Tender Box – hot masala crispy tenders drizzled with tamarind mint raita and tikka Sauce, finished

with an Asian herb mix; and the Masala Street Fries – seasonal fries loaded with tamarind mint raita, tikka sauce, Nashville oil, masala fire shake and an Asian herb mix.

To complement the new food items, Starbird is also introducing two seasonal house-made beverages: blueberry lemonade and mango iced tea.

For information, visit starbirdchicken.com. Starbird Chicken is located at 7150 Beverly Blvd.

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LACMA's Local Access program makes art more accessible

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art welcomes the California State University, Dominguez Hills University Art Gallery, the Millard Sheets Art Center at the L.A. County Fair and the Ontario Museum of History & Art as the newest members of LACMA's Local Access program.

Supported by the Art Bridges Cohort Program, the museums join four partner institutions in bringing exhibitions sourced from LACMA's permanent collection to communities across Los Angeles County. The program's latest exhibition, "Act on It! Artists, Community and the Brockman Gallery in Los Angeles" opened on Sept. 27 at the Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College.

Announced in 2021, Local Access was the first iteration of the Art Bridges Cohort Program in the

western United States. The nationwide collection-sharing initiative expands access to art across the country. During each cohort, a lead museum collaborates with regional partners to create exhibitions that inspire and deepen engagement with local audiences. Sharing artworks and resources, the partners create exhibitions that are relevant to communities.

Alongside this year's new museum partners, the Local Access network comprises the California State University, Northridge Art Galleries; the Lancaster Museum of Art and History; the Riverside Art Museum; and the Vincent Price Art Museum. The shows spotlight California's unique artistic heritage including myths, iconographies and realities that have formed a regional identity and the state's tradition of arts-based activism. Local Access continues LACMA's long history of

working with communities to establish new ways to access artwork and programs, such as the museum's gallery at Charles White Elementary School in MacArthur Park. Additional partnerships have been developed in Compton, East L.A., North Hollywood, South L.A., Van Nuys, Watts and Willowbrook.

"Act on It! Artists, Community, and the Brockman Gallery in Los Angeles" focuses on the historic gallery launched by brothers Alonzo Davis and Dale Brockman Davis in the wake of the 1965 Watts Rebellion. The Brockman Gallery in South L.A. was central to the development of the Black Arts Movement in Los Angeles.

"Act on It!" brings together works by artists who exhibited at the Brockman Gallery (1967-90). Through dozens of works in LACMA's collection, the exhibition represents the aesthetic, political and social statements encountered by Brockman Gallery visitors and underscores the reach and lasting significance of the Davis brothers'

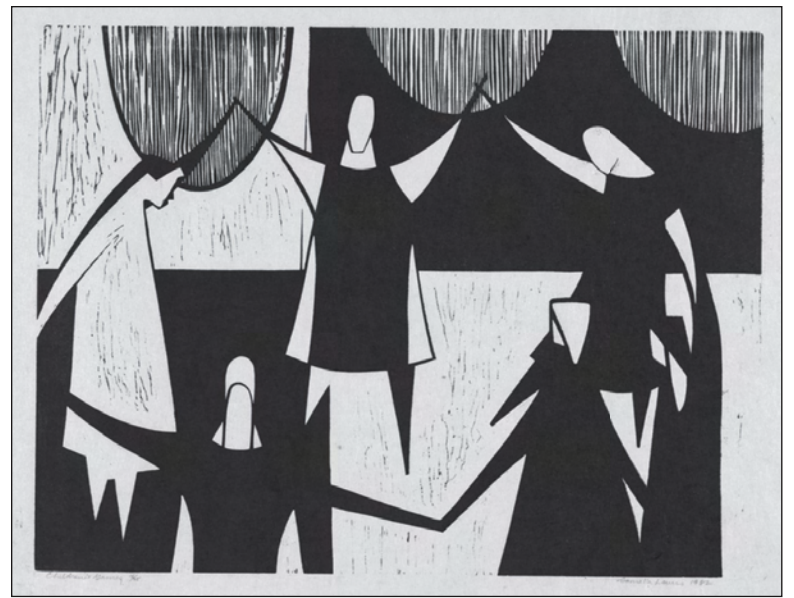


photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

Samella Sanders Lewis' "Children's Game" (1968/1982) was purchased with funds provided by Stephanie Blackmore Vahn, the Robert Gore Rifkind Foundation and the Prints and Drawings Council, © Estate of Samella Sanders Lewis.

project. The exhibition will be on view through Jan. 18 at the Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College, 1301 Avenida

Cesar Chavez, in Monterey Park.

For information, visit lacma.org/communityprograms/localaccess.

Los Fabulosos Cadillacs rock the Walt Disney Concert Hall



photo courtesy of Los Fabulosos Cadillacs

Latin rock legends Los Fabulosos Cadillacs blend ska, reggae, salsa, rock and punk in their music.

Get ready to dance, sing and feel the full power of Latin rock: Los Fabulosos Cadillacs are bringing four decades of hits, genre-defying sounds and unstoppable energy to the Walt Disney Concert Hall on Oct. 18 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. Presented by the LA Phil as part of its 2025 Latin Music Concert Series and the KCRW Series, these concerts mark Los Angeles as the first U.S. city to experience the historic LAFC Tour 2025.

For 40 years, Los Fabulosos Cadillacs have shattered musical boundaries, blending ska, reggae, salsa, rock and punk into an electrifying, high-energy performance. From groundbreaking albums like "Vasos Vacíos" and "Rey Azúcar" to their Grammy-winning "Fabulosos Calavera," the Cadillacs' music continues to resonate across generations. Fans can expect a career-

spanning setlist of global anthems like "Matador," "Siguiendo la Luna," "El León Santillán," and "Vasos Vacíos," promising a live experience full of singalongs and unforgettable moments.

"It's hard to believe it's been 40 years, but what excites us most is that the music is still alive, not just for us, but for the fans who have grown with us, and for the younger generations who are discovering our songs for the first time," said Vicentico, lead singer of Los Fabulosos Cadillacs. "Starting this U.S. tour in Los Angeles, a city that has always embraced us, makes these shows incredibly special. We can't wait to share the energy of the LAFC Tour live on stage."

The current lineup of Los Fabulosos Cadillacs features founding members Vicentico (Gabriel Fernández Capello, vocals) and

Flavio Cianciarulo (bass, backing vocals), along with Sergio Rotman (saxophone), Daniel Lozano (trumpet, flugelhorn), Fernando Ricciardi (drums, percussion), Mario Siperman (keyboards), Astor Cianciarulo (drums, bass) and Florián Fernández Capello (guitar). Astor and Florián, sons of founding members Flavio and Vicentico respectively, carry the torch for a new generation of fans, blending family legacy with the band's signature energy.

At Walt Disney Concert Hall, fans will experience a once-in-a-lifetime, career-spanning journey with one of the most influential and iconic bands in Latin rock history. Don't miss the chance to see Los Fabulosos Cadillacs live, an electrifying celebration of 40 years of music, rebellion and rhythm.

For tickets and information, visit laphil.com or call (323)850-2000.

Bodytraffic announces 2025-26 season

Bodytraffic, a powerful artistic force in Los Angeles since 2007, announced its 2025-26 home season, featuring three dynamic performances spotlighting diverse choreographic voices from across the U.S. and around the globe. Upcoming Los Angeles performances will be presented at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills and the Bank of America Performing Arts Center in Thousand Oaks.

Bodytraffic is known for its bold programming, technical brilliance and stylistic range. The company's repertoire spans ballet, contemporary, modern, Afro-Cuban and hip hop – showcasing the exceptional versatility of its dancers. This season, Bodytraffic will perform works by contemporary dance choreographers from Spain, Netherlands and across the U.S.

The L.A. season kicks off on Oct. 10 at the Bank of America Performing Arts Center in Thousand Oaks with a dynamic mixed repertory program packed with high-energy music and choreography. The program features Trey McIntyre's "Blue Until June," set to the soulful sounds of Etta James and Matthew Neenan's "A Million Voices," performed to music by the inimitable Peggy Lee. The evening concludes with "Snap!," a burst of electrifying energy choreographed by L.A.'s own Micaela Taylor, set to the grooves of James Brown.

Bodytraffic will come to the Wallis Annenberg Center for the

Performing Arts in Beverly Hills from Dec. 11-13 with four works that celebrate bold style, storytelling and movement.

"Flyland" by David Middendorp is a heart-tugging duet blending animation, projection and choreography to stunning effect. Cayetano Soto's "Schachmatt" turns a giant chess board into a playground, drawing inspiration from Pedro Almodóvar and Bob Fosse. The return of Juel D. Lane's pulsating "Incense Burning on a Saturday Morning: The Maestro" is a dynamic tribute to L.A. painter Ernie Barnes, with vivid projections that bring his iconic artwork to life on stage. Plus, Jordyn Santiago's "Coalescence," vibrant, affirming love letter to femininity,



photo courtesy of Bodytraffic via Instagram

Contemporary dance company Bodytraffic will bring its 2025-26 season to The Wallis in Beverly Hills.

queerness and community.

Bodytraffic will return to the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts from June 4-6 as the season's final engagement takes audiences on a journey to New Orleans with prolific choreographer and Bodytraffic creative partner Trey McIntyre's "Ma Maison," performed with live music by the legendary Preservation Hall Jazz Band. "Ma Maison" explores rituals and culture of New Orleans. Originally commissioned as one of the first performances in the city following Hurricane Katrina, the rare restaging is a remembrance and a celebration – a testament to the resilience and richness of the city.

For tickets and information, visit thewallis.org/show-details/bodytraffic-winter-2526.



photo courtesy of Hollywood Queer Short Film Festival

Betsy Kalin's "Lesbians in Boystown" is featured as part of the Hollywood Queer Short Film Festival.

Hollywood Queer Short Film Festival celebrates resistance

Members of the public can purchase tickets for the Hollywood Queer Short Film Festival, which will take place Oct. 4-5 at Founders MCC Church.

The HQSFF theme is "VISIBILITY IS RESISTANCE," which acknowledges "the considerable efforts being made by the current national regime to take the whole world back to a time when all manner of queer expression was suppressed and we were practically invisible," said festival director Jim Hoffman. "But we're not going anywhere."

Featured films include "Lesbians in Boystown," "Good Service" and "Match Dot Mom."

Hoffman said the theme is especially pertinent given current fed-

eral actions against the LGBTQ+ community.

On Oct. 4, the festival will screen "Lesbians in Boystown," in which award-winning filmmaker Betsy Kalin explores a world that has existed in tandem with the better-known male-dominated image of West Hollywood since its founding.

The weekend will continue with a slate of films regarding current political issues and the LGBTQ+ community. The festival will conclude with an afterparty at Hi Tops Los Feliz on Oct. 5.

Founders MCC Church is located at 4607 Prospect Ave. For tickets and information, visit hqsff.com.

Rodeo Drive puts timepieces and fine jewelry on display in October

The Rodeo Drive Committee announced the return of the annual Rodeo Drive Celebrates Timepieces and Fine Jewelry, taking place Oct. 6-12. The weeklong program brings the world's most renowned watchmakers and jewelers together on the legendary "Street of Dreams," illuminating the exceptional artistry, design and innovation that define the best in horology and fine jewelry.

At a sparkling Oct. 6 kick off reception and tribute on the Rodeo Terrace at Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel, Thomas J. Blumenthal, president and CEO of Gearys Beverly Hills, will be honored for his visionary leadership in luxury retail and his role in shaping Rodeo Drive as a premier destination for watchmaking and fine jewelry. A third-generation steward of his family's 95-year-old business, Blumenthal has expanded Gearys into a leader in luxury timepieces, including the opening

of the first multi-level building housing flagship Rolex and Patek Philippe boutiques in the U.S. on Rodeo Drive.

"This celebration shines a light not only on extraordinary timepieces and jewelry, but on the heritage, craftsmanship, and innovation that define them," Rodeo Drive Committee President Kathy Gohari said. "Rodeo Drive is a world stage for luxury. With each edition of Rodeo Drive Celebrates, we honor the visionaries whose creativity and passion continue to inspire collectors, connoisseurs and dreamers across the globe. This year, we are especially proud to honor Tom Blumenthal for his extraordinary commitment and success in luxury retail, and for carrying forward the remarkable legacy of Gearys Beverly Hills into its third generation."

Throughout the week, Rodeo Drive's flagship boutiques will offer private invitations to exclu-

sive product debuts, bespoke shopping experiences and in-depth showcases highlighting extraordinary design, rare materials and cutting-edge innovation in timepieces and jewelry. Visitors are advised to check with their favorite brands and boutiques for details of special events and programs.

Marking the occasion, a striking series of bright, white pole banners sponsored by Dior line Rodeo Drive, echoing the sleek architectural forms of its luxury storefronts and heralding the highly anticipated, newly opened flagship Dior boutique. The three-story space unites women's, men's and children's collections with leather goods, accessories, jewelry, shoes and home décor. It will house Dior's first restaurant and dining experience in the U.S. – Monsieur Dior by Dominique Crenn – set to open its doors later this fall. The 105-seat space also marks the Los Angeles debut for Crenn, the first American woman chef to earn three Michelin stars. The third-floor rooftop restaurant has indoor and outdoor seating along with a lounge, bar and ter-



photo courtesy of the Rodeo Drive Committee

The festivities will begin with a kickoff reception on Oct. 6 honoring Gearys President and CEO Thomas J. Blumenthal.

race.

"Rodeo Drive Celebrates Timepieces and Fine Jewelry is an invitation to experience the poetry of craftsmanship, where precision meets passion, and every piece tells a story," Beverly Hills Mayor

Sharona Nazarian said. "It is through celebrations like this that Beverly Hills continues to define itself as the global stage for elegance, innovation and luxury."

For information, visit rodeo-drive-bh.com.

L.A. Gay Men's Chorus sings hits around the world

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles announced on the 2025-26 season, now in its 47th year. Music director and conductor Ernest H.

Harrison leads nearly 200 chorus members in "A Season of Celebration" not to be missed. The season opens with Los Angeles'

favorite holiday tradition featuring "Holiday Legends" in December, followed by a celebration of R&B, Motown and gospel with "And the Beat Goes On" in March 2026, and culminates with GMCLA's signature Pride concert and annual gala, "Declarations of Independence," a special celebration of national and individual freedom and pride. All concerts will be held at the Saban Theatre.

Following this Season of Celebration in Los Angeles, GMCLA will embark on a European tour in late July through early August. The chorus is one of five ensembles from around the globe invited to perform at events during World Pride, hosted for the first time in Amsterdam, including a concert at the famed Concertgebouw. After the landmark week, GMCLA will continue to London for several performances at

the Actors' Church in historic Covent Garden.

"There's much to celebrate this season – our return to the Saban; three wonderfully diverse and exciting programs beginning with Los Angeles' favorite holiday event, followed by some of the most beloved and original American music ever written and concluding with a celebration of freedom and independence presented as only GMCLA can," said executive director and producer

Lou Spisto. "We haven't been overseas in 20 years, so this 10-day tour gives our extended southern California family yet another reason to take pride in GMCLA, and perhaps more importantly, as we mark our independence, we think it's essential to share our music and message with a global community of artists, friends and fans."

The Saban Theatre is located at 8440 Wilshire Blvd. For tickets and information, visit gmcla.org.



photo courtesy of L.A. Gay Men's Chorus

The L.A. Gay Men's Chorus will return to the Saban Theatre and embark on a world tour in the 2025-26 season.

Getty celebrates Indigenous Peoples' Day on Oct. 11

In honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day, Getty will host its fourth annual family festival celebrating Southern California's vibrant Native American cultures on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Getty Center.

The theme for this year's "Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day" event highlights libraries and storytelling, with family activities sharing traditional and contemporary Indigenous perspectives and narratives. The celebration is presented in partnership with The Chapter House, an Indigenous women-led community arts space in Los Angeles focused on empowering Indigenous communities through art, culture, and collaboration.

Activities for this outdoor event include zine making led by Meztli Projects and collage making with The Chapter House. Performances will feature live music by Lazaro Arvizu, Jr. (Gabrielino/Tongva), drumming and singing by the Bearspring Singers, old style and contemporary jingle dance performances curated by Candido Cornejo (Tlaxcalan/Nahua) and comedy by the master of ceremonies Jana Schmeiding (Lakota). The event will include poetry readings curated by NDN Girls Book Club and drag

story time in Getty's Central Garden with Bohenne Arreaux (Jena Choctaw) and Johnny Gentleman (Guatemalan Maya and Nicaraguan Ocanxiu). The full lineup of artists and free tickets are available on the event website.

"Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day is a cornerstone of public programming at the Getty," said Chelsea Anderson, public programs specialist at the Getty Research Institute. "This year's focus on libraries and storytelling comes alive through vibrant activities led by our community partners – from hands-on zine making and collage workshops to poetry, dance, music and story time. We're hon-

ored to collaborate with The Chapter House and so many artists who embody the living traditions of Indigenous storytelling."

The Chapter House cultivates Indigenous joy through art, performance, celebration and collaboration to nurture a vibrant, re-emergent Indigenous identity in the 21st century. TCH is a place for Indigenous peoples and allies to appreciate art, convene and collaborate, celebrate individual and shared Indigenous cultures and explore the complexities of the 21st Century Indigenous experience.

For information, visit getty.edu. The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive.



photo courtesy of Getty

The Getty Center will celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day with interactive activities and performances on Oct. 11.

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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 Sept. 21 and Sept. 26. 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

Sept. 21

At 4:25 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Beverwil and Olympic.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 9:04 a.m.

At 9:48 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Crescent.

Sept. 22

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9700 block of Wilshire at 9:14 a.m.

At 10:19 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. Willaman.

Sept. 23

At 2:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of N. Cañon at 4:03 p.m.

Sept. 24

At 4:10 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Maple.

Sept. 25

At 1:53 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported near Whitworth and Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Oakhurst at 3:21 p.m.

Sept. 26

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly at 7:07 p.m.

Sept. 27

At 8:09 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 100 block of N. Le Doux.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9100 block of Wilshire at 1 p.m.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

Sept. 21

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Hilldale at 12:05 a.m.

At 1:10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 1:15 a.m.

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 2 a.m.

At 11:42 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 700 block of N. San Vicente at 1:06 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of N. Laurel.

Sept. 22

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of N. Hayworth.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Genesee at 3:27 a.m.

At 11:46 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1200 block of N. Sweetzer at 4 p.m.

Sept. 23

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Orange Grove.

A domestic violence incident was reported in the 1000 block of N. Curson at 4:10 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8500 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8900 block of Melrose at 5:48 p.m.

At 6:35 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 500 block of N. Doheny.

Sept. 24

At 2:55 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1200 block of Greenacre.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly at 8:56 a.m.

At 12:01 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1200 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly at 12:47 p.m.

At 2:36 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Palm at 8 p.m.

Sept. 25

At 1:51 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 500 block of Sierra.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly at 11:47 a.m.

City Attorney settles lawsuit over tobacco sales

Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto has settled a lawsuit against the owners of a tobacco retail chain and an e-commerce site accused of selling flavored tobacco products and selling tobacco to minors in violation of state and city law. The company has nine locations in Los Angeles that do business as Purple Haze Smoke Shop, including a location at 11279 Santa Monica Blvd., and comprise the largest exclusive tobacco retailer in the city.

The settlement includes \$350,000 in civil penalties and injunctive provisions for the defendants for four years, including a prohibition on selling flavored tobacco products, not selling tobacco products to anyone who looks younger than 21 years of age without checking identification and surrendering all flavored tobacco products.

"Whether you are a large tobacco empire with stores across our state or a local mom and pop brick and

mortar, my office will enforce the law to protect public health, particularly when it comes to minors," Feldstein Soto said. "The defendants had multiple opportunities to comply with our laws and failed to do so. Laws regulating the sale of tobacco products, including flavors and vapes, were enacted for a reason, and we will take action against those who violate them."

California banned the sale of flavored tobacco products in 2022 including e-cigarettes and vapes, and a similar ban in Los Angeles took effect the following year. Since 2016, California has prohibited the sale of any tobacco product, flavored or unflavored, to people under 21 years old.

Feldstein Soto alleged that defendants John Carpentieri, Weird Willie's II (doing business as Purple Haze Smoke Shop and Wild Side Smoke Shop), and JNC E-Commerce Inc. (doing business as Quick Vapes) sold flavored tobacco to residents in violation of state and

local law. The defendants also allegedly sold flavored tobacco products to people under the age of 21.

Feldstein Soto encourages city-based tobacco retailers to visit cityattorney.lacity.gov/tobacco-enforcement-operations-teo to ensure compliance with tobacco-related laws. The enforcement activities in the lawsuit, managed by the city attorney's office's Tobacco Enforcement Operations unit, were funded by California's Prop 56 Tobacco Law Enforcement Grant Program. Administered by the Office of the Attorney General, the program funds initiatives that promote health and by reducing illegal retail sales and marketing of cigarettes and tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to minors. Since its inception in 2017, the program has awarded approximately \$16.4 million in grant funding to the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office.

For information, visit cityattorney.lacity.gov.

D.A. charges three with wildfire-related fraud

Two men from Los Angeles and a woman from Louisiana have been charged with falsely claiming they were residents of Altadena and the Pacific Palisades and fraudulently obtaining more than \$40,000 in disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency intended for victims of the January 2025 Los Angeles County wildfires.

"When you choose to steal FEMA wildfire relief funds, you are stealing from the thousands of fire victims who desperately need financial assistance rebuilding their homes and their lives," Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said. "I will not stand for criminals selfishly profiting from someone else's loss. If you pretend to be a wildfire victim, we will find you. If you think you can hide behind the internet, our Cyber Crime Division will be right behind you. Whether you reside in Los Angeles County or elsewhere in the United States, FEMA fraud will not go unpunished."

Jerry Lee Clay Jr., 43, of Los Angeles, is charged with one felony count of procuring and offering a false or forged document, one felony count of grand theft and two felony counts of unauthorized use of personal identifying information. Clay allegedly submitted a fraudulent FEMA application using a Pacific Palisades residence at which he did not live and an apart-

ment number that does not exist, ultimately stealing \$14,919 in federal disaster assistance in January and February 2025. The funds were deposited into his personal account and used for purposes unrelated to the federal disaster claims, prosecutors said. He is also accused of impersonating individuals he falsely claimed were landlords in documents submitted to FEMA to verify tenancy claims.

Clay was arrested on Sept. 14 and pleaded not guilty. Clay was released on \$50,000 bail. He faces four years and four months in state prison.

Matthew Garnet O'Brien, 44, of Los Angeles, is charged in a separate case with one felony count of offering a forged or false application and one felony count of grand theft. O'Brien is accused of stealing \$12,314 from FEMA in January and February 2025 after submitting a fraudulent FEMA application misrepresenting his residential address as a home in Altadena. The funds were deposited into his personal accounts and used for purposes

unrelated to the federal disaster claims, prosecutors said.

O'Brien surrendered to law enforcement on Sept. 25 and was released on his own recognizance. His arraignment is set for Nov. 25 in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. O'Brien faces three years in state prison.

Maricka Marie Gilmore, 37, of Marrero, Louisiana, is charged with one felony count each of procuring and offering a false or forged document and grand theft. Gilmore allegedly submitted a FEMA application using a Pacific Palisades residence at which she did not live and an apartment number that does not exist, prosecutors said. She is accused of stealing \$14,153 from FEMA in February 2025. The funds were deposited into her personal account and used for purposes unrelated to the federal disaster claims.

Gilmore was extradited from Louisiana to Los Angeles on Sept. 23 and is being held on \$50,000 bail. She faces three years in state prison.

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P.T. Anderson's 'One Battle After Another' is hard to nail down

Paul Thomas Anderson doesn't know how to make a bad film. Even with "Inherent Vice," perhaps his weakest entry, he still delivers something engaging in its stylistic obscurity.

That one informs "One Battle After Another" more than his others, but don't call it a dig. They're vibe twins – little more. Frankly, P.T. Anderson's latest is unlike his other works. It's funnier, grander (with a whopping \$130 million budget, it likely won't earn back), more ambiguous than usual, which says a lot for the man who concluded a drama entry with frogs raining from the sky.

It feels like an Anderson film, but

doesn't at times. Then again, he rarely revisits old motifs. From "Boogie Nights" to "Magnolia" to "Punch-Drunk Love" to "There Will Be Blood" to "The Master," the man's controlled body of work bleeds originality.

Arguably more than most of his films, "One Battle After Another" listens to the headlines. Pat (Leonardo DiCaprio) knows how to make a show with a few pyrotechnics. That's his job as a member of the French 75, a group of revolutionaries who liberate detainees, target politicians' homes and disrupt cities' infrastructure

Amid this, Pat and leader Peridia (Teyana Taylor) enjoy a steamy

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

romance that transforms into a family with a daughter. But law enforcement, especially Col. Lockjaw (Sean Penn), is close on their trail, so the time comes to split and hide. Pat is now Bob, and classmates know his daughter as Willa (Chase Infiniti in her debut feature role).

Bob spends most days high and paranoid, while Willa shines at high school and in martial arts, thanks in part to her sensei, Sergio (Benicio del Toro). Everyone seems to have moved on or settled into their new lives until Lockjaw returns to finish the job.

More than anything, the humor is unexpected. In the new millennium, Anderson's film rarely trods narrative terrain that invites a chuckle. Even Adam Sandler's performance in "Punch-Drunk Love" is notable for discomfort more than gut-busting gags. Yet, here DiCaprio is entirely embracing his unhinged role as Bob, the aloof, privileged white guy surrounded by change he generally doesn't notice. (There's a fantastic bit regarding a password over the phone.)

Bob spends so much time worried about himself that he doesn't



photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Leonardo DiCaprio, as Pat, embraced his unhinged role in "One Battle After Another."

notice the chaos unfolding around him. But Sergio, who juggles Bob's freak-outs and aids all the undocumented immigrants with absurd calm, is truly in one battle after another. Del Toro is always an on-screen treat, but this performance is especially noteworthy. He's the real hero, gracefully moving about town, leading, helping where he can and always passing Bob a beer. It's somehow inspiring and feels like a Wes Anderson moment with fewer warm colors.

Besides del Toro, the three leads – DiCaprio, Penn, Infiniti – are exceptional. DiCaprio channels the Dude. Penn as a racist creep with too much power is his best cinematic role in more than a decade. And Infiniti is a newcomer who delivers one of the year's best performances

– not bad for her third acting credit.

P.T. Anderson floats a lot of ideas on various topics throughout the film's 160-minute runtime. Sanctuary cities, public policy, drug use, sexual dominance, violent resistance, capitalism – it's all up for grabs in a satire that never diminishes the importance of each topic nor bothers to tell a realistic story.

In lieu of reality, we experience incredible cinematography (one driving sequel in particular) and some jolting visual contrasts. The most empowering element, however, is how Anderson imagines mobilization. Like "Andor" earlier this year, you have friends everywhere – everyday folks who can provide refuge or instigate an escape.



photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Chase Infiniti, as Willa, delivers one of the year's best performances in "One Battle After Another."

KCCLA presents film examining history of Korean alphabet

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles will hold a special screening of the film "MAL·MO·E: The Secret Mission" (2019) on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 6:30 p.m.

In celebration of the 80th anniversary of Korea's liberation, the Korean Cultural Center has organized the Stories of Liberation in Films series. Through November, the center is screening films that depict historic events of the anti-Japanese independence movement and highlight the lives and sacrifices of independence activists during the Japanese colonial period. The October screening, coinciding with the 579th anniversary of Hangeul Day, features "MAL·MO·E: The Secret Mission"

to reflect on the importance of the Korean language and writing system.

Set in the 1940s during the Japanese colonial era, the film is inspired by the true story of the Korean Language Society and efforts to collect manuscripts for the first Korean dictionary, despite the prohibition of the Korean language at the time. The film follows an illiterate man and a group of Korean linguists as they join forces to preserve the Korean language, underscoring the idea that language embodies both national identity and spirit.

The film portrays the struggle to protect the Korean language as an act of resistance as power-

ful as armed independence movements. In particular, the Hangeul Day (Korean Alphabet Day) screening offers an opportunity to reflect on the historical significance of the Korean language.

"The film shows the courage and dedication of those who sought to preserve our language even in a time without a nation," KCCLA Director Hae Don Lee said. "On Hangeul Day, I hope this film reminds us that the Korean language is not just a means of communication, but a vital force sustaining our national identity and spirit."

The series will conclude on Nov. 19 with a screening of "DongJu: The Portrait of a Poet" (2016), commemorating the 80th anniversary of poet Yun Dong-ju's death.

KCCLA is located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit kccla.org.



photo courtesy of IMDb

The film "MAL·MO·E: The Secret Mission" follows the true story of the Korean Language Society.

'Rocky Horror' comes to life at Cinespia

On Oct. 4, Cinespia presents the 50th Anniversary of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and Hollywood Forever Cemetery is the ballroom floor where camp becomes canon. Expect a shadow cast directed by Kenny Ortega ("Hocus Pocus," "High School Musical"), surprise performances, special guest appearances and giveaways. Cinespia is raising money for The Trevor Project throughout the night. Bring a picnic or let Cinespia dish it out for you. Sip something wicked from the bar while DJ sets keep your hips swiveling. The free photobooth is serving full fantasy – fishnets, boas and pelvic thrusts encouraged.

Cinespia also announced another supernatural night under the stars with the screening of "Sinners" at Hollywood Forever Cemetery on Friday, Oct. 17.

Additionally, Cinespia will be celebrating Halloween at Hollywood Forever Cemetery for the first time in more than a decade. On Oct. 31, Cinespia will mark the scariest night of the year with its Scream Halloween Party. Fright night has extra bite with a costume contest with unbelievable prizes, free candy giveaways and a light-

up dancefloor party. Fans and attendees can expect neon photo moments, DJ sets before and after the film, beer, wine and cocktails, a free themed photobooth and spectacular surprises.

For information and tickets, visit cinespia.org.

Hollywood Forever Cemetery is located at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd.




photo courtesy of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures

Tim Curry stars in "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."


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LAUSD renews contract for Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho

The Los Angeles Unified Board of Education announced on Sept. 17 the four-year contract renewal of Alberto M. Carvalho as superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation's second-largest school system.

Since assuming leadership in Feb. 2022, Carvalho has guided Los Angeles Unified through unprecedented challenges and remarkable achievements. Recognized locally, nationally and internationally for his transformative leadership, he is considered an expert in school finance, governance and advancing equity and constitutionally-guaranteed rights for all students.

Under his tenure, students have attained the highest academic performance in the history of the Smarter Balanced Assessment, surpassing pre-pandemic levels both in terms of distance from standard and percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards. Notably, Black, Latino, low-income students, students with disabilities and foster youth have all exceeded their pre-pandemic performance – a testament to Carvalho's equity-driven approach. A record 89 magnet programs earned national recognition in 2025, with Grover Cleveland Charter High School named the best magnet school in the nation.

Carvalho has also driven expanded access to college-level coursework for Los Angeles Unified students, increasing Advanced Placement participation rates and enhancing dual enrollment partnerships.

Carvalho led the district through the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and, more recently, wildfires that devastated Los Angeles communities. Throughout these crises, he ensured student safety and continuity of learning and continues to ensure a student-centered approach to ongoing recovery and rebuilding efforts.

"I am deeply honored by the board's confidence and the opportunity to continue serving the students and families of Los Angeles Unified," Carvalho said. "Enriched by the experiences and learnings from our workforce and community and labor partners, we have shown

that when we put equity, innovation, and high expectations at the center of our work, our students achieve at historic levels. I look forward to building on this momentum and ensuring that every child in every neighborhood has access to the high-quality education they deserve."

"Superintendent Carvalho has shown steady leadership during challenging times at Los Angeles Unified," Board President Scott Schmerelson said. "As challenges continue, we believe that his tenure can continue an upward trend in student performance and appreciate his openness to new ideas with the board's insight and direction. I look forward to working closely with Mr. Carvalho and am happy to move forward with his leadership for another four years."

For information, visit lausd.org.



photo courtesy of Los Angeles Unified School District

Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho led the Los Angeles Unified School District through the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Los Angeles County wildfires.

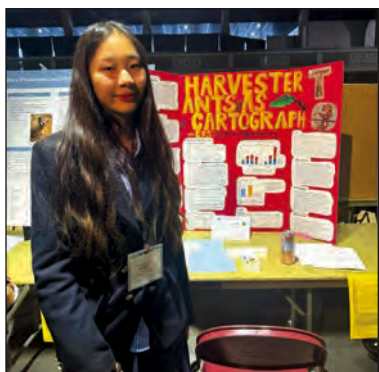


photo courtesy of Society for Science

Seungah Chung's project on spatial memory in ants was selected as one of 30 finalists in the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge.

Beverly Vista student among top 30 young scientists in the U.S.

Society for Science announced the 30 finalists in the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge, the nation's premier middle school science, technology, engineering and mathematics competition. The finalists – selected by a nationwide panel of scientists, engineers and educators from the Top 300 Junior Innovators announced in September – will participate in Thermo Fisher JIC Finals Week from Oct. 24-29 in

Washington, D.C. An esteemed panel of judges will evaluate the finalists' scientific research along with their communication, creativity and collaboration skills during team challenges.

Seungah Chung, a student at Beverly Vista Middle School, was selected as one of the 30 finalists. Chung ran ants through a maze to learn whether they can form spatial memories of the routes, and whether they use direction or landmarks to navigate.

The Thermo Fisher JIC, a program of Society for Science, aims to inspire young scientists, engineers and innovators who will solve the grand challenges of the future. This year's cohort asked bold questions about the world around them, including how we can better steward natural resources, protect human health, harness the promise and pitfalls of artificial intelligence, and design resilient technologies for the future. All finalists experimented, iterated and pushed boundaries to turn their ideas and questions into actionable solutions for a better world. Past winning projects include a novel fire detection system based on thermal sensing and a

water filter made from waste materials and household items.

"We applaud the Top 30 finalists for their creativity and innovation," said Maya Ajmera, president and CEO of Society for Science and executive publisher of Science News. "Their work reflects the bright future of STEM, importance of encouraging curiosity and the vital need to invest in STEM opportunities for young people."

From Oct. 24-29, the finalists will participate in a competition with team challenges. The finalists are vying for a top award of \$25,000.

For information, visit societyforscience.org/jic/2025-finalists.

Padilla backs calls to sustain Head Start early education programs

U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) joined Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), ranking member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, in introducing the Head Start for America's Children Act.

The sweeping legislation would expand Head Start to ensure that more than 11 million young children from working-class families have access to high-quality early education and comprehensive services, while also ensuring Head Start educators earn wages they deserve.

Head Start programs offer critical support to children by integrating early education with health, nutrition and family services, providing targeted support to those facing poverty, housing insecurity and systemic inequities. California's Head Start program is the largest in the nation. In fiscal year 2023, Head Start and Early Head Start pro-

grams served more than 94,000 children across the state.

"Investing in our children is one of the best ways we can uplift working-class families and give everyone a fair shot at the American Dream. Yet Donald Trump and RFK Jr. have decimated Head Start, eliminating essential support staff and withholding \$1 billion from the program," Padilla said. "We should be empowering our next generation – not taking an axe to this vital program to fund tax cuts for billionaires. This sweeping legislation would support over 11 million young children while ensuring teachers can earn a living wage and parents can keep working and contributing to our economy."

"In the richest country in the history of the world, we have a moral responsibility to provide high-quality early childhood education and child care for our children. Instead,

President Trump has illegally withheld funds from Head Start and slashed critical programs for children and families to pay for \$1 trillion in tax breaks for the top 1% and over \$900 billion in tax breaks for large corporations," Sanders said. "I have a different idea: Let's expand and fully fund Head Start to make sure it reaches every eligible young child, extend the length of programs so working families don't have to find additional child care and raise teacher pay so educators are not forced to leave the field or work a second job just to make ends meet."

For information, visit padilla.senate.gov.

Beverly Hills High School launches 2025 Career Academy

Beverly Hills High School welcomed 44 students selected for this year's Career Academy. Designed to provide real-world exposure to high-demand career fields, BHHS Career Academy reflects the unique advantage of learning in a city globally recognized for excellence in hospitality, innovation and service.

Students have the opportunity to rotate through a curated group of Beverly Hills' iconic luxury hotels, engaging in hands-on, immersive learning experiences across industries including hospitality, culinary arts, business, media and engineering.

"Career Academy is a powerful example of how we connect classroom learning with authentic industry experience," Principal Loan Sriruksa said. "Our students are not just visiting hotels, they are working alongside profes-

sionals in some of the most renowned hospitality institutions in the world."

Leveraging the unparalleled resources of our world-class city, the BHHS Career Academy empowers students to explore career pathways, develop professional skills and build confidence in real-world settings.

"This program reflects what's possible when a community invests in its students," Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss said. "The partnership between BHHS and Beverly Hills' hospitality leaders provides a level of access, mentorship and opportunity that is truly extraordinary."

The program was made possible with the dedication of Cindy Dubin, BHUSD career technical education coordinator.

For information, visit bhhsd.org.

Creative student artworks sought for annual bookmark contest



photo courtesy of the L.A. County Library

Children can win prizes for imaginative bookmark designs in the library's countywide contest.

Returning for its 46th year, L.A. County Library's Bookmark Contest encourages young readers to showcase creative art designs. Through Oct. 18, young people have the chance to express their love for reading and libraries through unique and imaginative bookmark designs.

The library invites young artists to create original designs inspired by reading, books, visiting libraries or using their imagination. Winning bookmarks will be recognized, displayed and distributed in 2026 at L.A. County Library locations, including the West Hollywood Library.

The categories are kindergarten through second grade, third through fifth grade, sixth through eighth

grade and ninth through 12th grade. Each library will select a local winner in each grade-level category, with winners announced in November. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will select 20 grand prize winners next spring, including four representing each supervisorial district.

Artworks may be submitted online, in person at a library branch and by mailing to L.A. County Library, Attn: Bookmark Contest, 12348 Imperial Hwy, Norwalk, CA 90650. The West Hollywood Library is located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.

For information and to download or submit an entry form, visit lacountylibrary.org/bookmark-contest.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

The Beverly Hills High School Career Academy is designed to provide real-world exposure to high-demand career fields.

Lucas Museum gives sneak peek at L.A. Comic Con

At Los Angeles Comic Con on Sept. 27, the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art gave fans an early look at the museum and presented a conversation featuring independent filmmaker Robert Rodriguez, legendary comic book artist Frank

Miller and painter, illustrator and author Kadir Nelson, moderated by actress, producer, entrepreneur and New York Times bestselling author Jessica Alba. The storytellers came together to share perspectives on the power of narrative art and the

importance of celebrating the popular art forms. The sneak peek of the museum included a video that featured renderings, artworks in the collection and a pre-recorded interview with the founders.

Co-founded by George Lucas and Mellody Hobson and opening in 2026, the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art will be the world's first institution dedicated to the exploration of narrative art – or what the founders' call "the people's art" – celebrating visual storytelling across eras and cultures, from ancient cave drawings and children's book illustrations to comic books and digital media.

The panelists shared excitement about the forthcoming museum and what it will mean for comics and magazine illustrations to be recognized and honored in such a major way.

For information, visit lucasmuseum.org.



photo by Eric Charbonneau

Frank Miller, Kadir Nelson, Jessica Alba and Robert Rodriguez attended the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art panel at L.A. Comic Con at Los Angeles Convention Center on Sept. 27.

Hammer Museum celebrates 'Made in L.A.' exhibition opening

The "Made in L.A. 2025" opening celebration will be held on Oct. 4 at the Hammer Museum. Be among the first to see the exhibition, with galleries open late and DJs spinning in the courtyard. Food and drink will be available for purchase all night.

The exhibition brings together 28 artists and collectives whose work reflects Los Angeles's ever-evolving terrain across film, painting, choreography, photography, sculpture, sound, and video. The

exhibition features work from David Alekhuogie, Black House Radio / Michael Donte, Greg Breda, Widline Cadet, Carl Cheng, Alonzo Davis, Ali Eyal, Hood Century / Jerald Cooper, Hanna Hur, John Knight, Kristy Luck, Patrick Martinez, Beaux Mendes, Na Mira, New Theater Hollywood / Max Pitegoff and Calla Henkel, Pat O'Neill, Will Rawls, Brian Rochefort, Amanda Ross-Ho, Gabriela Ruiz, Alake Shilling, Nicole-Antonia Spagnola, Mike Stoltz, Peter Tomka, Freddy Villalobos, Kelly Wall, Leilah Weinraub and Bruce Yonemoto.

The party starts early for Hammer members, who receive priority entry beginning at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free and RSVPs are recommended but not necessary.

The Hammer Museum is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd. For tickets and information, visit hammer.ucla.edu.



photo courtesy of Hammer Museum

The "Made in L.A. 2025" opening will feature art galleries, live DJs and food at the Hammer Museum.



photo by Allison Robles/© Los Angeles Zoo

The chimps, who have not yet been named, are bonding with other members of the troop.

L.A. Zoo embraces new chimp arrivals

The Los Angeles Zoo has welcomed two new female chimpanzees born since mid-August, making them the first chimps born at the zoo in 11 years.

The first female infant was born to 35-year-old female Yoshi and 26-year-old male Pu'iwa on Aug. 20, which also happens to be Pu'iwa's birthday. The infant is Yoshi's third offspring and Pu'iwa's first. The second female infant was born on Sept. 9 to 18-year-old female Vindi, a first-time mother. Animal caregivers report that Yoshi and Vindi and their infants are all doing well and bonding.

"We're thrilled to welcome the newest members of the troop," said Candace Scimenti, curator of mammals at the L.A. Zoo. "These are significant births for the zoo and both are welcome additions to the dynamic, multi-male, mixed-age troop which closely mirrors the species' natural social structure in the wild. Not only are these births vital for the well-being and

social composition of the chimpanzees in our care, but they also play an important role in supporting the broader population in AZA accredited zoos both genetically and demographically."

The new baby chimps have not yet been named. Viewing may be limited during the first several weeks of their lives.

"Having known Yoshi and her family for nearly 30 years, and watching her grow up, it is so lovely to see her as a new mother again," said Megan Fox, senior animal keeper at the L.A. Zoo. "Yoshi is an experienced mom and this is Vindi's first baby, but moms and infants are bonding and have been settling into the role of motherhood very well. It's exciting to have these new additions to the troop, and they are adding a whole new social dynamic to the troop."

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

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

The Greek Theatre celebrates a milestone



Legendary guitarist Carlos Santana spoke at a celebration of The Greek Theatre's 75th anniversary in this photograph in the Oct. 7, 2004, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. Flanked by Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn, left, and City Councilman Tom LaBonge, Santana espoused the importance of venues such as The Greek Theatre in providing access to music and cultural programs. At the time, the historic outdoor amphitheater was embarking on a series of special concerts and programs celebrating the anniversary. The Greek Theatre still features a dynamic lineup of concerts today. For information, visit lagreektheatre.com.

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Philbin recognized as 2025 Getty Prize recipient

The J. Paul Getty Trust celebrated 2025 Getty Prize winner Ann Philbin, director emeritus of the Hammer Museum, at the institution's annual dinner on Sept. 29. NPR, KCRW and LAist, Philbin's chosen recipients of the prize's accompanying \$500,000 pay-it-forward grant, were also honored.

The evening kicked off with a cocktail hour featuring KCRW DJ Novena Carmel, followed by dinner and remarks by Getty board chair Rob Lovelace. Katherine E. Fleming, president and CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust, introduced Philbin and the grant recipients.

"I do believe we are facing the most pressing issue of our time –

the protection of freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the first amendment," Philbin said. "Our local public stations are the soundtrack of the city – the cultural programming and stories, the killer music sets, the news from around the world from voices that we trust."

Philbin pointed out that small stations across the U.S. face the greatest challenges and mentioned adoptastation.org, a program that allows individuals to "adopt" local public media stations in need of support. Representatives of grant recipients NPR, KCRW and LAist said it will use the \$500,000 Getty Prize grant to support arts and culture program-

ming.

"Americans know public radio for news, but we have another founding purpose – to provide access, inspiration, discovery and delight through freely available cultural programming," NPR president and CEO Katherine Maher said. "Public radio's strength has always been about the way we connect to our communities and the way our communities connect to us, and there is literally no greater recognition than when the community chooses to give back."

Ferro reflected on Philbin's selection of public media as the focus for the pay-it-forward grant.

"Annie has built her career around freedom – the freedom of artists to tell the stories of our culture and reflect back to us what they see in their lives. One thing that's become clear lately is that there can't be artistic freedom if there's no freedom for the press," Ferro said.

As director of the Hammer Museum at UCLA for 25 years, Philbin built a renowned exhibition program, strong and distinctive institutional identity and an international reputation for scholarly excellence and cutting-edge programming.

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive. For information, visit getty.edu.



photo by Ryan Miller/Getty Images for the J. Paul Getty Trust

Ann Philbin, left, was joined by Katherine E. Fleming, president and CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust, at the 2025 Getty Prize ceremony on Sept. 29.

The Wallis presents 'Do You Remember?' with Clive Davis Q&A

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents "Do You Remember?," a new, previously unreleased film celebrating the music that defined generations – from Janis Joplin to Bruce Springsteen, Billy Joel to Earth, Wind & Fire, Aretha Franklin to Whitney Houston, Patti Smith to Santana and Barry Manilow to Dionne Warwick and Alicia Keys – and the legendary visionary Clive Davis, who helped bring it all to life.

The film will be shown on Monday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m., offering music lovers an exclusive glimpse into how Davis helped shape the music industry and music history, featuring an extraordinary collection of rare film and video highlights honoring the incredible career of the music industry legend. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Davis and iconic Grammy and Golden Globe-winning and Oscar-nominated songwriter, composer and producer David Foster.

"Do You Remember?" was produced by Mark Ronson, Erich Bergen and DJ Earworm, with associate producers Marc Johnston and Stacy Carr.

Wallis Annenberg Center for the

Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. In Beverly Hills. To purchase single tickets, subscriptions and for information, call (310)746-4000 (Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.) or visit thewallis.org.



photo courtesy of The Wallis

The film offers a glimpse into how record producer Clive Davis helped shape the music that defined generations.



RFQUAL #26-350-10

**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT
345 FOOTHILL ROAD
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210**

**REQUEST FOR PREQUALIFICATION
OF BIDDERS AND
PREQUALIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS
FOR:**

**NOTICE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
QUALIFIED GENERAL CONTRACTORS**

LIST FOR THE

**FIRE STATION NO. 2 TENANT IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Beverly Hills ("CITY") has determined that all bidders for Notice of the Establishment of a Qualified General Contractors List for the Fire Station No. 2 Tenant Improvement Project ("Project") must be pre-qualified prior to submitting a bid. It is mandatory that all Contractors who intend to submit a bid, fully complete the prequalification questionnaire, provide all materials requested herein, and be approved by the CITY to be on the final qualified Bidders list.

No bid will be accepted from a Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements. If two or more business entities submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, or expect to submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, each entity within the Joint Venture must be separately qualified to bid. The last date to submit a fully completed questionnaire is **5:00 PM Thursday, October 16, 2025**.

Contractors must register as a vendor at the following website in order to download the prequalification package, and to receive clarifications and notifications when issued.

The Prequalification package may be viewed on, and downloaded from the City's PlanetBids portal:

<https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/39493/bo/bo-detail/104883>

This item is listed as: *Notice of the*

Establishment of a Qualified General Contractors List for the Fire Station No. 2 Tenant Improvement Project. Answers to questions contained in the questionnaire are required. The CITY will use these documents as the basis of rating Contractors with respect to whether each Contractor is qualified to bid on the Project, and reserves the right to check other sources available. The CITY's decision will be based on objective evaluation criteria.

The CITY reserves the right to adjust, increase, limit, suspend or rescind the prequalification rating based on subsequently learned information. Contractors whose rating changes sufficiently to disqualify them will be notified, and given an opportunity for a hearing consistent with the hearing procedures described below for appealing a prequalification rating.

While it is the intent of the prequalification questionnaire and documents required therewith to assist the CITY in determining bidder responsibility prior to bid and to aid the CITY in selecting the lowest responsible bidder, neither the fact of prequalification, nor any prequalification rating, will preclude the CITY from a post-bid consideration and determination of whether a bidder has the quality, fitness, capacity and experience to satisfactorily perform the proposed work, and has demonstrated the requisite trustworthiness.

All qualification submittals are required to be submitted electronically via PlanetBids. The electronic submittal system will close exactly at the date and time set forth in this request for qualifications.

Any questions regarding the questionnaire and qualification package should be submitted via PlanetBids by 5:00PM, October 8, 2025.

Questions sent via email or over the phone; with the exception of those related to accessing or using PlanetBids, will not be answered.

Contractors are responsible for submitting and having their documents accepted before the closing time set forth in the request for qualifications. **NOTE:** Pushing the submit button on the electronic submittal system may not be instantaneous; it may take time for the Contractor's documents to upload and transmit before the documents are accepted. It is the Contractor's sole responsibility to ensure their docu-

ments are uploaded, transmitted, and arrive in time electronically. The City of Beverly Hills will have no responsibility for documents that do not arrive in a timely manner, no matter what the reason.

The prequalification packages submitted by Contractors are not public records and are not open to public inspection. All information provided will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. However, the contents may be disclosed to third parties for purpose of verification, or investigation of substantial allegations, or in an appeal hearing. State law requires that the names of contractors applying for prequalification status shall be public records subject to disclosure, and the first page of the questionnaire will be used for that purpose.

Each questionnaire must be signed under penalty of perjury in the manner designated at the end of the form, by an individual who has the legal authority to bind the Contractor on whose behalf that person is signing. If any information provided by a Contractor becomes inaccurate, the Contractor must immediately notify the CITY and provide updated accurate information in writing, under penalty of perjury.

The CITY reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and omissions in the information contained in the prequalification application submitted, and to make all final determinations. The CITY may also determine at any time that the prequalification process will be suspended for the Project and the Project will be bid without prequalification.

Contractors may submit all qualification submittals electronically via Planet Bids. Contractors who submit a complete prequalification package will be notified of their qualification status no later than ten business days after submission of the information.

The CITY may refuse to grant prequalification where the requested information and materials are not provided by the due date indicated above. There is no appeal from a refusal for an incomplete or late application, but re-application for a later project is permitted. Neither the closing time for submitting prequalification packages for this Project will be changed in order to accommodate supplementation of incomplete

submissions, or late submissions, unless requested by the CITY in its sole discretion.

In addition to a contractor's failure to be pre-qualified pursuant to the scoring system set forth in the prequalification package, a contractor may be found not prequalified for either omission of or falsification of, any requested information.

Where a timely and completed application results in a rating below that necessary to pre-qualify, an appeal can be made by the unsuccessful Contractor. An appeal is begun by the Contractor delivering notice to the CITY of its appeal of the decision with respect to its prequalification rating, no later than two business days following notification that it is not pre-qualified. The notice of appeal shall include an address where the Contractor wishes to receive notice of the appeal hearing. Without a timely appeal, the Contractor waives any and all rights to challenge the decision of the CITY, whether by administrative process, judicial process or any other legal process or proceeding.

If the Contractor gives the required notice of appeal, a hearing shall be conducted no earlier than five business days after the CITY's receipt of the notice of appeal and not later than five business days prior to the date of the Notice Inviting Bids for this Project. Prior to the hearing, the Contractor shall, in writing, be advised of the basis for the City's pre-qualification determination.

The hearing shall be conducted by a panel consisting of three members of the Public Works Department senior management staff (the "Appeals Panel"). The Appeals Panel shall consider any evidence presented by the Contractor, whether or not the evidence is presented in compliance with formal rules of evidence. The Contractor will be given the opportunity to present evidence, information and arguments as to why the Contractor believes it should be pre-qualified. Within one day after the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeals Panel will render a written determination as to whether the Contractor is pre-qualified. It is the intention of the CITY that the date for the submission and opening of bids will not be delayed or postponed to allow for completion of an appeal process.

Convention Center project breaks ground

From page 1

The Convention Center is anticipated to create more than 15,000 jobs, add \$652 million in tax revenue to the city's general fund over 30 years and bring in more than \$150 million in additional annual visitor spending.

Bass said the project will help revitalize a portion of Downtown Los Angeles that has struggled since the pandemic. Representatives of the Convention Center hailed the project's potential to boost economic growth in the area.

"I want to thank the mayor and the City Council for their bold leadership and commitment to this legacy project that will make the Convention Center a premier destination for decades to come," said Doane Liu, chief tourism officer and executive director of the L.A. City Tourism Department. "This decision is the result of years of work with our city leaders and departments and I'm proud of the

tremendous effort put into this project. When the city of Los Angeles locks arms and shares a vision, we can successfully complete complex projects that make a positive lasting impact for Angelenos."

The project will add 190,000 square feet of space and connect the existing South and West Exhibit Halls, creating a singular contiguous hall with more than 750,000 square feet. It will also add 39,000 square feet of new meeting room space and 95,000 square feet of multipurpose space. The work will be completed by contractors PCL Construction and Webcor.

The Convention Center project will be funded by bonds issued by the city. Plans also call for digital billboards that will generate future revenue to help pay off the bonds, although the amount has not yet been determined. The project is anticipated to be complete in June 2028, approximately one month

before the Olympic Games, which run from July 14-30, 2028.

The Los Angeles City Council approved the project on Sept. 19 in an 11-2 vote. City Councilwomen Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, and Nithya Raman, 4th District, voted no on the expansion. Yaroslavsky, chair of the council's Budget Committee, believes the project places too much burden on future city finances, particularly during a time when Los Angeles is already experiencing cuts to services.

"The Convention Center expansion we voted on is unrealistic, unaffordable and fiscally irresponsible. The completion timeline is tied to the 2028 Olympics with almost no room for error, and the contract makes taxpayers responsible for nearly every delay. Even small setbacks could drive up costs, leaving the city on the hook for overruns we cannot control. If we fail to deliver the project by March 2028, we're



rendering courtesy of Populous

The Convention Center modernization project will connect existing exhibition halls to create a singular building with more than 750,000 square feet of space

on the hook for any additional costs associated with relocating the Olympics events now slated for the Convention Center to new locations," Yaroslavsky said. "The initial contract cost to taxpayers is just as troubling. This project locks the city into at a minimum \$100 million a year in net new obligations for the next three decades. According to the City

Administrative Officer's report, it will consume all projected growth in the general fund for years to come. Every new dollar of revenue will go to debt service, leaving nothing to improve city services. And that's assuming the economy keeps growing. If you think city services are bad now, and I think all of us would agree they are, this project guarantees they will get worse."

'Split-Rocker' takes shape at LACMA

From page 1

welcome this living sculpture to LACMA, where it will greet visitors, pedestrians and traffic along Wilshire Boulevard. And, uniquely among four of Jeff's flower sculptures worldwide, LACMA's will be alive and growing year-round in the mild climate of Southern

California."

"Split-Rocker" is based on children's toys. It is composed of one-half of a cartoon-like pony's head and one-half of a dinosaur's head that combine into a singular sculpture, according to LACMA. The sculpture was previously displayed

in New York's Rockefeller Center and at the Fondation Beyeler in Switzerland.

The living art piece includes an internal irrigation system, ensuring the plants on the exterior are meticulously watered and maintained. Plant species on "Split-Rocker's" exterior

will include succulents and perennials such as dudleyas, sedums, aeoniums, crassula, lantana, gazania and erigeron.

LACMA has previously displayed work by Koons, who is considered to be among the top artists in the world. He is widely known for sculptures such as "Rabbit," "Michael Jackson and Bubbles" and "Balloon Dog." LACMA previously displayed Koons' "Rabbit," "Balloon Dog (Blue)" and "Cracked Egg (Red)" in

the 2008 opening exhibition of the Broad Contemporary Art Museum, known as BCAM, on the museum's campus.

"Split-Rocker" was brought to LACMA with support from trustee Lynda Resnick and her husband, Stewart, through their foundation.

District parents ask for inclusion at schools

From page 6

ignates Oct. 7 as a day of remembrance, adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism and provides professional development for staff and educational opportunities for students to learn Jewish history and prevent antisemitism. The resolution was controversial due to a provision that would have required the display of Israeli flags on school campuses, a decision which was reversed by the

superintendent due to safety concerns.

Some parents also spoke out against the resolution for only addressing antisemitism instead of all forms of hatred and racism. Many Black students at BHUSD have reported being the victims of anti-Black racism during the past school year, particularly in the aftermath of the 2024 presidential election.

"This administration did little to nothing when students, parents and

the outside community were concerned – and some outraged – by the unsafe and toxic environment that existed during and after the presidential election," said resident and former BHUSD parent Gay Abrams, who is Jewish. "How will our Black, Latino and other [students] feel about the resolution that focuses only on antisemitism and Jewish history?"

In April, former fashion design teacher Bella Ivory and former basketball coach Jarvis Turner sued the

district, alleging anti-Black racism and discrimination. On Sept. 8, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Brock T. Hammond ruled that the two plaintiffs can move forward with one trial, rejecting the BHUSD's request for the allegations to be presented as two separate cases. The next hearing in the case is scheduled for Dec. 12.

The school district's current assistant superintendent for student services, Laura Collins-Williams, is also suing BHUSD for alleged transgressions including anti-Black racism and discrimination based on race, age and gender, retaliation and a hostile work environment.

Wilshire Rotary honors community heroes at gala

The Wilshire Rotary Club of Los Angeles will celebrate Wilshire Rotary Heroes at a gala on Friday, Oct. 24, at the Wilshire Country Club.

The event will honor Bill and Karla Ahmanson and Larchmont

Chronicle co-founder and former publisher Jane Gilman. The Ahmansons will be recognized for donating their property on Larchmont Boulevard each year for Wilshire Rotary's Pumpkin Patch and Christmas tree lot, which gen-

erate funds for community projects. The Ahmansons also support Operation School Bell and the Los Angeles Police Reserve.

Gilman, who received the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce's first Pioneer Award

and is a co-founder of the Windsor Square-Hancock Park Historical Society and Taste of Larchmont, will be recognized for her longtime contributions to the community.

The fundraiser will include a live band, dancing and silent auction. Tickets are \$150. The Wilshire Country Club is located at 301 N. Rossmore Ave. For information and tickets, visit wilshirerotary.org.

Lane closures planned in Beverly Hills

Extended lane closures are scheduled for North Santa Monica and Wilshire boulevards in the next few weeks for utility work related to the One Beverly Hills project.

The closure on Santa Monica Boulevard will be located between Moreno Drive and Wilshire Boulevard, reducing the street to one lane in each direction. The dates and times are Oct. 4, from 7 a.m.–5 p.m., and overnight Monday through Friday through Oct. 31, from 9 p.m.–6 a.m.

The scope of work includes sewer line and electrical line upgrades. There are no planned power outages or other impacts to utilities.

Overnight work is planned on Wilshire Boulevard near the intersection with Whittier Drive to install infrastructure related to a Metropolitan Water District water line. No water shutoffs or other impacts to water supply are planned. The work is scheduled through Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

During the work, a portion of one eastbound lane on Wilshire Boulevard will be closed near the Whittier Drive intersection. Eastbound left turns onto Whittier Drive will not be impacted.

For information, visit beverlyhills.org.

Mayor outlines state of city

From page 2

cultures, religions and backgrounds – to learn, understand and unite," Nazarian said.

"It has been almost two years since the Oct. 7 massacre, where so many in our community were directly impacted. Antisemitism is on the rise. Even in a city like ours, no one is immune to hate – but together, we can respond with love, tolerance and respect for all, so no child is left to suffer regardless of race or religion."

She added that this month, the city will break ground on a permanent Oct. 7 Memorial outside the Beverly Hills Public Library. The memorial is expected to cost approximately \$1.5 million, and the city has already invested \$500,000 in public funds.

The mayor will host the next "Straight Talk with Sharona" event on Nov. 6 with BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook. The two will discuss public safety.

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.

Interim housing site opens in WeHo

From page 1

Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, State Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) and community members.

The housing site, located at the former Holloway Motel property at 8464 Holloway Drive, will be managed by Ascencia, a nonprofit homeless services agency. The project will serve 20 individuals in 20 rooms and will prioritize providing temporary housing for people who are chronically homeless – as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, individuals who have a disability or have experienced homelessness on at least four separate occasions in the past three years.

Occupants will be able to stay at the Holloway for up to 90 days and can receive assistance with locating permanent housing and other social services including health care, nutrition, financial planning, community activities and employment readiness from Ascencia staffers, who will provide 24 hour staffing on site.

The project is funded through a combination of approximately \$6 million from a California Homekey grant and \$7 million from the West Hollywood Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Individuals can enroll in the program by referral only, and Ascencia will refer people who do not qualify for the Holloway Interim Housing Project to other types of interim housing.

“This program is not just short term housing. It’s a stepping stone towards housing health and stability for the long haul,” Mayor Chelsea Byers said. “West Hollywood believes that housing is a human right. The Holloway Interim Housing Program is the embodiment of that belief. This project is what happens when a city puts its values into action. The Holloway is a safe haven and a second chance. It’s a promise kept. Let the Holloway be a model for the entire region. Let it remind us that change begins with care.”

“Who’s old enough to remember the Holloway Motel?” Councilwoman Lauren Meister asked the gathered crowd. “I would say this is an incredible improvement... Ascencia will provide 24/7 staffing and on-site security – creating a safe, stable and supportive environment where residents can heal and plan their next steps. So this is very exciting for all of us.”

“Homelessness is a problem. It’s a problem for those who are experiencing homelessness. It’s a problem for our residents. It’s a problem for the business community, but it is a problem that cannot be solved unless we have facilities like this to help people get on their way and get back into society,” Vice Mayor John Heilman said.

“The combination of state, county and city funds demonstrates how

local leadership can successfully leverage outside resources to maximize our impact. The investment that we’ve made shows that we’re not waiting for solutions to come from others. We are using every tool in our toolbox to address homelessness in West Hollywood.”

“Homelessness is a complex issue, and the solution is always local, and the Holloway Interim Project here is a prime example of that,” Councilman Danny Hang said. “We’re choosing to offer diversity, inclusion, thought and care for our entire community.”

“By opening the Holloway, West Hollywood is demonstrating we are putting our money where our mouths are, and we are working to solve homelessness together and not put another stoppage in the system,” Councilman John Erickson said.

“We have two kinds of communities in the state of California. We have communities that basically respond to the homeless crisis by moving the problem to someplace else, and then we have communities that embrace our homeless communities by actually providing the services that we need,” Zbur said. “When we look at all the things that we have to do in this very complicated dynamic and challenge of dealing with our homeless and our unhoused crisis, one of the key areas where we’ve

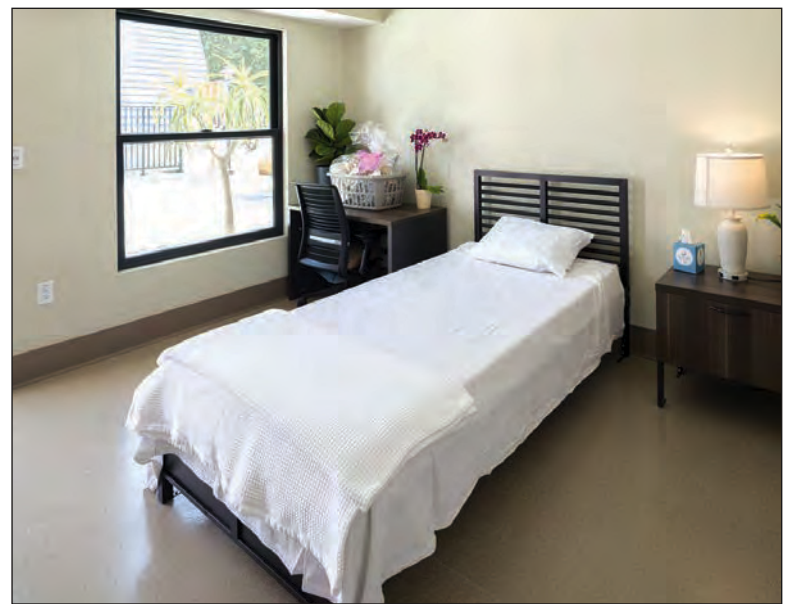


photo by Jon Viscott

The Holloway Interim Housing Project allows people to stay up to 90 days and access social services.

underinvested is in transitional housing, and so that has been a partnership that I’m very proud that the city of West Hollywood has embraced.”

Horvath was a member of the City Council when the Holloway Interim Housing Project was approved in 2022.

“Hope becomes real in the Holloway Interim Housing Program because it is designed for those in our community who face the greatest barriers and deserve our care and support,” Horvath said in a statement. “By offering not just a safe place to stay but a full network of care, Holloway makes it possible for people to stabilize, heal

and take their next step into permanent housing. This is the result of years of planning, community partnership and accountability, and it proves that when we bring every solution to the table, we can deliver change that truly transforms lives.”

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, community members toured bedrooms at the site, which consist of a single twin bed, nightstand, bathroom, essential toiletries and bedding. Residents will begin to move into the Holloway on Oct. 6.

For information on the Holloway Interim Housing Project and to make referrals, contact Ascencia at holloway@ascenciaca.org or (310)424-5979.

Project approved by Planning Commission

From page 1

rooftop of the Beverly Drive section of the project.

The 4,327-square-foot basement level will contain back-of-house support spaces including employee lockers and changing rooms. An underground parking garage will provide 29 parking spaces. The parking spaces will be operated by valet only and will be exclusively available to restaurant guests and “very important client” salon visitors. The restaurant and the very

important client salons will require reservations. The museum will also operate on a reservation-only basis.

The project received only one public comment in the form of a written letter from Bruce Meyer and his son Evan Meyer. The Meyers own several properties in the Golden Triangle and listed concerns over the Beverly Drive portion of the project, including the loss of street parking spaces and potential disruption to pedestrian traffic due to a vehicle

entrance on Beverly Drive.

“Beverly Drive has long served as our city’s main street and it is critical that this side of the project receive equal attention and care,” the letter read. “We have worked hard to attract a thoughtful mix of tenants directly next door to the site, and we want to ensure the street continues to be a pleasant destination for shopping and outdoor dining.”

Project representative Deborah Quick responded by stating that the

vehicle entrance on Beverly Drive was created to allow valet services and loading and delivery to be handled on private property instead of the public right-of-way in the alley, which is currently used by several other businesses.

To address the Meyers’ concerns, the Planning Commission added a condition that vehicles will be prohibited from making a left turn onto Beverly Drive upon exiting the property. Additionally, they added that a parabolic mirror, light system and stop sign must be installed at the exit on Beverly Drive.

The Planning Commission unanimously approved the Louis Vuitton

project, expressing support for the development.

“I think it’s a beautiful project. It’s within the scope and scale of our zoning laws and will activate that part of our city,” Commissioner Gary Ross said.

The development is located at the site of the planned Cheval Blanc Hotel, a luxury hotel project by Louis Vuitton that was approved by City Council but ultimately overturned by Beverly Hills residents in a narrow vote in May 2023. Compared to Cheval Blanc, the new project is less than half the square footage and maximum height, and does not contain a hotel.

WeHo debuts new digital public artwork

The city of West Hollywood has debuted the latest exhibitions in the Moving Image Media Art program. Artworks by Isabel Beavers, Diana Thater, Maya Kell-Abrams, Adam Agostino, Sara Silkin, Nina McNeely and Noper will be on display at the top of every hour on digital billboards on Sunset Boulevard through Jan. 31, 2026.

“Sundown” by Beavers plays with the unique design of the screen, volumetrics and clouds and storms over the ocean. The artwork can be seen at the top of every hour on the digital billboard at 8497 Sunset Blvd. (The Now). It has a 3D effect and is best viewed from the sidewalk at the southeast corner of Sunset and La Cienega boulevards.

Untitled works by Thater offer a portal into a 2020 domestic garden in Altadena. Alternating between sky and ground, the recordings portray the details of a patch of earth and the expanse of clouds passing over. The work is presented every 20 minutes on the digital billboard at 8501 Sunset Blvd. (Sun Cienega).

“As Above” by Kell-Abrams and Agostino originated from a concept developed with Sadie Wilking. The artwork can be seen at the top of the hour on the digital billboard at 8730 Sunset Blvd. (The Whorl).

“Lost Mind” by Silkin is a narrative dance film exploration of the psyche. The film recounts the artist’s inability to identify her father’s mental illness throughout her life. The work is presented at the top of the hour and 30 minutes past the hour on the digital billboard at 8743 Sunset Blvd. (Invisible Frame).

“MORPH” by McNeely is a playful and visually spellbinding performance that uses projection mapping and synchronized movements to transform the artist into colorful creatures and characters. The artwork can be seen at the top of the hour and at 30 minutes past the hour on the digital billboard at 8775 Sunset Blvd. (Sunset Spectacular).

“Natural Forces” by Noper explores the concrete and abstract aspects of life, bridging the seen and unseen through technology.

Drawing inspiration from human emotions and life experiences, the artist uses a unique blend of chaos and hallucinatory visuals inviting viewers to observe climate change from an immersive vantage point. The artwork can be seen at the top of the hour and at 30 minutes past the hour on the digital billboard at 9157 Sunset Blvd. (Streamlined Arbor). For information, visit go.weho.org/mima.



photo by Jon Viscott

New artwork can be viewed on digital billboards along Sunset Boulevard.

Suspect charged with animal cruelty

From page 4

Bhatia was identified by a member of the public on Sept. 21 and detained by the Beverly Hills Police Department after a brief pursuit. He was later transferred to the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station. Bhatia was arraigned on Sept. 24, where he plead not guilty and is currently being held at the Pitchess Detention Center

on \$175,000 bail. His next court date is scheduled for Oct. 9. If convicted, Bhatia faces a maximum of seven years and eight months in state prison.

The case remains under investigation and anyone with information is urged to contact the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station at (310)855-8850.

Answers From Page 23

1	J	I	M	2	B	R	A	N	D	3	S	10	C	A	S		
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21	S	T	A	Y	E	D	22	I	N	T	H	E	23	L	O	O	P
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26	S	B	A	S	27	A	A	R	P	28	U	N	C	L	E		
29	P	O	S	I	T	30	S	L	E	31	D	32	D	U	A	L	
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35	A	H	E	A	D	O	F	T	H	E	C	U	R	V	E		
37	T	O	R	R	38	T	O	M	A	T	O	39	E	W	E		
40	S	O	T	S	41	C	O	S	M	O	S	42	D	S	L		

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9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9/2025

PARK LABREA NEWS BEVERLY PRESS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2025199979

The following person(s) are doing business as **ARDOR HOUSE SOLLECTIVE, 4605 LANKERSHIM BLVD. STE 700, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91602, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. MICHAEL BAYLIS, 4605 LANKERSHIM BLVD. STE 700, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91602. KOYAANA REDSTAR, 4605 LANKERSHIM BLVD. STE 700, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91602.** The business is conducted by: **A MARRIED COUPLE.** The registrant has not yet started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein. **REGISTRANT: MICHAEL BAYLIES, HUSBAND.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **SEPTEMBER 25, 2025.** NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law. (See section 1440 et seq., Business Professions Code.)

10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23/2025



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10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23/2025

Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. "Huckleberry Finn" character
4. Makes
10. Edible Andean tubers
14. Meter opening
15. Expire
16. Breeze in
17. Cheating, in a way
20. Object
21. Card carrier
22. Radio talk starter
24. Most desirable thing
27. Laissez-___
28. To the point
30. Responsibility
32. Others
33. Scrap
35. "Knock it off!"
37. Remained knowledgeable
43. ___ Nicole Smith
44. Larry Ellison's company
45. Government lending group's
49. Modern Maturity grp.
51. Truce word
52. Put
54. Cresta Run vehicle
56. Kind of income
57. Ball team line-up
59. Of the moon
61. Cutting edge and then some
66. Unit of pressure
67. Plum, beefsteak or cherry

Down

68. Mrs. sheep
69. Drunkards
70. Space
71. Cable alternative
1. Position
2. Suffix with self-
3. Renaissance woman on a canvas
4. Military jail
5. Increase
6. "Measure for Measure" villain
7. "Nicht" German
8. "How obvious!"
9. Sweat
10. Visual
11. Lassie
12. Eastern rulers
13. Set of six
18. Wearing fancy clothing
19. WW II air heroes (abbr.)
22. Takes steps
23. Like some champagne
25. Set straight
26. Mongrel
29. "Guilty," e.g.
31. NY gallery district
34. Aerospace educator, DeVore
36. Lima's land
38. Much may follow it
39. Covered carriage
40. Took place

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52				53		54			55		56		
57					58			59		60			
61						62	63					64	65
66						67						68	
69						70						71	

41. Pot over a fire
42. Rind
45. Jack and the missus
46. Bawl
47. Maintain
48. Instruments of India
50. Word before "One Two Three" in a 1974 film title
53. "First Blood" director Kotcheff
55. Because of
58. Officer Training group, abbr.

60. Sgts. and such
62. Kind of "Fighter"
63. Trademarks, abbr.
64. Bugs
65. Long fish

answers on page 22

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