



Sunny, with temps in the mid-70s

BEVERLY PRESS

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

December 5, 2024

Former teacher files claim against BHUSD

■ School district denies instructor was terminated

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A teacher who said she was fired by the Beverly Hills Unified School District for a social media post that criticized President-Elect Donald Trump and a pro-Trump incident at the school filed a damages claim

against the school district on Dec. 4.

Joanie Garratt said she was fired on Nov. 13 after she made a Facebook post critical of Trump and the Nov. 6 incident, where pro-Trump students gathered on the school's courtyard. Black students

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Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

The teacher said she was fired by Assistant Superintendent Matthew Horvath after she made a Facebook post critical of President-Elect Donald Trump and a pro-Trump incident at Beverly Hills High School.

TV City plan OK'd by L.A. council committee

■ Opponents vow to continue fight against studio project

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

After a delay of more than an hour, as well as a lengthy public comment period, the Los Angeles City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee approved the Television City project at its hearing on Dec. 3. The project now heads to the full City Council, which may consider it next week.

The approval marks a milestone in a planning and entitlement process that has lasted nearly five years. Hackman Capital Partners, owner of the historic studio property at Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue, plans to modernize and expand the studio to meet the needs of production companies. The plan calls for 1,686,000 square feet of sound stage, production office, general office and retail uses, and the retention of 264,377 square feet of existing space. The studio's historic frontage facing



photo by Edwin Folven

The proposal calls for the modernization of the historic studio.

Beverly Boulevard will be preserved.

The PLUM committee hearing, which was scheduled to begin at 2 p.m., started more than an hour

late because the committee struggled to establish quorum. Councilmembers Heather Hutt, 10th District, and Imelda Padilla,

See **TV City** page 26

Waldorf Astoria threatens Beverly Hills with lawsuit

■ Hotel disputes business license fee

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills, a five-star hotel on Wilshire Boulevard, has threatened litigation against the city of Beverly Hills for a payment dispute concerning a transferred property title.

In a letter obtained by the Beverly Press, Ted Kahan, presi-

dent of Alagem Capital Group – a real estate investment firm which owns the property – states that on March 11, the hotel's title was transferred from Oasis West Realty to WABH LLC.

"Oasis West and WABH are both owned by affiliates of Alagem Capital Group and Cain International. The Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills is continuing to operate exactly as it has before," Kahan wrote in the letter.

However, the letter states that as a result of the transfer, the city has demanded an additional business license tax from the hotel.

"The city has taken the position that as a result of that transaction, a new business license tax is payable by the Waldorf Astoria and there will be no credit for the approximately \$600,000 paid by the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills in January 2024," Kahan wrote. "In short, the city's position is that as a result of the March 11 transaction the Waldorf Astoria is required to pay approximately \$1.2 million instead of the annual tax of approximately \$600,000 which was already paid."

The letter cites Beverly Hills municipal code, which states that taxes paid by registrants cannot become due "from any other person or registrant."

The municipal code also states that the non-transferability of business tax "shall not apply to a change in ownership of the registrant where the same business continues to be conducted thereafter."

Jose Zaragoza, a revenue investigator for the city of Beverly Hills' business tax division, said that the fee for a business tax registration

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photo by Tabor Brewster

The city contends that the hotel owes \$1.2 million in taxes, however the Waldorf Astoria said it already paid the total amount it owed of \$600,000.



photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

West Hollywood Park will come to life with an ice skating rink.

WeHo laces up its skates

■ Ice skating rink opens in January at West Hollywood Park

BY RANCE COLLINS

A new source of fun will be gliding into West Hollywood next month. On Dec. 2, the City Council approved plans for an ice skating rink, which will

freeze over a portion of West Hollywood Park for a special two-week run.

"We have so many fun activities in the city, but an ice skating rink will be something different," Councilman John Heilman said. "I know a lot of people in our community are passionate about ice skating and we already have some former Olympians who

See **Ice skating rink** page 26

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CALENDAR

Holocaust Museum L.A.

Holocaust Museum Los Angeles presents "RISE: The Rock Musical" on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 6:30-8 p.m. The musical is about a group of Jewish women resistance fighters during the Holocaust who wage an uprising against the Nazis. The program includes a selection of scenes and songs from the show, followed by a discussion with writer and composer Joshua Daniel Hershfield. General admission is \$18. 100 The Grove Drive. holocaustmuseumla.org/event-details/rise-the-rock-musical.

'A Christmas Carol with Dickens'

Independent Shakespeare Co. presents "A Christmas Carol with Charles Dickens" from Thursday, Dec. 5, through Monday, Dec. 23. The holiday play by the producers of the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival is filled with the author's infamous acting pyrotechnics, holiday music, wry humor and redemption. From 1857 until the end of his life, Dickens performed the popular story throughout Britain and the United States. The ISC Studio transforms into a cozy Victorian drawing room as Dickens performs the beloved story of Ebenezer Scrooge and the curious events that unfold around him. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; 2 and 7:30 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at \$27.50. 3191 Casitas Ave., Ste. 130, Atwater Village. iscla.org.

**'Brahms with Zubin Mehta'**

The LA Phil presents "Brahms with Zubin Mehta" on Friday, Dec. 6, at 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. LA Phil conductor emeritus Mehta leads violinist Leonidas Kavakos and the orchestra in Brahms' "Violin Concerto" and "Symphony No. 2." Tickets start at \$69. 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.org.

**'La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin'**

Latino Theater Company will hold "La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin," the company's signature holiday pageant, on Friday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, downtown. The production tells the story of Juan Diego, a peasant to whom the Virgin Mary appeared on four occasions in 1531 in the mountains of Tepeyac, near Mexico City. Starring Esperanza América as the Virgin and Sal Lopez as Diego, the cast features over 100 actors, singers and indigenous Aztec dancers, as well as children and senior citizens from the community. General admission is free; premium seating is available for \$45. 555 W. Temple St. (213)489-0994. latinotheaterco.org.

**Family Workshop at The Getty**

Join "Cosmic Connections: Family Workshop" on Sundays, Dec. 8 and 15, at 11 a.m. at the Getty Center. In the Middle Ages, scientists calculated the position of the stars and planets using tools such as volvelles (wheel charts) and mechanical astrolabes. Learn about the fascinating instruments and create a volvelle to discover your medieval zodiac sign, planet and constellation. The free drop-in program complements Getty's PST ART exhibitions "Rising Signs: The Medieval Science of Astrology" and "Lumen: The Art and Science of Light." 1200 Getty Center Drive. getty.edu.

Joe Praml's 'Christmas Story'

Celebrate "The Night That Changed the World, a Christmas Story," written by long-time West Hollywood resident and playwright Joe Praml, on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 11:15 a.m.-noon at St. Ambrose Church. Performed by Joe Praml Readers, the production describes the holiday from its origins, opposition and acceptance by the church and how it became the holiday practiced today. The Joe Praml Readers was formed in memory of the late Praml, who frequently performed free poetry readings at public libraries. Donations are appreciated. 1281 N. Fairfax Ave. stambrosewaho.org.

Cathedral Chapel School 'Breakfast With Santa'

Cathedral Chapel School is holding its annual "Breakfast With Santa" event on Sunday, Dec. 15, from 10:30 a.m.-noon at the school. Families with preschoolers ages three to six are invited to enjoy a special morning with Santa Claus, take photographs and learn about Cathedral Chapel School and its programs. RSVP required by Dec. 7 by emailing cathedralchapelto@gmail.com. The school is located at 755 S. Cochran Ave. cathedralchapelschool.org.

Dance at The Wallis

The Wallis presents BODYTRAFFIC in "This Reminds Me of You" on Friday, Dec. 6, and Saturday, Dec. 7, in the Bram Goldsmith Theatre. With works by Juel D. Lane, Trey McIntyre and Matthew Neenan, the program invites audiences to reflect on the profound impact of memory and celebrate how the past shapes one's journey forward. Showtime is at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 6; 2 and 7:30 p.m., Dec. 7. Tickets start at \$49. 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills. (310)746-4000, thewallis.org.

LACMA art workshop

Join a pop-up art workshop in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Boone Children's Gallery on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The exhibition-based workshop encourages creative inspiration and no prior art-making experience is necessary. Staff members will work with participants to help them make their own art. The event coincides with the exhibition "Digital Witness: Revolutions in Design, Photography and Film" exploring collage. Admission is free; all ages are welcome. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.

Angel City Chorale

Angel City Chorale is holding "Bling on the Holidays," a new holiday concert extravaganza on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 8, at 3 p.m. in UCLA's Royce Hall. Relive the magic of the holiday season. The 180-voice chorale will perform a program of magnificent and joyful songs including beloved holiday classics, a timeless Renaissance masterpiece, rousing gospel and R&B songs and a medley celebrating Hanukkah. Tickets start at \$25. 340 Royce Drive. angelcitychorale.org.



photo courtesy of the LAPD's Wilshire Division

Personnel from the BHPD, LAPD and West Hollywood Sheriff's Station gathered at Cedars-Sinai on Dec. 3.

Cedars-Sinai brings community together at Coffee with a Cop

Cedars-Sinai security director Bob Parks hosted a Coffee with a Cop event on Dec. 3 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Officers and administrators from the Beverly Hills Police Department, Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division and West Hollywood Sheriff's Station attended the event, including BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook

and Wilshire Division Capt. Julie Rodriguez. Coffee with a Cop events are held at locations throughout the community to give residents an opportunity to meet with law enforcement officers in an informal setting. For information, visit lapdonline.org, beverlyhills.org/548/police-department and lasd.org/west-hollywood.

Canter, Lue discuss the history behind Guns N' Roses book

Mr. Musichead Gallery is holding a book signing and talk on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 1-4 p.m. with photographers Marc Canter and Jack Lue for "Guns N' Roses Reckless Road," which chronicles the history of the legendary band.

Canter, of the family that owns and operates Canter's Deli, and Lue grew up with members of Guns N' Roses, capturing many of the band's most iconic images.

"I grew up with Slash. My history with him goes back to 1976 when we were 11 years old," said Canter,

who added that he met Slash (Saul Hudson) in the fifth grade at Third Street Elementary School. "I knew early on the band would be very relevant, and I think it still will be 100 years from now. I was documenting them, taking photos, because I knew people would want to see this later."

Canter said the book is available for purchase at Canter's Deli, 419 North Fairfax Ave., and at marccanter.com. Signed copies will also be available at Mr. Musichead Gallery, 7420 Sunset Blvd. For information, visit musichead.com.

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photo by Edwin Folven

Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Los Angeles) and State Sen. Ben Allen (D-Los Angeles), pictured at a July Hollywood Chamber of Commerce event, went to Sacramento for a special session of the California legislature on Dec. 2.

State special session aims to create 'safeguard' legal fund

■ Zbur, Allen pledge to fight for rights of all residents

BY RANCE COLLINS

On Dec. 2, a special legislative session convened by Gov. Gavin Newsom began with an aim to safeguard the state against what the governor terms “federal overreach” that might occur in incoming-President Donald Trump’s second term.

In the Nov. 5 election, Vice President Kamala Harris, a California native and the state’s former attorney general and senator, handily beat Trump in Los Angeles County, winning roughly 65% of the vote. Trump also lost the state by more than 20 points, and Democrats hold a supermajority in both the state senate and assembly.

Many of the proposals by Trump and his allies are unpopular in the state, particularly on

See **Legislators** page 27

Hochman sworn in as new district attorney

■ Former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger administers oath

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Former federal prosecutor Nathan Hochman was officially sworn in as the new Los Angeles County district attorney on Dec. 3, promising to improve public safety throughout the county.

“I am deeply honored for the opportunity of a lifetime that has been given to me to lead the finest district attorney’s office in the nation, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office,” Hochman said on Dec. 3.

Hochman defeated incumbent George Gascón in the Nov. 5 election, winning nearly 60% of the vote. A former Republican, Hochman ran as an independent and promoted a “hard-middle” approach to criminal prosecution. He successfully framed the race as a referendum on Gascón’s progressive policies, many of which he blamed for an increase in crime throughout Los Angeles.

His speech on Dec. 3 reflected his “hard-middle” approach, advocating for stricter measures to deter crime while rejecting mass incarceration.

“A D.A. must have as his north star only two things – the facts and the law – and not a personal political agenda. I reject extreme policies on both ends of the pendulum swing – decarceration policies that



photo by Tabor Brewster

Beverly Hills native and former federal prosecutor Nathan Hochman assumed office as district attorney of Los Angeles County on Dec. 3.

predetermine that certain crimes and certain criminals would not be prosecuted without a regard to the facts and the law, and the other end of the pendulum swing – mass incarceration policies that sought to do the same,” Hochman said.

The ceremony was held outside the Hall of Justice in Downtown Los Angeles, and featured remarks from local leaders including L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District, L.A. County Sheriff Robert Luna, Los Angeles Deputy Mayor of Public Safety Brian Williams, L.A. City Councilwoman Traci Park, 11th District, and L.A. Police Chief Jim McDonnell.

Many of the speakers expressed optimism about Hochman’s term, and characterized his victory as a return to public safety in the county.

“For far too long we watched Los Angeles slip into chaos and lawlessness,” Park said. “Home robberies, retail theft, smash and grab robberies, car smash-ins, tagging, broken windows, vandalism everywhere. Illegal bike chop shops clogging sidewalks and alleyways, thieves picking apart our infrastructure. Train robberies with people stealing millions of dollars in goods. Drug dealers slinging deadly poison on our streets in broad day-

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photo by Edwin Folven

The suspects and the victim agreed to meet near Fairfax and Rosewood avenues, where the robbery took place.

Suspects sought for robbery and mini-bike theft on Fairfax

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Officers from the Wilshire Division are searching for two male suspects who robbed a victim on Nov. 22 in the Fairfax District and stole a mini-bike.

The robbery occurred around 10:30 p.m. near Fairfax and Rosewood avenues. The victim, who police said is 16 years old, was attempting to sell his mini-bike through OfferUp, a mobile app to buy and sell items. The victim agreed to meet in-person with two potential buyers at the location in the Fairfax District. As the men inspected the mini-bike, one pulled up his shirt and showed a handgun in his waistband, and the other man got on the bike and rode away, police said. The suspect with the gun fled on foot and the victim called police. Officers

were unable to locate the suspects in the surrounding neighborhood.

The victim told police the suspects were 20-21 years old. The man with the gun is white, approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall and was wearing a tan sweatshirt. The other man is Black, 5 feet 8 inches tall and was wearing a black sweatshirt.

The robbery illustrates the potential danger of making arrangements with someone online and then meeting them in person, police said. People are encouraged to meet in well-lit public areas, not arrive alone and call police if they believe something is suspicious.

Anyone with information about the robberies is urged to call detectives with the LAPD's Wilshire Division at (213)922-8205 or (213)473-0476.

City informs public about Safer WeHo program

The West Hollywood Community Safety Department, in collaboration with the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, has begun outreach for Safer WeHo, an upcoming year-long pilot program that uses equipment and technology to support public safety efforts.

Implementation of the Safer WeHo program is commencing with a three-month outreach and engagement period. The city is providing information to the community through the media, mailed postcards and an awareness campaign. Community feedback is essential prior to implementation of the technology, which will begin during the first quarter of 2025 and will include aerial drones and fixed cameras, coordinated by a Real-Time Watch Center at the sheriff's station.

West Hollywood, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, will host an in-person town hall meeting on the



photo by Edwin Folven

The L.A. County Sheriff's Department is implementing the Safer WeHo program, using drones, fixed cameras and a Real-Time Watch Center.

program on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.

The meeting is free, no RSVP needed. For information visit go.weho.org/saferweho.

Authorities investigate blaze in Hollywood Hills

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A fire at a remote residence in the Hollywood Hills on Nov. 27 claimed the life of the home's elderly occupant, who was identified by neighbors as a member of the Rothschild family.

A 911 caller reported the fire around 4:45 p.m. at 8552 Lookout Mountain Ave., located west of Laurel Canyon Boulevard in the Hollywood Hills West area. Firefighters arrived to find flames in a two-story home located at the top of a steep and narrow stairway, LAFD spokesman Brian Humphrey said. The home is located among dense vegetation, and firefighters

aggressively battled the blaze to keep it from spreading to surrounding brush and other residences. Additional resources were called as a precautionary measure, including three LAFD helicopters.

Firefighters gained access to the home and located flames among "excessive personal storage," Humphrey said. They extinguished the blaze in 33 minutes and confined it to the home. The LAFD helicopters provided aerial reconnaissance and support but were not needed to extinguish the fire, he added.

The body of a deceased man was found during a search of the residence. The Los Angeles County

Department of Medical Examiner said the victim's identification is pending. According to media reports, neighbors identified the victim as William Rothschild, a member of the family that owns Rothschild & Co., an international banking and financial advisory company.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. The 87-year-old home was not equipped with residential fire sprinklers and it could not be determined if smoke alarms were present and functioning at the residence, Humphrey added. The Mayor's Crisis Response Team was called to the scene to provide emotional support and assistance to the victim's family and neighbors.

Suspect faces more charges in 2022 shooting

Federal authorities have announced additional charges against a rap artist from Chicago accused of orchestrating a murder-for-hire plot against a rival that resulted in the fatal shooting in August 2022 at a gas station at Beverly and La Cienega boulevards.

A superseding federal grand jury indictment alleges Durk Banks, 32, conspired with others to commit the murder. Banks is charged with one count of conspiracy, one count of use of interstate facilities to commit murder-for-hire resulting in death and one count of using, carrying and discharging firearms and a machine gun in furtherance of a

crime of violence resulting in death. The indictment adds two felony charges against Banks, who previously was charged on Oct. 17 via a criminal complaint in the case.

The four-count superseding indictment adds Banks as the lead defendant in the case. Also charged are Kavon London Grant, 28, of Atlanta; Deandre Dontrell Wilson, 33, of Chicago; Keith Jones, 33, of Gary, Indiana; David Brian Lindsey, 33, of Addison, Illinois; and Asa Houston, 36, of Chicago. Banks was arrested on Oct. 17 near Miami International Airport after law enforcement learned he had booked an international flight. A federal magistrate judge in Miami

has ordered him jailed without bond until he is transferred to Los Angeles for arraignment. All six defendants are expected to be arraigned in United States District Court in downtown Los Angeles in the coming weeks.

Banks allegedly orchestrated a murder-for-hire plot against a rival rapper identified in court documents as T.B. The feud stemmed from a 2020 murder in which an associate of T.B. shot and killed an individual who was close friends with Banks. In response to the murder, Banks allegedly put a bounty on T.B.'s life, prosecutors said.

On Aug. 19, 2022, several associates of Banks used two vehicles and worked in tandem to stalk T.B., culminating in a shooting at a gas station at the northeast corner of Beverly and La Cienega boulevards, across from the Beverly Center shopping mall. The co-conspirators used multiple guns, including a machine gun, and fired at least 18 rounds at T.B.'s vehicle, striking and killing a victim identified in court documents as S.R. The deceased victim was a family member of T.B. who had been traveling with him. Prosecutors said Banks ordered T.B.'s murder and the hitmen used money from Banks to carry out the crimes.

If convicted, all of the defendants face a statutory maximum sentence of life in federal prison. The FBI and the Los Angeles Police Department are investigating the case.



photo courtesy of the U.S. Attorney's Office

Authorities released photos of the gunmen shooting at the victim's vehicle at the gas station at La Cienega and Beverly boulevards.



photo by Edwin Folven

Firefighters contained the blaze to a garage, preventing it from spreading to adjacent apartment buildings.

Fire damages garage on Sixth Street in Miracle Mile

A fire damaged a detached garage on Nov. 18 at an apartment building at 5524 W. Sixth St., just east of Cochran Avenue. The Los Angeles Fire Department received a call around 10:20 a.m. about flames and smoke coming from the garage. Firefighters extinguished the blaze in 13 minutes.

The exact cause remains under investigation, but the fire is believed to be accidental. The garage remains structurally sound. No damage was reported to apartment buildings located on either side of the structure, LAFD spokesman Ren Medina said. No further details were available.

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Shyne gives emotional goodbye to council

■ WeHo official known for many 'firsts' honored by colleagues

BY RANCE COLLINS

Four years ago, West Hollywood Councilwoman Sepi Shyne was elected by a then-record number of votes. Just by way of taking office, Shyne broke ground. She would become the first female Iranian American mayor in California, and the first out LGBTQ+ Iranian American mayor in the world, when she served her mayoral term from January 2023 to January 2024.

Earlier this year, however, Shyne decided not to run for reelection. She will officially step down on Dec. 16, when newly-elected Danny Hang is sworn in, and the city honored her during the Dec. 2 City Council meeting.

Shyne was presented by her colleagues with a proclamation for her "tireless leadership and service to the city of West Hollywood community." Prior to joining the council, Shyne had been an active member of the city, serving on both the Lesbian Gay Advisory Board, now the LGBTQ+ Commission, and the Business License Commission.

"I learned that there was never any woman of color on the City Council, no Iranians, and there was only one lesbian and no other out queer woman who ever served, and my colleagues asked me to run," Shyne said. "I wanted to give a voice to the voiceless in our city. I wanted to bring equity to West Hollywood, and a more holistic approach to public service. I wanted to bring light to politics and light to our city."

Shyne noted the creation of WeHo Pride, the Women's Freedom Festival and the Social Justice Task Force and Advisory Board among her greatest achievements. She also expressed pride in the restoration of Plummer Park, the gender-neutral bathroom ordinance, the city's historic minimum wage, expanded hotel workers' and tenants' protections, the distribution of drink spiking test strips and the support of local businesses.

Dozens of community members and public officials appeared to honor Shyne, including former Councilwoman Lindsey Horvath, who now serves the third district for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

"You've been a trailblazer, a champion and a voice for those who often go unheard," Horvath said.

Resident Adam Darvish, who currently serves on the Transportation and Mobility Commission and previously on the Human Services Commission, gave an emotional tribute to Shyne.

"You inspired me from the minute that I met you ... you inspired me to serve, and you gave me the opportu-

nity to serve in the city ... but more than that, you changed me in many ways," Darvish said. "I used to be ashamed to call myself Iranian-American and was hiding my identity, but then you brought that out of me."

Shyne's fellow council members also took a moment to recognize her accomplishments.

"It's been an honor to serve with Sepi Shyne over the last four years and work together to protect workers' rights, enhance our business community and bring back the city following the pandemic," Mayor John Erickson said. "She is the first of many things for our city, but won't be the last, and I'm proud to call her a friend and a colleague."

"I really want to thank you for the way you showed up in my own life behind the scenes," Vice Mayor Chelsea Byers said. "You've taught me so much about what it means to be present and what it means to really support somebody."

"I think it takes a lot to know when it's time to move on," Councilwoman Lauren Meister said. "So, I hope that whatever you are moving on to, that you are successful. I don't know if you believe in the afterlife, but there is life after WeHo. I wish you much success."

Councilman John Heilman appointed Shyne to her previous positions on city commissions. In honoring her, he spoke to personal attacks she had weathered from community members.

"I know it's been really difficult, I think, personally dealing with attacks up here, and it's been challenging I think for all of us," Heilman said. "And it's always painful to see that happen, and I really hope that once you move on to your next journey that you don't have to deal with that kind of nastiness or unpleasantness. And thank you so much for your service, both as my commissioner and as my council member and mayor."

Shyne also paid tribute to her city appointees during the meeting.

"To the commissioners and board members I had the privilege of appointing, your service to our city has been invaluable. Once I was one of you, and now I sit here. Your dedication, expertise and tireless efforts have made West Hollywood a better place ... thank you for making West Hollywood shine on Team Shyne," she said.

"Thank you for being my friend and my mentor," said Hang, who served as her appointee to the business license commission. "Thank you for uplifting persons of color in our city by helping to diversify our boards and commissions, along with your colleagues. I wish you well on your journey, and I look forward to many more years of friendship with you."

"I never expected that as a young girl born into a revolution and war in Iran that I would someday be the

first out LGBTQ Iranian elected anywhere in the world and the first female Iranian mayor in America," Shyne said. "I've had so many young girls come up to me and say, 'I want to grow up and do what you did.' So many people of color, queer folks, all women, have been inspired by the trails that I've blazed, and the best part of it are knowing that people like Danny Hang, our first AAPI councilmember, and so many others that were inspired now know that they can do what may have one day thought was impossible. Because there's nothing in this world that is impossible."



photo by Jon Viscott

Councilwoman Sepi Shyne served as West Hollywood's mayor from January 2023 to January 2024.

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Notable Quotes

"Access to high quality healthcare is a human right. We need to make this affordable and available for every single person in our country."

"Quality healthcare is expensive. Low income and no income families need support to obtain good insurance."

*Source: The Physicians Foundation

Beverly Hills receives second housing violation notice

■ State says city must process applications for 10 builder's remedy projects

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The city of Beverly Hills on Dec. 2 received a second letter from California's Department of Housing and Community Development notifying that it violated state housing laws by blocking 10 development projects that contain affordable housing.

The city has until Dec. 20 to respond to the state, at which point it will "consider any written response before taking further action authorized by Government Code section 65585, subdivision (j), including, but not limited to, referral to the California Office of the Attorney General."

Each of the 10 projects falls under the builder's remedy provision, a state law that allows private developers to bypass certain code restrictions – including height and density – provided that the building reserves at least 20% of units for low-income housing. The goal of the builder's remedy is to incentivize the creation of affordable housing to address California's ongoing housing crisis. The builder's remedy falls under the state's Housing Accountability Act, which was passed in 1982 and significantly expanded in 2017.

The builder's remedy takes effect when a city's housing element – or plan that outlines where affordable housing will be built – is out of compliance with state requirements. Because each of the 10 projects submitted preliminary applications before May 1 – when the city's housing element was certified by the state – the state says each devel-

opment has vested rights as a builder's remedy project.

"The city has received the second notice of violation letter from HCD [on Dec. 2]," Beverly Hills public information manager Lauren Santillana said. "We are currently reviewing the letter and intend to provide a written response to HCD by the Dec. 20 deadline."

The developments vary in size, scope and location, and would add a total of 198 affordable housing units within the city, greatly expanding the city's housing stock. There are currently eight affordable housing units in Beverly Hills.

Five of the projects are being developed by Leo Pustilnikov, who filed a lawsuit against the city in September alleging that the city illegally blocked his 19-story mixed use project at 125-129 S. Linden Drive. The lawsuit is scheduled to begin in court on Dec. 19 and will be heard by Judge Curtis A. Kin – who previously ruled against the city in a related housing lawsuit.

HCD's first notice of violation was sent on June 26, notifying the city that its actions in blocking the project on Linden Drive violated state housing laws.

"You've got a broader probe now, because the state has become aware that this is not just a Linden one-off project situation, this is a clear pattern and practice of how the city is handling these builder's remedy projects," Pustilnikov's attorney Dave Rand said in an interview.

One of the 10 projects listed in the notice of violation – a 14-story residential building at 211-217 S. Hamilton Drive – appealed the city's incomplete determination and is scheduled to go before the City Council on Tuesday, Dec. 10. The 160-foot-tall project includes 210 housing units – 42 of which are reserved for affordable housing –

and 155 parking spaces in a three-level underground structure.

The proposed project was initially developed by Pustilnikov, however, he is no longer attached to the project, according to Rand. The owner, Flamingo Investments LLC, has moved forward with the builder's remedy application. In the appeal hearing on Dec. 10, Beverly Hills attorney Murray D. Fischer will represent the developer.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The state said Beverly Hills cannot block applications for 10 builder's remedy projects across the city – including a 14-story residential tower planned for 211-217 S. Hamilton Drive.

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

LOCATIONS: 8687 Melrose Avenue,
West Hollywood, California;
and 750 N. San Vicente Boulevard,
West Hollywood, California

REQUEST: The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding a request for an amendment of the Pacific Design Center Specific Plan (PDCSP) originally approved in 2003, to allow more flexibility for the vacant space to be occupied by new tenants, eliminate the minimum square footage requirements for design showrooms and other defined spaces, and revise the applicable parking rate for uses within the Pacific Design Center. No expansion, addition, or physical changes to the existing Blue, Green, and Red buildings are proposed.

PERMIT(S): Specific Pan Amendment, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT(S): Latham & Watkins, Cullen Tyndall

TIME/PLACE OF HEARING: Thursday, December 19, 2024
at 6:30 p.m.
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room –
Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

ZONES: PDCSP (Pacific Design Center Specific Plan)

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: Addendum to Pacific Design Center Final Environmental Impact Report

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Thursday, December 12, 2024 and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

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

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Adrian Gallo, Associate at (323) 848-6304, or via email at: agallo@weho.org

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

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

Los Angeles Parks Foundation hires new deputy director

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation announced the hiring of Crystal Tsoi as its new deputy director. With over a decade of experience in public service and a deep passion for community engagement, Tsoi brings valuable expertise and leadership to advance the foundation's mission of enhancing, expanding, preserving and promoting public recreation, parks and open spaces for the diverse communities of Los Angeles. Los Angeles Parks Foundation's work to conserve and beautify L.A.'s city parks is more important than ever with environmental and population challenges along with major upcoming events on the horizon for Los Angeles – from 2026 World Cup Soccer, 2027 Baseball All-Star Game and 2028 Olympic Games – which are all set to draw international crowds and will be showcasing the best of the city.

"The selection process was valuable to have an exceptional pool of over 300 applicants to help grow the important work of our non-profit," said LAPPF President and CEO, Tony Budrovich. "Looking for strong character, a natural collaborator and a person who values the diverse population of Los Angeles Tsoi seemed a natural fit."

Tsoi previously served as deputy director of the Donor Services Department at NEO Philanthropy, Inc., where she specialized in organizational management and development for a diverse portfolio of

nonprofits. In this role, she provided strategic support to strengthen operations, manage donor relationships, and drive impact across multiple projects. Most recently, she worked as a Grants Management Consultant with the Alliance for Youth Organizing.

"I'm excited to bring my background in nonprofit leadership, fundraising and relationship-building to the Los Angeles Parks Foundation," Tsoi said. "Growing up just down the street from Echo Park instilled in me a lifelong love of public spaces and showed me how parks can be a place of refuge, connection and inspiration."

For information, visit laparks-foundation.org/donations/donate-2.

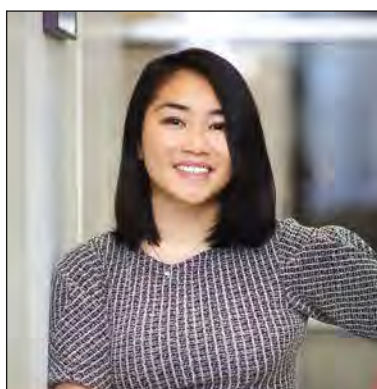


photo courtesy of LAPPF

Crystal Tsoi will be the new deputy director of the Los Angeles Parks Foundation after serving as deputy director of the Donor Services Department at NEO Philanthropy, Inc.

Letters to the Editor

Fireworks are bad idea in drought-ridden urban areas

Re "Fireworks should be dropped from holiday celebrations," Letters to the Editor, Nov. 28 issue

I couldn't agree more. Our landscape and brush are predominantly quite dry due to the desert-like drought conditions we find ourselves living in, making it the prime kindling for an errant firework. Not to mention the loud bangs that literally scare the crap out of my pets.

A drone firework show is a marvelous idea. Bravo!

*Michael Eisenberg
Beverly Hills*

Opposition stays vocal on Fountain Avenue redesign

Re "Fountain Avenue's future considered post-election," Nov. 21 issue

There is no doubt Fountain is in need of safety improvements. After a couple of tragic accidents, we on the far eastside of Fountain were able to have pedestrian safety infrastructure installed that has improved safety.

But that was not a holistic approach to West Hollywood's entire length of Fountain. The current proposal to reduce Fountain to one lane in each direction will have a domino effect on traffic, creating gridlock throughout the city. The fact that 60% or more of the trips on Fountain are generated from outside our city limits is irrelevant; those trips are not going away, they will just be diverted to Santa Monica or Sunset. I would remind folks that WeHo's business economy could not survive without those folks who drive into our city to spend their cash.

Unfortunately, the dishonest "debate" over Fountain was hobbled by the lack of a city sponsored traffic study or any reports from first responders regarding the design's real-world impacts. Clearly, the City Council majority is afraid to do a traffic study

because the science will undermine the plan.

Why be confused by facts?

*Steve Martin
West Hollywood*

I live in this immediate area and the lack of community outreach and representation has been shameful.

Regardless of how anyone feels about bike lanes, the simple fact of the matter is that the City Council admittedly pushed pieces of this project through while acknowledging that the residents hadn't been informed (March WeHo council meeting pertaining to bike lanes on Gardner/Willoughby which will connect to the Fountain project).

We begged for real outreach and

have been largely ignored. None of my (many) Russian-speaking and mostly elderly neighbors have been at any of the barely publicized meetings and some members of council seem to be fine with this. We need to do better.

*Chris Ranier
West Hollywood*

Metro makes progress on subway project in December

Metro is restoring sidewalks and roadways along Wilshire Boulevard near the Wilshire/Western, Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire La Cienega subway stations as work continues underground on the D Line subway extension project.

Section One of the project from Wilshire/Western to Wilshire/La Cienega is anticipated to open at the end of 2025. Section Two to Century City/Constellation is anticipated to open in 2026, and Section Three to the Westwood/VA Hospital station will open in 2027.

Street restoration will continue through January around a construction staging yard near Wilshire/Western. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Oxford Avenue and St. Andrews Place.

Work is also ongoing at street level near the Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax subway stations. A K-rail work zone is located in the middle of Wilshire Boulevard between Courtyard Place and Masselin Avenue through March 2025 to support tunnel cross-passage construction. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Ridgely Drive and Curson Avenue, and left turns are prohibited along Wilshire Boulevard in the area.

Through March, Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction at La Jolla Avenue. A K-rail enclosure is located on the west side of the Wilshire/La Jolla intersection to accommodate cross passage work between the tunnels.

Crews are also working in the construction staging areas and at street level at the Wilshire/La Cienega station. A K-rail work zone remains in place along the north side of Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. Crews will be restoring the streetscape in the area through early 2025. Intermittent lane closures may be in place along Wilshire Boulevard.

North Hamilton Drive will be

closed at Wilshire Boulevard from Friday, Dec. 6, at 8 p.m., through Sunday, Dec. 8, at 8 p.m. for sewer utility work. The closure is necessary to create a small trench extending approximately 400 feet north along Hamilton Drive. Sidewalks in the area will remain open, with support from flaggers.

Upcoming waterline utility work will also take place along Wilshire Boulevard in December between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. The work, which is anticipated to start as early as Dec. 16, may require water service disruption to properties between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards, and Wilshire Boulevard and Clifton Way. All water service interruptions will take place overnight and property owners and occupants will be notified in advance.

Crews are also working on the Wilshire/Rodeo station in Beverly Hills. Cañon Drive has reopened south of Wilshire Boulevard. Deck removal work is anticipated to start as early as Jan. 24 and will require up to 18 full weekend street closures on Wilshire Boulevard between Crescent and El Camino drives. The street closures will run from 8 p.m. on Friday through 7 a.m. the following Monday. Detour routes will be implemented for eastbound and westbound traffic on Wilshire Boulevard.

Work continues in December at the Century City/Constellation subway station. Placement of structural concrete is substantially complete and construction of the interior and roof structures is ongoing beneath Constellation Boulevard. Partial traffic lane closures are in place on Constellation Boulevard for daytime station construction and material deliveries. Eastbound and westbound vehicle access on Constellation Boulevard is being maintained between Century Park West and Century Park East.

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

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

LOCATIONS: 8433 Sunset Boulevard,
West Hollywood, California

REQUEST: The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding a request to install a two-sided full motion animated billboard with a total of 1,000 square feet of sign face area on a monopole at 8433 Sunset Boulevard (The Comedy Store), subject to a Development Agreement and as part of the Sunset Boulevard Off-site Signage Policy (Chapter 8 of the Sunset Specific Plan). The project includes improvements to the sidewalk in front of the building.

PERMIT(S): Certificate of Appropriateness, Development Agreement, Sign Permit, Zone Map Amendment, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT(S): Aaron Green, Afriat Consulting

TIME/PLACE OF HEARING: Thursday, December 19, 2024
at 6:30 p.m.
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room –
Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

ZONES: SSP (Sunset Specific Plan)

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: Negative Declaration prepared for Sunset Boulevard Off-Site Signage Policy, Addendum to Negative Declaration prepared in April 2021.

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Thursday, December 12, 2024, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

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

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

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

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации R4B ффи на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.

Arranaga-Grayson ensures meth recovery available 'No Matter What'

BY RANCE COLLINS

No Matter What Recovery was recently highlighted by the city of West Hollywood for its work in helping those with crystal meth addiction. The organization, which concentrates on people within the LGBTQ+ community, was established with the goal of providing individualized care with both outpatient options as well as a residential rehab sober living option in the Hollywood Hills.

"While meth addiction is ubiquitous in nature, it's of particular concern for the LGBTQ+ community often because it is used to enhance the sexual experience in a phenomenon known as 'chem-sex,'" No Matter What CEO Paulo Arranaga-Grayson said. "It's a highly addictive and very insidious drug, however, that impacts a broad spectrum of individuals from the lowest socioeconomic strata to the most privileged and everyone else in between. Users have been known to become addicted very quickly and the habit becomes so severe that they lose everything that's near and dear to them in the pursuit of getting high."

On Nov. 25, a press conference marking National Meth Awareness Day was held at the Being Alive Harm Reduction Center in West Hollywood, at which Arranaga-Grayson was a speaker.

"What we have observed at No Matter What Recovery is that some individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ tend to use the drug to address underlying traumas inherent in our community. While meth may offer temporary relief from the emotional pain and even bring immense pleasure – for a time – the price to be paid is steep, dark and ugly. By putting a spotlight on this epidemic, we hope to encourage those who may be struggling to seek help. There's hope out there, and that's why I'm here," he said.

"I'm really glad that our city continues to work with these incredible organizations to promote and uplift our recovery community," West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson said. "It's integral to who we are as a city."

"We know that too many people in our community are impacted by drug and alcohol addiction, especially members of the LGBTQI community," West Hollywood Councilman John Heilman said. "We need to do more to prevent this in our community, but we also need to honor and appreciate those who are working tirelessly, and often thanklessly, to help people recover."

Arranaga-Grayson recently celebrated nine years sober and obtained his bachelor's degree in behavioral health from Grand Canyon University. He said that destigmatizing the shame some users feel in relation to meth use is key to reducing abuse.

"I think it's really about destigmatization and advocacy. There is a huge shame-filled emotional layer to people when they get sober and really destigmatizing the negative connotation around substance use disorder and the meth crisis is really important for people to want to get help," he said.

Arranaga-Grayson said that meth use is common in LGBTQ+ community because of the societal judgement many are forced to endure growing up.

"A lot of us have trauma that we face through childhood from bully-

ing or internalized homophobia or generational trauma or abuse. And so, the minute that someone uses crystal meth, it literally just completely diminishes all shame," he explained.

No Matter What Recovery helps people become clean, and Arranaga-Grayson noted that the work of organizations like Being Alive can provide alternative solutions to keep people as safe as possible.

"While the organization that I represent is an abstinence-based organization, there are other social models that have been proven to be effective if someone isn't going to become

abstinent from all mind-altering substances. One of those is Being Alive, which offers a harm reduction space in West Hollywood, which basically is the new kind of model that California and other places are advocating. [It] provides clean needles, STD drop-in testing, Narcan fentanyl test strips, so that if you are using, you're still doing it in a way that is somewhat safe," he said.

Regardless of how one takes a step toward recovery, Arranaga-Grayson stressed that the resources are available for those who need or want help.

What it really comes down to is these are hurt people," he said. "It's a crisis. People are dying today."

For information, visit nomatterwhatrecovery.com or call (323)515-1324.




photo courtesy of Paulo Arranaga-Grayson


No Matter What Recovery CEO Paulo Arranaga-Grayson recently received a degree in behavioral health from Grand Canyon University.


City of West Hollywood Celebrates

FORTY of cityhood YEARS



go.weho.org/40


[@wehocity](https://www.instagram.com/wehocity)



West Hollywood

40

L.A. shuns warm and fuzzy. Yet ...

All I want for Christmas: A snowy cabin in a nowhere little town, with one plow, one stoplight, one little diner where the waitress calls you sweetie and puts her thumb in your potatoes while dropping the plate in front of you, then slurps her fingers as she goes off to yell at the cook (her ex-ex-ex-husband).

Here's also what I want for Christmas: World peace. Chili relleno. A clear path to the Burbank airport when I go to pick up the college boy for Christmas.

"Every thing that lives is holy," said the great writer William Blake.

Yeah, Bill? Have you seen Hollywood Boulevard?

This time of year, L.A. is one big



photo by Chris Erskine

The warm glow of Christmas in L.A. is all around – if you look a little.



by
Chris
Erskine

demotion derby. I plod along in my aging Honda, hoping to avoid the jack-knifed semis and old refrigerators that have fallen off flat-bed trucks, just the usual obstacle course of mistakes and bad decisions that make up Los Angeles freeways on any given day.

Headed to The Grove the other night, where I witnessed time actually moving backwards in the ridiculous rush-hour traffic, something Einstein studied but could never quite articulate.

Horns honked. Traffic froze. Time moved backwards.

I live for moments like that. I call friends back in the heartland and scream, "YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT HERE. IT'S WONDERFUL!"

People move to California because it's fragrant, semi-naked and "of the moment," then can't afford the rent or even a cheeseburger (going price 25 bucks).

To top it off, I steal their catalytic converters while they're parked along the curb in Los Feliz or Silver Lake and toss them in my trunk.

Does that deter them? One would hope. Evidently not.

Welcome, all you new arrivals.

Here's what you need to know about your first holiday season in the holy city of Los Angeles, Calif.:

Everyone is a little extra stressed and angry. The decorations have already started to curl in the sun. All the copper wiring in the streetlamps has gone missing.

On Christmas Eve, the Santa Anas will blow strong and spooky. Hey, is that a reindeer or a rat?

If it rains, frantic drivers will slide sideways into guardrails as if in a historic blizzard.

The holiday parties are glorious though, often held around pools or overlooking canyons full of buckwheat and sage.

There are lots of bears – glorious bears – wild creatures that will eat the greasy packaging in your trash. Leave a window open, they'll sleep in your bed.

The surrounding hills also contain bobcats, even lions. Yet, it's the mangy coyotes that run the place. They outnumber the cretins, the gang-bangers, the ingenues, the cars.

I keep spotting one with a gimpy leg while walking my dog. I first saw him two weeks ago, then spotted him again yesterday, and he is still scavenging, still in the game.

That's what we do here in L.A.: We scavenge, we pray, we move on. There is a sense of achievement to that.

At The Grove that night, we saw drone airshows. Robin Thicke sang something thumpy, then Cirque de Soleil bent itself into a hot-lathered pretzel, followed by a performance by Ryan Tedder, from One Republic. His appreciation for Irving Berlin made me smile.

See, you don't get that cozy feeling very often here in this frantic,



photo by Rodin Eckenroth, courtesy of Getty Images

Robin Thicke sang a thumpy Christmas song at The Grove.

sunbeaten city. But, if you try a little, you can make some silly seasonal memories, and clink glasses with total strangers, which is one of my all-time favorite things: to clink glasses with strangers in saloons and at parties, providing a micro-burst of germs and small-town camaraderie.

No, we don't do cozy very well in L.A., yet this is the town that gave the world all those warm-and-fuzzy Jimmy Stewart movies, and in lieu of anything else worth watching, these warm-and-fuzzy Hallmark movies.

By tradition and temperament, L.A. shuns warm and fuzzy, yet we've made a mint on it. So, obviously, it will continue till further notice.

Look, what does a misfit like me know about Christmas in L.A.?

And what do I really want? The love of a good woman, my grand-

kids with icicle lights beaming in their eyes. And my buddies laughing till we cry in some smelly out-of-the-way saloon in a nowhere part of town (Brentwood? Beverly Hills?).

As I explained to Bittner recently, I'd give up writing, but then where would I put all my aggression?

Because my real gift: clinking glasses, laughing like a leaf-blower at my pals' stupid jokes.

In the end, L.A. is proof that, no matter where you are, the holidays stir in us a certain joy and wistfulness ... and all the beautiful feelings that soup the human heart.

Isn't that worth celebrating?

Yep. Wherever you are.

Thanks to all those who kicked through the leaves with me during our Happy Hour Thanksgiving hike last weekend. And to Avignone's Tavern in Montrose for hosting us later.

Celebrate at The Ebell

Join us for a lineup of spirited festivities that'll check every jolly box off your seasonal to-do list. We can't wait to share the magic of the holiday season with you and yours.

The Annual Holiday Ball

Saturday, December 7, 2024 | 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Holiday Luncheon & Boutique

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 | 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Holiday Chorale Concert

Sunday, December 15, 2024 | 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Scan to discover the magic of the season!

www.EbellofLA.org/Holiday-Events

323-931-1277 x 131

Celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act!



The debut of Taiwan's magnificent hot air balloon "Mazu" in the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta on October 10, 2024.

This year, Taiwan and the U.S. celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) and commemorate decades of a robust and steadfast friendship! Join the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles (TECO-LA), in celebrating the TRA's historical significance and recap this year's achievements that further strengthen the Taiwan-U.S. partnership.

The TRA:

The TRA, enacted in 1979, remains one of the most significant legal frameworks between Taiwan and the US. The TRA has served as a cornerstone of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and the broader Indo-Pacific region, embodying a steadfast commitment to shared democratic values. Alongside the Six Assurances, the TRA provides clear guidance on the formulation and development of Taiwan-related policies in the U.S. and remains of paramount importance to the security, peace, stability, and prosperity of Taiwan and the region. The TRA has advanced Taiwan-U.S. exchanges in many areas and continues to support Taiwan in its role as a beacon of democracy, a prosperous and dynamic economy, and a technological powerhouse.

Celebrating Milestones Together with Community Leaders: The 45th anniversary of the TRA was marked by the Forum on U.S.-Taiwan-China Trilateral Relations in Los Angeles, hosted by TECO-LA in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Center and the Burkle Center for International Relations at UCLA. This event brought together policymakers, academics, and leaders to discuss and reflect on the TRA's legacy and impact. The event underscored Taiwan's critical role as a U.S. partner in promoting peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

The forum explored the past, present, and future of U.S.-Taiwan relations under the TRA, inviting guests, including elected officials, scholars, and community leaders, to discuss the challenges and opportunities for further collaboration, marking this event a resounding success.

Strengthening Cultural and Regional Connections: The TRA has also fostered close cultural, and people-to-people ties. Taiwan's vibrant culture was celebrated this year at the 2024 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, with the debut of the "Mazu" balloon. This stunning display deepened cultural ties between Taiwan and the U.S and showcased Taiwan's unique heritage to a captivated audience!

U.S. Historic Investment: The TRA has catalyzed economic cooperation, exemplified by the U.S.-Taiwan partnership in high-tech industries. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), a world leader in semiconductor production, is expanding its operations in Arizona with a \$6.6 billion subsidy under the CHIPS and Science Act. This investment will create tens of thousands of jobs and restore the U.S.'s competitive edge in semiconductor manufacturing, a sector vital to national security and economic resilience. U.S. President Joe Biden stated that this milestone will spur US\$65 billion in private investment and bring cutting-edge technology back to American soil.

Enhanced Defense Collaboration: Since its enactment, the TRA has laid the foundation for numerous advancements in U.S.-Taiwan relations. Under the framework of the TRA, the U.S. has conducted normalized arms sales to Taiwan, ensuring that the island maintains a credible self-defense capability. Just this year, the U.S. announced a \$1.988 billion arms package, including advanced radar systems and the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS). This marks the 17th arms sale under the Biden administration, reinforcing Taiwan's ability to deter threats and safeguard its democratic freedoms.

International Support: The TRA not only fortifies U.S.-Taiwan relations but also plays a critical role in maintaining regional peace. High-level dialogues, such as this year's U.S.-ROK Foreign and Defense (2+2) Ministerial Meeting in Washington, DC, reaffirm the commitment of the U.S. and allies to maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Joint statements by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin with their South Korean counterparts underscore the TRA's role in fostering peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Conclusion:

As Taiwan and the U.S. commemorate the 45th anniversary of the TRA, they reaffirm their commitment to the principles enshrined in the act. Taiwan's flourishing democracy, innovative economy, and contributions to global peace and stability are a testament to the enduring relevance of the TRA.

In the global arena, Taiwan has become a key partner in addressing shared challenges. From advancing public health and climate solutions to contributing to global supply chain resilience, Taiwan's role as a responsible stakeholder in the international community has only grown. The TRA has ensured that Taiwan's voice is heard on the world stage, despite challenges to its diplomatic status.

The TRA is a living framework that continues to evolve, adapting to the changing dynamics of the Taiwan-U.S. partnership. As we look to the future, the TRA will remain a beacon of hope, resilience, and cooperation, ensuring that Taiwan and the U.S. can face challenges together while building a more peaceful and prosperous world. Cheers to 45 years!

Paid by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ROC (Taiwan)



TECO-LA, the Asia Pacific Center and the Burkle Center for International Relations of UCLA held the "Forum on US-Taiwan-China Trilateral Relations: Commemorating the 45th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act." Director General Amino Chi of TECO-LA gave his remarks (right).



(Right to left) Professor Minxin Pei, internationally renowned expert on Cross-Strait issues; Director General Amino Chi of TECO-LA; UCLA Ronald W. Burkle Center for International Relations Director Kal Raustiala; Professor David Kang, Director of the Center for International Studies and Korea Studies Institute at USC; UCLA Professor Alex Wang; UCLA Asia Pacific Center Director Min Zhou; and art collector Stefan Simchowicz joined the forum.

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WeHo celebrates holiday season with art and poetry

The city of West Hollywood is celebrating the winter holiday season with art and poetry throughout December.

The celebration includes a specially commissioned artwork by Daniel Sulzberg on display on street pole banners and in digital transit shelters throughout West Hollywood, a holiday poem writing workshop and a Holiday Poetry Hotline by West Hollywood City poet laureate Jen Cheng.

The street pole banners featuring Sulzberg's artwork and artworks from former years are on display along Santa Monica Boulevard, Melrose Avenue, La Brea Avenue, Fairfax Avenue and San Vicente Boulevard. Sulzberg, who was chosen through an open call for artists, is an award-winning illustrator who specializes in whimsical, colorful and detailed illustrations. He was a resident of West Hollywood for nearly two decades and fell in love with the city's diverse mix of cultures and eclectic characters. He has been a screenwriter for the CW

Network's "Smallville," a creative director for Red Bull Cartoon and has worked with the New York Times, Google, Nike, Facebook, DreamWorks, Major League Soccer and "Sesame Street." Sulzberg is also a published children's book illustrator.

Cheng, who has written a new poem for the holiday season titled "Winter Memories," will host a Holiday Poetry Hotline and related writing workshop in December. Through Dec. 31, Cheng invites the community to call the Holiday Poetry Hotline at (310)853-3952. Pre-recorded poems are available 24 hours and the hotline will feature "poetry prescriptions" to respond to common ailments and winter blues. The hotline features poems by Cheng as well as former West Hollywood poet laureates Steven Reigns, Kim Dower, Charles Flowers and Brian Sonia-Wallace.

Join Cheng on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 2-4 p.m. for a poetry writing workshop, drawing inspiration from the curated "poetry prescrip-



photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood
Artwork by Daniel Sulzberg decorates street poles in West Hollywood.

tions." The workshop will be held at the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. and is open to adults all levels of experience and ability. RSVPs are required by visiting weho.org/community/arts-and-culture/holiday.

Cheng will also host a live call-in event on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 2-5 p.m., where callers can enjoy live readings from the curated list of "poetry prescriptions" or request a custom poem written for them.

For information, visit weho.org.



photo courtesy of the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce

Du-par's Restaurant and owner Frances Tario will host the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber annual holiday breakfast. Realtor and board member Portia Park, left, joined Tario at the event last year.

Greater Miracle Mile Chamber celebrates the holidays at Du-par's

The Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce will gather at its annual Holiday Breakfast on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 8-9:45 a.m. at Du-Par's Restaurant and Bakery at the Original Farmers Market.

Join chamber members for a joyful holiday celebration with a delicious breakfast hosted by Frances Tario, owner of Du-Par's. The event benefits the annual toy drive held by Big Sunday, which has opened an online registry where people can select and donate toys and gift cards. To donate, visit [\[sundayorg.wufoo.com/forms/z1myi6nd16nk70z\]\(http://sundayorg.wufoo.com/forms/z1myi6nd16nk70z\).](http://big-</p>
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The chamber breakfast tickets are \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members. Du-Par's at the Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 Third St. To RSVP, by email info@miraclemilechamber.org, or visit miraclemilechamber.org/event/holiday-breakfast-at-du-pars.

Big Sunday is hosting a Holiday Singalong on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 3-5 p.m. at 1741 N. Cherokee Ave. For information, visit bigsunday.org/get-involved/holidayparty2024.

Donations wanted for holiday drive

The city of West Hollywood and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station are partnering to give back to people in need during the holiday season.

The 35th annual West Hollywood Toy and Food Drive will accept monetary donations online via ActiveNet through Sunday, Dec. 15, with the goal of providing as many families as possible with toys and holiday gift cards. To make a donation, visit weho.org/holidaydrive.

The cost to help one family is \$100. New unwrapped toys are needed and gift cards in \$25 denominations to retailers such as Pavilions, Ralphs, Trader Joe's, or Target will help families during the holiday season.

Toy collection bins are located at the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center (second floor lobby and fifth floor pool), 8750 El Tovar Place; Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.; West Hollywood City Hall, 8300

Santa Monica Blvd.; the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, 780 N. San Vicente Blvd.; West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.; and the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, 8272 Santa Monica Blvd. Several West Hollywood hotels will also have collection bins including 1 Hotel, 8490 Sunset Blvd.; the West Hollywood Edition Hotel, 9040 Sunset Blvd., and the Chateau Marmont, 8221 Sunset Blvd., located just outside West Hollywood's border. For information, visit weho.org/holidaydrive.

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Pink's turns the dial to K-EARTH 101 to spread holiday cheer

■ New hot dog named in honor of radio station

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Pink's Hot Dogs and K-EARTH 101 have teamed up for a tasty addition to the menu – a stretch dog topped with chili, chopped tomatoes, guacamole, grilled onions, lettuce and three strips of bacon.

Owner Richard Pink said he created the new K-EARTH 101 hot dog after appearing on the radio station's Gary Bryan Morning Show. The Pink family joined Bryan and his co-host Lisa Stanley at the stand on Dec. 2 to debut the new dog. Pink said the K-EARTH 101 hot dog, which costs \$10.11, is a permanent addition to the menu. He also made a \$2,500 contribution to K-EARTH 101's "Knock Knock It's Christmas" charity drive, which will benefit a family in need during the holiday season. Bryan thanked the Pink family – Richard, his wife Gloria and sister Beverly Pink-Wolfe – for their contribution.

"Knock Knock It's Christmas" has been going on for 10 years. Every year, people nominate families or individuals that are having a tough time at Christmas, and we get together with the audience," Bryan said. "The important thing is we all do it together. It's an opportunity for everybody to collectively help a family."

The Pink family donates to numerous charitable causes, and contributing to "Knock Knock It's Christmas" was a natural fit, Pink said.

"We love Gary and Lisa at K EARTH 101, my favorite station. They're always so kind to us, inviting us to the station to talk about our history," Pink said. "And every time there's a charity event, they say, 'Come on in and talk to us about it.' Not only 'Knock Knock It's

Christmas,' but we've [supported] the USO many times over the years, and we're just honored to be part of the K-EARTH family."

The public is encouraged to donate to the "Knock Knock It's Christmas" campaign through Dec. 18 by visiting audacity.com/kearth101 or texting "knock" to 20357. A different family is nominated each year to receive donations. The family, which was not identified to preserve privacy, is composed of a 33-year-old single mother with five girls ages 6-16. Formerly homeless, the family was

nominated by a teacher of one of the young girls.

Bryan said he enjoys dining at Pink's and said the K-EARTH 101 hot dog is a tremendous recognition for the radio station.

"There's no bigger honor in L.A., seriously, than to have a hot dog made in your honor by Pink's," Bryan added. "I have relatives around the country who come to L.A. and say, 'we've got people who tell us about this one restaurant we have to go to.' I say, 'what could it be, Musso and Frank, Spago?' They say, 'Pink's,' and I say, 'Fantastic, the best restaurant in L.A. That's where I want to go.'"

Pink's Hot Dogs is located at 709 N. La Brea Ave. For information, visit pinkshollywood.com.



photo by Edwin Folven

K-EARTH 101's Gary Bryan, second from left, and Lisa Stanley, center, joined Beverly Pink-Wolfe, left, and Richard and Gloria Pink to debut the new hot dog.

Sixth Frieze eyes February event

Frieze has announced the initial details of Frieze Los Angeles 2025, with the sixth edition set to return to the historic Santa Monica Airport from Feb. 20-23. The fair will be housed in a bespoke structure designed by Kulapat Yantrasast's architectural studio WHY, offering a thoughtfully crafted environment that enhances the visitor experience. Once again, the fair will serve as a centerpiece for a week that celebrates Los Angeles as a global cultural hub, showcasing its reach and influence on the international art scene. With global lead partner, Deutsche Bank, the fair continues its legacy of celebrating artistic excellence on an international scale.

"As a major art center, Los Angeles plays an influential role in the global art scene," Christine Messineo, director of Americas at Frieze, said. "Frieze Los Angeles 2025 will serve as a key platform in the city's dynamic cultural landscape, celebrating creativity, innovation and community. This year, at Santa Monica Airport, we will bring together a stellar roster of galleries and artists that reflect the vibrancy and diversity of Los Angeles and beyond."

Early-bird tickets are available on frieze.com. The Santa Monica Airport is located at 3233 Donald Douglas Loop S., Santa Monica.

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RESTAURANT NEWS

Pop-up offers a sinister twist on Christmas

Krampus' Cove, the holiday pop-up concept from the dynamic duo behind the award-winning Halloween pop-up bar Black Lagoon, is back in Los Angeles for its third year at a new location.

Founded by seasoned bar industry professionals Erin Hayes and Kelsey Ramage, Krampus' Cove offers a unique spin on traditional holiday festivities with a dark twist. The pop-up pays homage to the eerie legend of Krampus, the horned figure from Alpine folklore notorious for scaring naughty children. Visitors will also encounter mischievous elves and sinister snowmen. The venue is filled with disturbingly festive decorations, including black Christmas trees adorned with doll heads, skeletons, skulls, and faux severed body parts. The atmosphere is further enhanced

by a playlist featuring eerie versions of Christmas classics. The pop-up is located at Cole's French Dip from Dec. 5-22, located at 118 E. Sixth St. For information, visit krampuscovepopup.com

'Slay the Night' with substance-free drag bingo

The Safer West Hollywood Coalition presents the "Slay the Night: Holiday Drag Bingo" event in Plummer Park on Dec. 6 from 6-8 p.m. This substance-free event is free and open to the public. Attendees can play bingo to earn free prizes and watch exciting drag performances while members of the Safer WeHo Coalition hand out free harm reduction resources and materials. The event will also have a free Naloxone (Narcan) training demonstration, giving attendees the knowledge to save lives in the event of a life-threatening opioid over-

dose. For information, visit instagram.com/saferwehocoalition. Plummer Park is located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

Warm up this December at The London

Beginning Thursday, Dec. 5 and available Thursday-Sunday from 5-8 p.m. throughout the month, guests at The London West Hollywood at Beverly Hills can immerse themselves in the holiday spirit with the Baby It's Cold Outside happy hour and cabana experience. The unforgettable rooftop happy hour blends festive elegance and panoramic views for a one-of-a-kind holiday outing with live DJ performances and an exquisite menu crafted by executive chef Anthony Keene. Guests can reserve a cabana and choose from three distinctive pairing experiences. The "Velvet & Luxury" is a cabernet and caviar soiree featuring a curated selection of cabernet paired with escargots, French cheeses, lobster bisque and



photo courtesy of Crustacean Beverly Hills

Through Dec. 22, guests can enjoy a special holiday meal.

Crustacean offers special December prix fixe

Crustacean Beverly Hills, part of the award-winning House of AN, is a celebrated dining destination renowned for its innovative modern Vietnamese cuisine. Located in the heart of Beverly Hills, the restaurant offers guests an unparalleled dining experience. Helmed by the legendary An family, Crustacean is famous for its signature dishes, including the iconic garlic noodles and Dungeness Crab, crafted with the

utmost dedication to quality and tradition.

Crustacean is open for brunch, lunch and dinner with new menu items for the winter season. It also has a special holiday lunch prix fixe (\$58, 3-course) and a holiday dinner prix fixe (\$98, 5-course) that is available until Dec. 22.

For information, visit crustaceanbh.com. Crustacean Beverly Hills is located at 468 N. Bedford Drive.

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macarons. "Obsidiana Nights" is a tequila and flavors of Mexico journey highlighting Casa Obsidiana with delectable Mexican dishes such as queso fundido, taco selections and molcajete. "Bubbles and Decadence" is a champagne and caviar affair offering a choice of JCB Caviar sparkling wine with caviar hors d'oeuvres, a seafood tower and handcrafted chocolates.

Cabana packages start at \$800 for four guests and include select bottles, bites and gift bags. Reservations are required and can be booked via OpenTable at opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=30859&restref=30859&experienceId=384208. For information, visit thelondonwesthollywood.com. The London West Hollywood at Beverly Hills is located at 1020 N. San Vicente Blvd.

Lowe's mixes up seasonal cheer

This holiday season, the mixologists at H2 Kitchen & Bar inside of the iconic Loews

Hollywood Hotel are shaking things up with two new hand-crafted cocktails that blend festive cheer with Hollywood glamour. Guests and locals alike can toast to the season in style with these holiday-inspired sips in the heart of Tinseltown.

Santa's Sleigh is a red-carpet-ready holiday cocktail featuring Hendrick's Gin, St. Germain, lemon juice, cranberry juice and topped with sugar-frosted cranberries.

Winter Bliss offers a star-worthy choice for those looking to celebrate without the booze. This zero-proof sip, a holiday spin on the brand's Free Spirited by Loews Hotels bar program, is made of Seedlip Spice 94, apple cider, lime juice and Fever Tree ginger beer with a mint garnish for a fresh and festive touch.

Surrounded by holiday decor, toast to the season with these festive cocktails in the heart of Hollywood now through Jan. 1.

Lowe's Hollywood Hotel is located at 1755 Highland Ave. For information, visit loewshotels.com/hollywood-hotel.

See page 16

Kimpton debuts 'Wicked' cocktail

To celebrate the debut of "Wicked" on the big screen and its live performance at the nearby Pantages Theatre, which kicked off this week, Kimpton Everly Hollywood has introduced the "Green Elixir," a cocktail crafted with a nod to the beloved story. The cocktail is available on the menu at Written Hand – the hip Hollywood hotel's new Mediterranean culinary concept that has transformed Ever Bar.

Inspired by the color of Elphaba herself, the cocktail is a blend of Ketel One Vodka, Crème de Menthe, Crème de Cacao and oat milk, offering a creamy, mint-chocolate sip. Priced at \$20, the "Green Elixir" is a must-try for theatergoers and cocktail enthusiasts. Conveniently located just steps from the Pantages Theatre, Written Hand provides the ideal spot for a pre-show toast or a post-performance nightcap. The "Green Elixir" is available



photo courtesy of Kimpton Everly Hollywood

The "Green Elixir" pays tribute to Elphaba.

through Feb. 2. For information, visit everlyhotelhollywood.com. Kimpton Everly Hollywood is located at 1800 Argyle Ave.

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Jingle all the way at the Original Farmers Market

Celebrate the holiday season at the Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax, with a lineup of free festive events the whole family will enjoy.

The festivities kick off on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 5:30-8 p.m., with the Salvation Army's Kettle Kick-Off, a joyful event featuring live mariachis, sing-a-longs, tributes to community leaders, special guests and free hot chocolate on the Farmers Market Plaza.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., experience the first

VinylFest, a one-of-a-kind celebration of vinyl music, DJ culture and rock 'n' roll. Music lovers can shop vinyl from vendors such as Amoeba Music, enjoy DJ sets on the AlphaTheta stage curated by dublab, try out Stern Pinball machines and record their own song in the Jail Guitar Doors mobile studio.

Stop by Dylan's Candy Bar on Sunday, Dec. 8, for the L.A. Love & Leashes Dog Adoption Event. Meet adoptable pets and find a furry companion.

The Farmers Market will hold the annual Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree holiday celebration on Friday, Dec. 13, from 6-9 p.m. The lively festive event features performances by The Holly Belles, The MoonRays and the 1990s-2000s cover band y2k2k! Enjoy a themed photo booth, temporary tattoos and body art, free hot chocolate and gift wrapping (donations encouraged) by the Salvation Army. Bring a new unwrapped toy to donate to the Salvation Army toy drive and receive a sweet gift from Dylan's Candy Bar.

The Farmers Market celebrates Hanukkah on Thursday, Dec. 19, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Join a celebration on the Market Plaza with JLA featuring arts and crafts, musical performances and a giant Lego menorah. A special menorah lighting ceremony will be held on Jan. 1 at 4:30 p.m. on the last night of Hanukkah, hosted with Miracle Mile Chabad. DJ Shalom will spin Hanukkah tunes at the event.

Visitors can also immerse themselves in the holiday spirit from Dec. 20-22 with traditional carolers roaming the market from noon-3 p.m. The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. For information, visit farmersmarketla.com.



photo courtesy of the Original Farmers Market

The Original Farmers Market is hosting a variety of events celebrating the holidays, starting with the Salvation Army's Kettle Kick-Off on Dec. 5.

From page 15

WeHo gets a taste of New York for one night only

The West Hollywood EDITION has announced the famed New York cocktail bar Shinji's will be taking over the Lobby Bar on Dec. 10, in collaboration with Punch and Ketel One Vodka. Acclaimed for their creative yet approachable creations, the one-night pop-up will bring a selection of specialties from the award-winning bar, which is the sister concept to Michelin-starred Noda. Guest bartender from Shinji's, Rafael Alvarez, will be manning the Lobby Bar from 7-10 p.m., to shake up imaginative and complex favorites from the Flatiron bar with housemade inclusions like Beeswax Vodka and Chocolate Cherry Campari. Making its highly anticipated return to the West Coast, Shinji's will attract lovers of whimsy and high-proof, inventive beverages during this limited event at the Sunset Strip hotel. Beverages will be available for \$24 each. For information, visit editionhotels.com/weho. The West Hollywood EDITION is located at 9040 W. Sunset Blvd.

Mirate brings the holiday cheer to Los Feliz

It's the most wonderful time of year at Mirate in Los Feliz. The award-winning bar is teaming up with Zapote Bar at Rosewood Mayakoba in Mexico on two holiday activations beverage fans and foodies won't want to miss.

All December long, enjoy festive cocktails. For this pop-up, award-winning beverage directors Max Reis of Mirate and Joshua Monaghan of Zapote Bar have co-created a menu featuring 4 festive cocktails, including the Apapacho (Don Fulano anejo, vermouth rosso, coffee, heavy cream, nutmeg, pinole) and the El Emperador

(Sonajero pomegranate ponche, green chile, parsley, walnut ice cream). These limited-time cocktails will be available beginning the weekend of Dec. 7 through New Year's.

Additionally, the Barbacoa Feast will be held on Dec. 8. Mirate's

culinary director Ronnie Muñoz is collaborating with Zapote Bar's executive chef Edgar Chavez on a special taco tasting menu, available for one-night-only. During this ticketed event, guests can expect a legendary multi-course Heritage Breed pork taco tasting featuring Filipino



photo courtesy of Bowlero

Lucky Strike's Beverly Hills will be housed inside the Beverly Center.

Pins lined up for new Lucky Strike location

Bowlero Corp., a global leader in location-based entertainment, will open its Lucky Strike Beverly Hills bowling and entertainment destination on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 8500 Beverly Blvd, Suite 136.

In the heart of the iconic Beverly Center, the high-profile venue boasts 22 glow-in-the-dark bowling lanes with giant video screen, an upscale bar featuring signature cocktails, over 60 arcade games with a redemption store for prizes and VIP services with craft dining options.

Designed to be an immersive destination for events and social outings, its layout combines old Hollywood glamour with modern thrills to create an intersection of sports and entertainment for a range of guests, including A-list celebrities.

The opening of Lucky Strike Beverly Hills is part of Bowlero's broader expansion across the U.S., introducing audiences to a modern twist on bowling, dining and gaming.

For information, visit luckystrike.com/location/lucky-strike-beverly-hills.

longaniza, Chef Dirk's world famous baby backs, roasted keken cochinita pibil and Lechon Confitado tacos, followed by an Asiento Flan. Tickets for the tasting menu are \$62.40 per person, with an optional \$40 cocktail pairing featuring Reis and Monaghan's fes-

tive cocktails. Tickets are available now and can be purchased via Resy at resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/mirate/events/mayakoba-barbacoa-x-mirate-2024-12-08. For information, visit mirate.la. Mirate is located at 1712 N. Vermont Ave.

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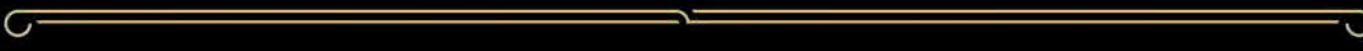
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LAUSD Board commits to land acknowledgement

The Los Angeles Unified Board of Education has honored the original inhabitants of Los Angeles and the continued presence of the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians and the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. In a resolution authored by Board Member Kelly Gonez, the board unanimously voted to create a forthcoming land acknowledgment and explore additional steps to reckon with the past, deepen current partnerships with the tribes and support student learning on the history and culture of native tribes.

“It is our responsibility as a board to empower our students with an accurate and complete understanding of our history, including by acknowledging the histories of the first peoples of Los Angeles,” Gonez said. “We must reckon with the past harms of colonization, genocide and cultural erasure as well as honor the continued presence of the San

Gabriel Band of Mission Indians and the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and deepen our commitment to collaboration. This resolution is an important step in that continued journey for the collective benefit of the students and communities we serve.”

“As the historic tribe of the greater Los Angeles basin, the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians Gabrieleno-Tongva, being acknowledged is not just about recognition, it’s about honoring the enduring presence and contributions of our ancestors to this land. This is a step in healing and hope for our ancestors to be acknowledged, our tribe to be visible and for future generations to know we are here,” said Chief Anthony Morales, tribal chairman of the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians Gabrieleno-Tongva. “Our identity, culture and rights are preserved for future generations and we are grate-

ful to LAUSD for this acknowledgment. LAUSD has been a great partner in education making a difference for children and we look forward to the ongoing partnership in education.”

“In order to continue educating and understanding the terrible history that was passed down to California tribes, LAUSD is embracing the local historical tribes of Los Angeles,” said Rudy Ortega, president of the Fernandeno Tataviam Band Mission Indians. “Today, our two tribes – the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians Gabrieleno/Tongva and the Fernandeno Tataviam Band Mission Indians – express the truth and healing, and we look to the future rather than dwelling on the past. Once more, I commend LAUSD board members for this wonderful land acknowledgement.”

All board members joined as cosponsors of the resolution.

Lieu recognizes young winners of Congressional App Challenge

U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu (D-Los Angeles County) hosted his seventh annual Congressional App Challenge reception on Dec. 2. Twenty students from 12 schools submitted 14 original apps for consideration.

The winning app, NeuroGaze submitted by brothers Markenever and Mikenever Dai from Harvard Westlake School, is a web-based platform to help detect ADHD

through analysis of a user’s eye movements.

“I am honored to have hosted another fantastic App Challenge reception to recognize our talented students,” Lieu said. “This year’s judges were amazed by the innovative apps submitted to address mental health and wellness, fire and ocean safety, accessibility issues, educational opportunities and more. As the congressional representative

for Silicon Beach, UCLA, Santa Monica College, Loyola Marymount University and L.A. Air Force Base, I know that STEM education and innovation will power the future. Congratulations to all of our winners.”

The Congressional App Challenge is a national competition aimed at encouraging high school students to learn how to code and create their own applications. Each year, middle and high school students who live or attend school in Lieu’s congressional district are encouraged to apply. The first-place winner’s app is eligible to be highlighted in the United States Capitol Building and featured on house.gov. The winning students are also invited to the House of Code Reception in Washington, D.C., to celebrate their accomplishments.

The second-place winner was Quizme by Sophie Ma, of Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences, and third-place honors went to KYMY (Keep Your Mind Young) by Yanga Booker, of Culver City High School. Fieldz, by Mateo Rodriguez of Culver City High School, and RipScan, by David Unatin and Danny Unatin of Manhattan Beach Middle School, received honorable mention.

Lieu is a member of the committees on Foreign Affairs and Judiciary, and serves as vice chair of the House Democratic Caucus. For information, visit lieu.house.gov.



photo courtesy of U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu’s office

U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu, center, joined Congressional App Challenge winners Markenever Dai, left, and Mikenever Dai at a Dec. 2 reception.

The holidays light up Los Angeles Zoo

“L.A. Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow” presented by The Angela Collier Foundation invites guests to immerse themselves in a dazzling world of lantern sculptures and lights, with exciting new elements that will delight and entertain the entire family through Jan. 5. Journey through landscapes of

alpine forests, rainforests and rivers, all illuminated by spectacular sculptural lights showcasing large-scale animals and vibrant nature-themed wonders. With tickets starting at \$18 and free parking, L.A. Zoo Lights offers an affordable holiday adventure that is not to be missed. L.A. Zoo Lights runs through Jan. 5.



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Zoo

Visitors are invited to wear pajamas from Dec. 6-8 at L.A. Zoo Lights.

New this year is a festive holiday section featuring immersive lights and displays, photos with Santa and spectacular holiday photo opportunities. From Dec. 6-8, guests are encouraged to wear pajamas for an inaugural slumber party-style event, perfect for families and friends to create lasting memories. Guests can ride the carousel and enjoy warming treats like churros and hot cocoa, for an additional fee. Those 21 and older can enjoy beer, wine and spiked hot cocoa available every night and cash bars Friday-Sunday.

Tickets start at \$18 for children and \$29 for adults.

For a full lineup of events and tickets, visit lazoo.org/plan-your-visit/special-experiences/zoo-lights/?utm_medium=Referral&utm_source=lazoolights.org&utm_campaign=domain_forward.

The L.A. Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive.



photo courtesy of the IHADLA

The “I Have A Dream” Foundation-Los Angeles’s annual gala supports the organization’s education and enrichment programs.

‘Dream Big Gala’ supports programs for youth

The “I Have A Dream” Foundation-Los Angeles is holding “The Dream Big Gala 2024” on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. at the Skirball Cultural Center.

As the organization’s premier fundraising event of the year, the gala plays a crucial role in securing resources necessary to support long-term, transformative programs for youth in under-resourced communities. The “I Have A Dream” Foundation-Los Angeles is dedicated to empowering young people to achieve their full potential by providing comprehensive support. From a young age, the foundation promotes education and career success through academic support, mentoring and parent engagement. Funds from “The Dream Big Gala” directly support IHADLA’s programs, making a difference in the lives of young people.

“We are thrilled to host our biggest event of the year,” execu-

tive director Chaznae N. Walker said. “The Dream Big Gala celebrates the remarkable accomplishments of our students and honors the inspiring community leaders who encourage them to reach for the stars.”

The Dream Big Gala will feature an awards ceremony recognizing outstanding local leaders whose dedication and achievements inspire IHADLA students. The event will also celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of youth served by the foundation, highlighting their resilience and determination in overcoming challenges. The gala will unite philanthropists, community leaders, sponsors and advocates dedicated to educational equity and youth empowerment.

Tickets to the gala start at \$500. The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd. For information, visit ihadla.org/dream-big-gala-2024.

Cathedral Chapel School

Invites Preschoolers (age 3-6) to

Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 15, 2024
10:30am – 12:00pm
755 S. Cochran Avenue, LA, CA 90036

Bring your little ones to enjoy a special breakfast with Santa and get your Santa photo!
Kindly RSVP by December 7.
Email cathedralchapelpto@gmail.com or scan the QR Code to the right!

I watched four Netflix Christmas films so you don't have to

Season's greetings herald hark-ers. It's that time of year. Once more, I dove into Netflix's schmaltzy holiday films. I volunteered as a tribute so you don't have to suffer the Pentatonix's bad acting, a Christmas-themed striptease and a sexy snowman. But hey, if that's the thing, dig in. Ham it up, enjoy and behold how a long scarf can effectively cover all the important bits.

"Meet Me Next Christmas"

Layla (Christina Milian) wasn't

ready for an airport meet-cute last year, but the mysterious hunk did pose an enticing reunion. If she's available in a year, maybe they'll run into each other at a Pentatonix concert.

Now single, she wants that fairy-tale connection and hopes concierge Teddy (Devale Ellis) can help. The pair scour New York City for the last ticket while that a cappella group confirms to spectators that perfect pitch enjoys little crossover with screen acting.

Easily the worst of the bunch, "Meet Me Next Christmas" presents the worst character of all four



photo courtesy of Netflix

Ian Harding, Lindsay Lohan and Jon Rudnitsky star in "Our Little Secret."

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

films. Top that with some confusing melodramatics that send mixed messages. Perhaps the strangest exchange occurs when Layla must buy a one-of-kind purse but instead allows a father and son to purchase it for their wife who recently overcame an ailment. Heartwarming enough until the father notes the price will hinder his ability to pay bills. So he loves his wife enough to make a major purchase despite impending medical bills and rent. Got it. Let's move on.

"The Merry Gentlemen"

Did you ever wonder if Chippendales did Christmas specials? "The Merry Gentlemen" boldly declares "ho ho ho yes!" Every small town just needs some chiseled abs and electronic Christmas tunes to save a struggling business.

After Broadway dancer Ashley (Britt Robertson) loses her enviable job, she returns home for the holidays (and indefinitely) only to learn her parents might lose the bar that's been a community staple. Times they are a changing, so Ashley concocts a half-cocked plan to recruit local hunks, including carpenter Luke ("One Tree Hill's" Chad Michael Murray), to dance in special events that will hopefully return back rent. There's no nudity but plenty of cringe to go around

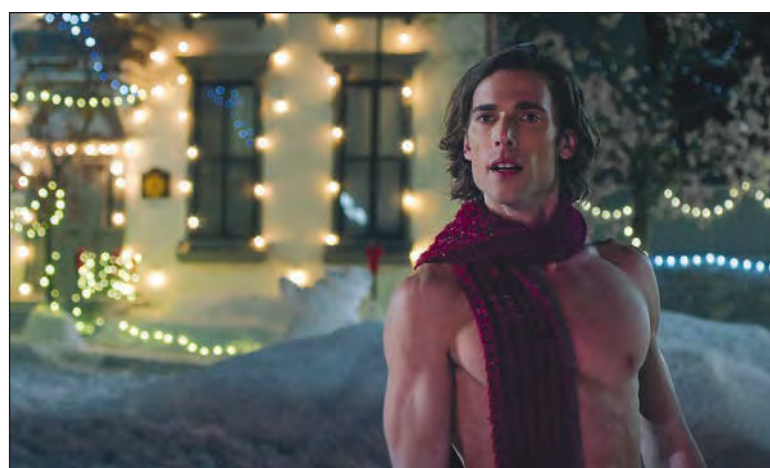


photo courtesy of Netflix

Dustin Milligan, as Jack, heats things up in "Hot Frosty."

"Hot Frosty"

Hallmark royalty Lacey Chabert only delivered one Christmas film for her native network this year to gift Netflix with a sexy snowman. A magic scarf transforms a detailed snow sculpture into Jack (Dustin Milligan), a kind but naive dude who turns the town upside down.

Comedy actors Craig Robinson and Joe Lo Truglio lighten the mood, but the silliness of a film called "Hot Frosty" is entirely aware of what it's doing and what it hopes to accomplish. The outcome is simple: the perfect man can only exist if he was a snowman first.

"Our Little Secret"

Lindsay Lohan is back with her third Hallmark-adjacent film, the second this year alone. Love that for her. And hey, the result ain't entirely unwatchable.

Childhood sweethearts ended on terrible terms. A decade later, they've moved on, only to find they're currently dating siblings. To keep the peace at a holiday family reunion, they keep their shared history a secret.

In better hands, this need not be throwaway viewing. Plenty of familiar faces – Kristin Chenoweth, Tim Meadows, Chris Parnell and Henry Czerny – and co-lead Ian Harding keep the story from derailing. But it's standard quota filmmaking in the end. Cute, trite, corny and giving humor the ol' college try.

These four aren't the worst Christmas flicks to grace the screen, but if you want something a bit more heartwarming, Hulu's "Nutcrackers" starring Ben Stiller and Jack Black's "Dear Santa" on Paramount+ are steps up from these options, if you need more than corn.

El Capitan welcomes 'Mufasa'

Experience the epic story of how an orphan became a king in Disney's newest adventure, "Mufasa: The Lion King" at the El Capitan Theatre Dec. 20-Jan. 5 in Dolby Vision 3D. Become immersed in the world of Mufusa, plus before the movie, experience the all-new roaring light and projection curtain show and take pictures at the photo ops.

Guests can be among the first to see "Mufasa: The Lion King" with an opening night screening on Thursday Dec. 19 at 7:15pm. Tickets are \$40 and include a collectible tin with popcorn, fountain

drink and event credential.

A fan event screening for Disney's "Mufasa: The Lion King" will take place at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 20. Tickets are \$60 and include a "Mufasa: The Lion King" cap, tumbler, popcorn, fountain drink and event credential.

A special Pride of Lions Pack is available for \$140 and includes four tickets, four small popcorns and four drinks. Specialty concession items will be available for purchase for ticketed guests, while supplies last.

Daily showtimes for Disney's "Mufasa: The Lion King" Dec. 20-

Jan. 5 in Dolby Vision 3D are 9:30 a.m., 12:45 p.m., 4:00 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Sensory Inclusive Screenings (shown in 3D) are available Dec. 30 at 7:15 p.m. and Jan 5 at 12:45 p.m. Open caption screenings (shown in 2D) are available Dec. 26 at 7:15 p.m. and Jan. 4 at 12:45 p.m. Spanish dubbed screenings (shown in 2D) are available Jan. 2 at 7:15 p.m. and Jan. 5 at 4 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now at elcapitantheatre.com and fandango.com/el-capitan-theatre-acon/theater-page. All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$22 for children and seniors.

The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd.

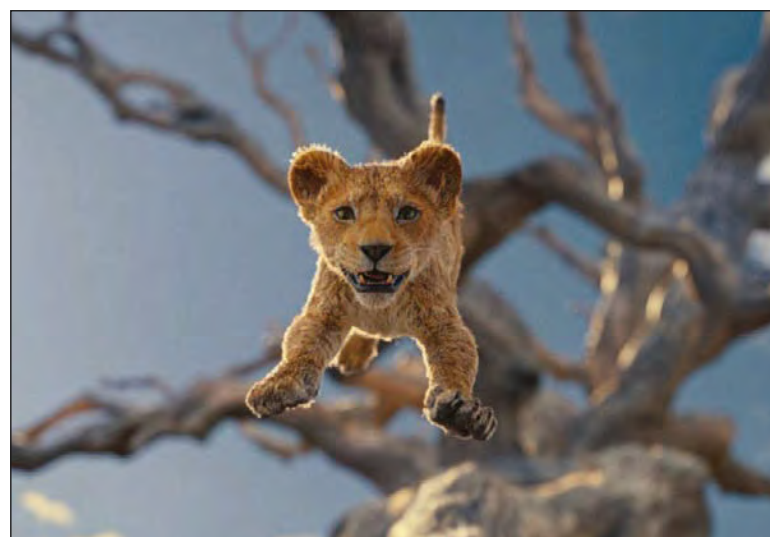


photo courtesy of Disney

Dive into "The Lion King" prequel tracing the history of Mufasa.

TCM's 16th festival scheduled for April

Turner Classic Movies' signature fan-favorite event, TCM Classic Film Festival, will return to Hollywood, CA on April 24-27. Movie lovers will once again descend upon Hollywood Boulevard for one-of-a-kind programming set within the theme "Grand Illusions: Fantastic

Worlds on Film." Films showcased will include enchanted worlds of fantasy and stories beyond belief – from myths and magical creatures to ghostly encounters and travels through time. The greatest achievements in cinematic imagination will be on display.

Leading up to April's annual

event, TCM will expand its festival footprint, presenting "TCM Classic Film Festival: New York Pop-Up x 92NY" in collaboration with The 92nd Street Y, New York. The one-day event will include three different programs, on Jan. 25. The full line-up and on-sale information will be announced at a later date at 92ny.org/tcm.

"Every year, the team at Turner Classic Movies pulls out all the stops to bring movie lovers a festival that highlights the very best in classic cinema and allow us to come together to celebrate the artists we love," Mike De Luca and Pamela Abdy, Co-Chairs & CEOs, Warner Bros. Motion Picture Group said. "The 2025 edition will again be a must attend event for filmgoers and we look forward to being with you all on opening night to kick-off another incredible lineup of movies."

Over four packed days and nights, attendees will be treated to an extensive lineup of great movies, appearances by legendary stars and filmmakers, fascinating presentations and panel discussions, special

events, and more. Continuing its longstanding legacy of film preservation, impactful storytelling, and memorable experiences curated for fans, the network has become a cornerstone in the film industry and created a community for film buffs alike. TCM Classic Film Festival attendees rated their 2024 experience as the highest in satisfaction in more than five years noting that they are likely to return and will recommend the festival to others.

During the festival, TCM's award-winning podcast, "The Plot Thickens," will host a special event ahead of the debut of its sixth season.

The festival's official hotel and central gathering point will be The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, located at 7000 Hollywood Blvd., which has a longstanding role in movie history and was the site of the first Academy Awards ceremony. The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel will also offer special rates for festival attendees. Passes for the 2025 TCM Classic Film Festival will go on sale Dec. 10 at noon and will include a special Early Bird discount window. For information, visit filmfestival.tcm.com.

'Nutcracker' graces the stage

The Marat Daukayev Theatre will present its widely acclaimed production of "The Nutcracker Ballet" at the Luckman Theatre at California State University on Saturday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 8.

The production of the Marat Daukayev "Nutcracker" celebrates Los Angeles' vibrant diversity. It features 105 talented students from across the city. These young dancers represent the various ethnic communities that together create the rich tapestry of Los Angeles.

From roles like Party Children, Ballerina Doll, Masha, and Fritz to Russian Girls/Boy Soloists, Sugar Plum, Prince and many more, the cast includes a wide range of talent (beginner to advanced) and ages, from kindergartners to seniors in high school, all culminating in a magical, acclaimed production.

For information, visit maratdaukayev.com. The Luckman Theatre is located at 5151 State University Drive.



photo courtesy of TCM

Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel will serve as the home base for the TCM Classic Film Festival in April 2025.

Israel Film Festival winners announced

The 36th Israel Film Festival in Los Angeles, the largest showcase for Israeli films in the United States, triumphantly returned after a two-year absence with sold-out screenings, the most sponsors in its history and over 7,000 attendees. The festival's audience choice award for best feature film was awarded to "Come Closer," written and directed by Tom Neshet in her feature film directorial debut and Israel's submission for the Academy Awards' Best International Film. The festival's audience choice award for best documentary was given to "The Child Within Me," directed by Yaniv Amoday and Eti Aneta and winner of the Ophir Award for best documentary film – Israel's equivalent of the Academy Award. The festival's audience choice award for best student film was awarded to "Girl No. 60427," directed by

Shulamit Lifshitz, a student at The Ma'aleh School of Film and Television in Jerusalem, and winner of the BAFTA Student Film Award for best live action film. The announcement was made by Meir Fenigstein, founder and executive director of the Israel Film Festival. "Los Angeles audiences thoroughly embraced the return of the Israel Film Festival which had been postponed due to the war in the Middle East. Residents from Santa Monica and Beverly Hills to the San Fernando Valley gathered to be entertained and celebrate Israeli culture, storytelling, its filmmakers and talent both behind and in front of the camera," Fenigstein said. "As our hearts ache for so many effected by the war, the sense of community was pervasive as people shared, learned and were reminded of all that Israel has to offer." During the festival's Nov. 13–26

run at six theatres located in Beverly Hills, West Los Angeles and Encino, over 40 features, documentaries and student short films from Israel's top seven film schools were screened. Twenty visiting Israeli filmmakers and talent conducted post-screening Q&As with audiences. Actress and producer Gal Gadot awarded the 2024 IFF Industry Leadership Award to Ynon Kreiz, Mattel chairman and CEO, who has transformed the company and spearheaded its global blockbuster film, "Barbie." The 2024 IFF Lifetime Achievement Award was given to actor and comedian Shaikha Levi, an Israeli comedian, singer and actor best known for his role in HaGashash HaHiver, at the festival's closing night ceremony. The 37th Israel Film Festival in Los Angeles will take place in November 2025. For information, visit israelfilmfestival.com.



photo courtesy of Jordan Strauss/Israel Film Festival
Mattel CEO Ynon Kreiz, actress Gal Gadot joined the festival's founder Meir Fenigstein to celebrate the event.

Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell Run returns to Griffith Park

The Arthritis Foundation is holding the 40th annual Jingle Bell Run on Sunday, Dec. 8, starting at 8 a.m. at Griffith Park. The event raises critical funds to support research for arthritis treatments and a cure. Zoetis is a national presenting sponsor at this year's event through its partnership with the Arthritis Foundation. Zoetis and the Arthritis Foundation have come together to raise awareness about the most common type of arthritis pain, known as osteoarthritis, or OA, with a special focus on how it affects animals. While OA among humans is well-known, many people are not aware of how common

OA is – and the pain it causes – in cats and dogs. The Jingle Bell Run includes a dog costume contest, and Zoetis will distribute pet products and educational resources on how to recognize signs and symptoms of OA in dogs and cats. Participants are encouraged to wear holiday clothing and jingle all the way to a cure. The run begins at the Crystal Springs Picnic Area at 4730 Crystal Springs Drive. Registration starts at 8 a.m., followed by the opening ceremony at 9 a.m. and the 5K run/walk at 9:15 a.m. For information, visit arthritis.org/events/jbr.



photo courtesy of the Arthritis Foundation

Join the annual Jingle Bell Run to raise awareness about treatment and cures for arthritis.

Presenters announced for 38th American Cinematheque Awards

Robert Downey Jr., Casey Affleck, Guillermo del Toro, Octavia Spencer, Aaron Sorkin and Sebastian Stan will take the stage as presenters at the 38th American Cinematheque Awards. As previously announced, Jessica Chastain will be the 38th recipient of the American Cinematheque Award and Charles Roven will receive The Power of Cinema Award, presented by Hill Valley. The award ceremony will take place on Friday, Dec. 6 at The Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills. The event is an annual fundraiser for the American Cinematheque, a nonprofit organization that continues its year-round programming at the Aero Theatre in Santa Monica, Los Feliz 3 Theatre in Los Feliz and Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.

telling have advanced the significance and social relevance of film in today's modern culture. Previous award honorees include Kevin Goetz and Screen Engine, Jason Blum and Blumhouse, Participant, Adam Aron/AMC Theatres, Dolby Laboratories, IMAX, Sue Kroll and Jeffrey Katzenberg. For information, visit americancinematheque.com.



photo courtesy of Marc J. Franklin

The Power of Cinema Award honors an individual or organization whose actions through story-

Screenwriter Aaron Sorkin will be one of the award ceremony's presenters.

Fountain Theatre welcomes new artistic director

The Fountain Theatre hosted a gala event Saturday night, Nov. 16, at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel to celebrate the legacy of retiring founding artistic director Stephen Sachs, during which the board of directors announced the selection of Raymond O. Caldwell as Sachs' successor. "After a deep, nationwide search, the board is confident that Mr. Caldwell is the leader who will burnish the Fountain's traditions and bring the creative and innovative energy needed to ensure a vibrant future," stated board chair Dorothy Wolpert. "We congratulate him and eagerly anticipate a thrilling partnership." Caldwell's appointment follows a national search led by an internal search committee comprised of members of the Fountain Theatre's board of directors. The Fountain engaged Artistic Logistics to assist with the ten-month search, application, and hiring process. Artistic Logistics partners with non-profit

arts organizations to facilitate strategic planning, implement structural changes and leadership succession grounded in an organization's values. "As an admirer of the work the Fountain Theatre has committed to for the past 34 years, I'm deeply honored and humbled to have been chosen to be the next artistic director," Caldwell said. "I'm excited to continue creating work that celebrates Los Angeles' incredible diversity, asks vital questions, provokes new ideas and inspires civic engagement and action. It's my belief that community-driven spaces like the Fountain Theatre are vital as we confront the greatest pandemic of our times: loneliness." Now living in Los Angeles, Caldwell has spent the last 16 years in Washington, D.C. as a director, writer, producer and educator. He is the 2023 SDCF Zelda Fichandler Award recipient for his creativity and deep investments in

the community. He has received Helen Hayes awards for directing, writing and producing and was a regular recipient of the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities Artist Fellowship. For information about the Fountain Theatre, go to fountaintheatre.com.

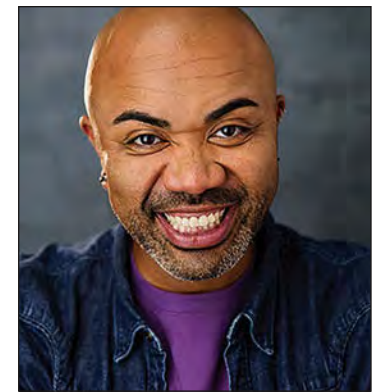


photo courtesy of the Fountain Theatre
Raymond O. Caldwell previously worked in Washington, D.C. as a director, writer, producer and educator.

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POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Nov. 24 and Nov. 30. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)550-4951.

Beverly Hills Police Department

Nov. 24

At 2:22 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 400 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9500 block of Brighton at 2:54 p.m.

At 6:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial theft in the 8700 block of Wilshire.

Nov. 25

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo at 10:51 a.m.

At 6:05 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 300 block of S. Robertson.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Hillcrest at 7 p.m.

Nov. 26

At 1:20 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1800 block of Loma Vista.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 500 block of Doheny Road at 9 a.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of Bedford.

Nov. 27

At 12:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Doheny at 8 p.m.

Nov. 29

At 10:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 2300 block of S. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo at 6:22 p.m.

Nov. 30

At 2:36 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Rexford and Lexington.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 8:50 a.m.

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9600 block of Wilshire.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

Nov. 24

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

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect

pickpocketed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 1:20 a.m.

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7700 block of Melrose at 2:23 p.m.

At 3:10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8300 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 11:20 p.m.

Nov. 25

At 10 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1200 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 3 p.m.

At 4:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 500 block of N. Alfred.

An unknown suspect committed vehicle burglary in the 1200 block of N. Hayworth at 5 p.m.

At 9:15 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8900 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Westbourne at 11:54 p.m.

At midnight, an unknown suspect committed vehicle burglary in the 600 block Robertson.

Nov. 26

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of N. Clark.

An unknown suspect stole a bicycle in the 7700 block of Santa Monica at 3:35 p.m.

At 7:27 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 400 block of Almont.

Nov. 27

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a bicycle in the 1100 block of N. Formosa.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1100 block of N. La Brea at 8:39 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block Robertson.

Nov. 28

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

Nov. 29

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9000 block of Beverly at 1:30 p.m. An additional theft was reported in the same area at 2 p.m.

At 5:49 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.

Los Angeles Police Department

Nov. 24

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 1700 block of N. Hudson at 12:06 a.m.

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle near Gardner and Hawthorn.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of N. Highland at 8 a.m.

At 1:08 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6800 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. June at 4:10 p.m.

At 4:27 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8500 block of Saturn at 5 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 800 block of N. Wilton.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of S. Holt at 11:30 p.m.

Nov. 25

At 2:23 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6600 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. La Brea at 8:01 a.m.

At 8:25 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1500 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 500 block of S. Burnside at 9:58 a.m.

At 11:04 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1600 block of N. Genesee.

Nov. 26

At 12:10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1500 block of S. Durango.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of S. Holt at 3 p.m.

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6200 block of Fountain.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Detroit at 5:30 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 500 block of S. Genesee.



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

URGENCY ORDINANCE AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO UPDATE REGULATIONS FOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW AND AMENDMENT TO THE CURRENT AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING FEE SCHEDULE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **December 16, 2024**, the City Council will hold a public hearing to consider adopting an Urgency Ordinance and will conduct a first reading of an Ordinance amending the City's local regulations governing accessory dwelling units ("ADUs") and junior accessory dwelling units ("JADUs") to comply with recent changes to state law and finding the action to be statutorily exempt from CEQA under Public Resources Code Section 21080.17. The City Council will also consider adopting a resolution amending the fee schedule to include an ADU Permit fee.

The public hearing will commence at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as part of the open session of the City Council meeting in the West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room - Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, California. Anyone wishing to speak regarding the urgency ordinance, the introduction on the first reading to amend the City's local regulations governing ADUs and JADUs, or the proposed fee resolution may attend the hearing or submit written comments no later than 12:00 p.m. on the above Council meeting day via email to publiccomment@weho.org or via E-Comment by visiting www.weho.org/wehotv.

Written comments should be addressed to City Clerk, City of West Hollywood, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069.

A copy of the proposed ordinance and amended fee schedule resolution will be available with the online City Council Agenda Packet, beginning Wednesday, December 11, 2024. Please visit <https://www.weho.org/councilagendas> to view the December 16, 2024, City Council Agenda Packet.

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

Dated: December 5, 2024

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

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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. So
5. Computes the bottom line
9. Carry on
14. Cordial
15. TV actor, Scott
16. Painter's plaster
17. Fifty-fifty
18. Figure (out)
19. Bond girl in "Octopussy"
20. Army parade
23. Biotic preceder
24. Propel, in a way
25. Compendium
29. Parts of journeys
31. A Turner
34. Get used (to)
35. Countertenors
36. Dummy
37. Relating to a city leader
39. Fest beginning
41. Has a tab
42. Barry Sanders, once
44. Assists
45. Four-poster, e.g.
46. Getz, jazz tenor
47. Meet, as expectations
48. P.T.A. meeting place, abbr.
49. Supply-and-demand subj.
51. When President Eisenhower was elected and George Foreman became the oldest heavyweight boxing champion of the world
59. Acclimate
60. Blue-ribbon

Down

1. Bedside pitcher
2. Five-star review
3. Norman with a legendary swing
4. It means everything
5. Out
6. Intimidate
7. Purify liquid
8. Cubs big hitter
9. Long-tailed lizards
10. Moth repellent
11. Supreme ruler, long gone
12. Letters at Camp Lejeune
13. Sumptuous
21. Electromagnetic amplifier
22. Deductive reasoning
25. Disband troops
26. Wide-eyed
27. Steadied with a rope
28. A god of love
30. School for English princes
31. Majestic
32. Handy
33. Sculptor's work
35. Inter ___
36. Fawns' moms
38. Despite, abbr.

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51	52	53				54				55	56	57	58
59						60				61			
62						63				64			
65						66				67			

40. Yours in the Bible
 43. Microsoft program
 46. Intrigue
 47. Wandering ones
 48. Swagger
 50. Sir Arthur ___ Doyle
 51. Trawler's haul
 52. Machu Picchu builder
 53. Animal activist's aversions
 54. GAAP policy setters
 55. People in charge, abbr.
 56. Cheese on crackers
 57. Wet behind the ___

58. Bread types

answers are on page 27

'Tales of the Transcestors' opens at Greenway Court Theatre

Celebration Theatre presents "Tales of the Transcestors: The Divine" from Thursday, Dec. 12, through Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Greenway Court Theatre.

Through three interwoven stories rooted in Native Hawaiian tradition, Islamic mysticism and spiritual alchemy, the riveting original production unearths personal and cultural histories to reclaim trans wisdom, healing, power and joy.

"Folklore and mythology have long shaped the traditions and teachings that define our cultures. But what happens when we reimagine these stories to unlock new possibilities for liberation and healing? By honoring the legacies of those who came before us, this production celebrates transness as not just iden-

tity, but as possibility and lineage – blood and chosen, ancient and futurist," director Nico Pang said.

"There is something unbelievably healing about building this show at this moment in time," added producer Petey Gibson. "To feel the warmth of my own trans ancestors uplifting the work, shining a light, it actually is pretty divine to unearth a future where we thrive, from a past that has always known us."

The stories were developed this year at Celebration Theatre following a search for emerging writers of TGNC identity. The winners of the search – Blaire Battle, Azad Namazie and Kaila Tacazon – engaged with Pang, writing consultant June Carryl and a team of reli-

gious and cultural scholars to blend theatrical storytelling and historically-centered dramaturgy into an original work.

"For our third iteration of the Tales of the Transcestors series, Celebration Theatre has deepened its approach to the writing process with a unifying narrative focus that takes our patrons on a truly 'divine' journey from start to finish," executive director Christopher Maikish said.

"What this series accomplishes artistically, socially and educationally continues to align so naturally with our mission at Greenway Arts Alliance," said Mohammed Ojarigi, producing director of the Greenway Court Theatre. "We are proud to support the uplifting of trans stories and the empathy it builds in our communities."

Showtimes are at 8 p.m. on Dec. 12, 13 and 18; 3 p.m. on Dec. 14. The Greenway Court Theatre is located at 544 N. Fairfax Ave. For information, visit greenwaycourttheatre.org.



photo courtesy of Celebration Theatre

The Celebration Theatre production explores personal stories and the power of healing.



photo by Rebecca Sapp

Ornate stage wardrobe is part of the "Luther Vandross: Artistry and Elegance" exhibition.

Luther Vandross tribute opens at the Grammy Museum

The Grammy Museum announces a new exhibit celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of Luther Vandross, an eight-time Grammy winner, revered songwriter, arranger, producer, performer and one of the most gifted vocalists in music history. "Luther Vandross: Artistry and Elegance" offers an intimate glimpse into Vandross' creative process and showcases his ornate stage wardrobe, exclusive performance footage from his popular tours, and a never-before-heard recording of him in the studio. The exhibit will be on display through June 15, 2025.

In alignment with the film and exhibition release, Luther Vandross' previously unreleased soulful rendition of the Beatles'

"Michelle" is available now. The song will be one of many included on "Never Too Much: Greatest Hits," a new compilation of music by Vandross out Dec. 13.

Vandross first captured the spotlight in the 1970s as a sought-after backup singer, collaborating with luminaries such as David Bowie, Roberta Flack, Quincy Jones, Chaka Khan, Bette Midler and Carly Simon. As a solo artist, he became renowned for his relatable lyrics about love and mesmerizing live performances, characterized by dynamic bands, elaborate stage designs and striking custom costumes worn by his background singers. Vandross achieved remarkable success, charting a Top 10 R&B hit every year from 1981 to 1994 and releasing 11 consecutive

platinum records, with over 40 million albums sold worldwide.

"The Luther Vandross Estate is excited to be sharing Luther's musical legacy with the Grammy Museum and its visitors through this upcoming exhibit. It is a special window into all of Luther Vandross' talents - singer, of course; but also music producer, live performer, stage craft master, wardrobe designer and songwriter. Showcasing all of these amazing elements of Luther the artist via the long-cherished possessions of his personal archives is a treat for die-hard fans and new ones," The Luther Vandross Estate said.

For tickets and information on the exhibit, visit grammymuseum.org. The Grammy Museum is located at 800 W. Olympic Blvd.

Stars prepare Thanksgiving feasts at Project Angel Food

On Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, Project Angel Food brought together celebrities, county supervisors and 150 dedicated volunteers at their temporary kitchen in Lincoln Heights to prepare and deliver more than 1,500 traditional turkey

meals to critically ill clients across Los Angeles County.

The heartwarming Thanksgiving at Project Angel Food event saw notable figures such as "Weird Al" Yankovic (musician and comedian), Loni Love (comedian and TV

host), Yvette Nicole Brown (actress, "Community"), Natalie Morales (journalist and "The Talk" host), and Mary McCormack (actress, "The West Wing") rolling up their sleeves to give back to the community.

In a significant highlight of the day, Trisha Cardoso, president and chief giving officer of The Chuck Lorre Family Foundation, alongside "Weird Al" Yankovic, presented Project Angel Food CEO Richard Ayoub with a \$25,000 check for a holiday food security grant.

"This generous grant from The Chuck Lorre Family Foundation is a testament to the power of community and compassion," Ayoub said. "It will significantly aid us in continuing our mission to nourish and uplift those in need across Los Angeles County."

For information, visit angelfood.org.



photo by Tommaso Boddi/Getty Images for Project Angel Food

Loni Love and "Weird Al" Yankovic volunteered at Project Angel Food on Thanksgiving Day.

Ahmanson tells a tale 'Once Upon a Mattress'

On the heels of its critically acclaimed return to Broadway, "Once Upon a Mattress" makes its West Coast premiere in a new adaptation by Emmy Award winner Amy Sherman-Palladino, directed by Tony Award-nominee and Drama League Award-winner Lear deBessonet ("Into The Woods") at Center Theatre Group's Ahmanson Theatre Dec. 10-Jan. 5. Tickets and information are available at centertheatregroup.org.

Two-time Tony Award winner Sutton Foster ("Anything Goes,"

"The Music Man") leads the Los Angeles cast, reprising her acclaimed Broadway performance as Winnifred the Woebegone.

An uproarious update of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Princess and the Pea," Once Upon a Mattress sets an unapologetic free spirit loose in a repressed kingdom, where Winnifred the Woebegone charms, delights and dances her way to the top ... of a stack of mattresses. Full of gloriously catchy melodies like "Shy" and "In a Little

While," the musical first premiered in 1959, with music by Mary Rodgers, lyrics by Marshall Barer, and book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller and Marshall Barer.

Drama Desk Award-winner and SAG Award-nominee Michael Urie also stars in the Los Angeles production direct from the Broadway revival, alongside Ana Gasteyer as Queen Aggravain.

The Ahmanson Theatre is located at 135 N. Grand Ave. For information, visit centertheatregroup.org/tickets.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

Miracle Mile lights up for holiday season



"Christmas Comes to the Miracle Mile" read the headline on the cover of the Nov. 29, 1951, issue of the Park Labrea News. Brightly lit Christmas trees lined Wilshire Boulevard in the photograph, which was taken at Curson Avenue, facing east. The accompanying article stated that a holiday lighting ceremony was held that year at the Prudential Building (now the SAG-AFTRA Building), where radio personality Harry von Zell pressed a button to light up the boulevard. The trees were described as the world's only "singing Christmas trees," wired to play "Muzak" and holiday carols as Christmas shoppers flocked to the many department stores located at the time on Wilshire Boulevard.

The Wallis announces new director of education

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, the leading arts cultural center in Beverly Hills, announced Imani C. Hollingsworth to serve as the organization's new director of education. She will lead the esteemed GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, and joins a team headed by executive director and CEO of The Wallis, Robert van Leer.

Hollingsworth, a passionate writer, performer, arts educator and arts administrator, has a decade's worth of experience and an established track record of success in arts education, leading programs for concert venues, museums, library, education nonprofits and school districts.

Hollingsworth's arts education career began as a hands-on teaching artist who regularly visited middle and high schools throughout the San Francisco Bay Area to teach spoken word poetry. Since then, Imani has taught hundreds of elementary, middle and high school students across the country and

developed educational programming and teaching artist trainings for dozens of arts education nonprofits, including YouthSpeaks and SFJAZZ in San Francisco and Split This Rock in Washington D.C.

Hollingsworth's expertise in adult education led to teaching a variety of classes with Brooklyn Poets, and Grubstreet in Boston and programming at a number of universities, museums and writing centers including Georgetown, American University, the Museum of African Diaspora in San Francisco and the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

GRoW @ The Wallis, an umbrella for the robust slate of education, community and outreach programs offered by The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, is committed to sharing the arts with learners of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

GRoW programming includes special student matinee perfor-

mances at The Wallis, in-school arts education, masterclasses for early career artists in theater and dance, regular free and interactive arts programming for families, and courses in creative writing, dance and movement, and theater for older adults.

"I am thrilled to join a dynamic, passionate organization such as The Wallis and am delighted at the opportunity to interact with audiences of all abilities, ages and interests," Hollingsworth said. "The arts education programming we provide at The Wallis is crucial to developing well rounded, complex members of the community, and our team is committed to supporting people of all backgrounds in leading a lifetime of engagement with the performing arts. I look forward to applying my experiences with our resources – both large and small – to facilitate a variety of opportunities for all to interact with and explore their own creativity."

For information, visit thewallis.org.



photo courtesy of Theatre 40

Colorful characters and nail-biting suspense characterize "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd."

Theatre 40 presents Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie's "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" is a thrilling tale of greed, blackmail and murder most foul. This ingenious 1926 novel cemented Christie's reputation as the greatest mystery novelist of all time. The story's shocking twist ending has thrilled readers for generations and has been called "the best and most cunning solution devised in her storied career." Now, the landmark novel comes to the stage in a new and fast-moving adaptation, performing in Beverly

Hills from Dec. 5-15, presented by Theatre 40.

Filled with colorful characters, outrageous laughter and nail-biting suspense, this Christie classic is sure to leave audiences guessing, gasping and delighting in the case long after the curtain has come down.

For information, visit theatre40.org or call (310)364-0535. The play will be presented at the Mary Levin Cutler Theatre, located at 241 S. Moreno Drive.

Glenn Phillips appointed to chief curator of the Getty Research Institute

Getty announced on Nov. 21 the appointment of Glenn Phillips to chief curator of the Getty Research Institute.

Phillips is currently the senior curator, head of exhibitions, and head of modern and contemporary collections at the Getty Research Institute.

As chief curator, Phillips will work closely with the curatorial team to further the GRI's mission to cultivate advanced knowledge of art and its varied histories by amplifying and enhancing the use of its collections, creating collecting strategies that respond to shifts in scholarship and engaging new audiences.

"We are so happy to see Glenn take on the new position," said Mary Miller, director of the Getty Research Institute. "Over the years he has demonstrated an exceptional ability to curate thoughtful, innovative exhibitions that engage both our visitors and the broader art community. We look forward to his continued contributions as he takes on this new role and helps shape the future of the Getty Research Institute."

Phillips is a specialist in the history of curating and the international history of conceptual art, with a focus on video and performance art in Europe and the Americas.

"I've devoted nearly half of my life to building and caring for the extraordinary collections of the Getty Research Institute, and they will always astound and excite me," Phillips said. "I admire the curators and staff of this institution so much, and I look forward to working with everyone to develop

ambitious and meaningful projects that highlight the best research we can do."

Phillips has been with Getty since 2002. Starting as a research associate in the former Department of Contemporary Programs and Research, he has held several roles, including senior project specialist and consulting curator, and acting head of the department. Glenn was appointed senior curator in 2021, serving as head of exhibitions and head of modern and contemporary collections at the Getty Research Institute. Phillips earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Yale University.

For information, visit getty.edu.



photo courtesy of Leah Chase

Phillips will assume the role after being the senior curator of head of exhibitions and head of modern and contemporary collections at the Getty Research Institute.

Celebrate PST Art weekend in Downtown L.A.

Cultural institutions in Downtown Los Angeles will host workshops, performances and community gatherings all weekend long in celebration of Getty's "PST Art: Art & Science Collide."

An event at United Theater features DJ set from avant-pop musician Arca, artists Rafa Esparza and MUXX, and food and drink from MAMA's Nightmarket.

PST Art weekends make it easy to explore the diversity of exhibitions and programming that make

up "Art and Science Collide." Over six weekends in fall 2024, presenting PST Art partners team up to offer a full weekend of events, working together to offer aligned opening hours and a coordinated schedule that makes it easy to cross the map and experience PST Art.

From Saturday, Dec. 7 to Sunday, Dec. 8, Downtown L.A. will transform into a bustling cultural hub of music and dance performances, street vendors and workshops as the Broad, MOCA, SCI-Arc, ICA LA

and other regionally located museums, community centers and science institutions come together to create an itinerary of events that can't be missed.

Highlights included a free street festival on Saturday, Dec. 7 featuring prominent Asian street food vendors, hands-on incense-making and other workshops from outdoor community Usal Project, DJs programmed by NTS Radio and a special pop-up by Customland.

The festival is located at 919 S. Broadway.

To RSVP to the festival, visit vivenu.com/event/pst-art-weekend-downtown-la-hub-8zd5ds.

Additionally, there will be a ticketed concert titled "Live Night: Cruising Bodies, Spirits and Machine," at the United Theater co-presented by CAP UCLA and REDCAT. The concert features Venezuelan artist and producer Arca, presenting a one-of-a-kind headlining DJ set, and new performances by L.A.-based artist Rafa Esparza and Mexico City-Oaxaca-based collective MUXX.

The United Theater is located at 929 S. Broadway.

Tickets start at \$40 and are available at redcat.org/events/2024/live-night.

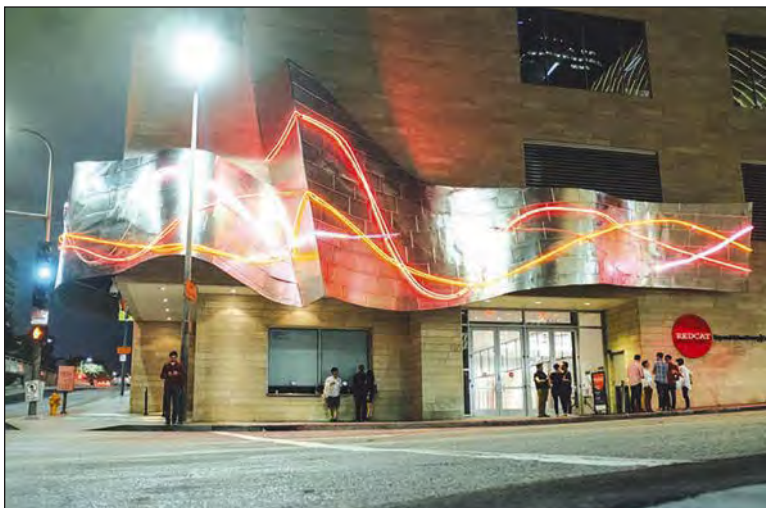


photo courtesy of Getty

The weekend of Dec. 7 and 8 will feature live performances and a free outdoor festival in Downtown Los Angeles.

Jo, Meg, Amy and Beth pirouette into Ebell

"Little Women Ballet" premieres a full-length original ballet with two performances at the historic Wilshire Ebell Theatre on Dec. 7, at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Fans of the beloved "Little Women" coming-of-age novel written by Louisa May Alcott will be enthralled with this two-act classical ballet showcasing the coming-of-age journeys of sisters Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy as they navigate the challenges of an ever-changing world marked by war, poverty, love and loss. As they learn to embrace their artistic gifts and share them with the world as a source of comfort, their stories unfold.

With a prominent large-scale cast of over 35 dancers between the ages of 10 to 75, dance scenes will include Sallie Gardiner's Christmas party, Meg's wedding, an enchanting "Moulin Rouge" number and a stunning Christmas finale. In addition,

key literary moments captured through dance are Jo rejecting Laurie, the Pickwick Club and Beth's passing. A heartwarming tale of family, friendship, self-discovery and growing up, "Little Women" is sure to resonate with audiences of all ages.

"Little Women Ballet" seeks to pioneer more ballets about women and their stories, while pairing heartwarming life lessons with pro-

gressive ideas about women's roles in 19th century America. In partnership with ArtistsPlus Productions and The Ebell of Los Angeles, tickets range from \$28-\$40. The Wilshire Ebell Theatre is located at 4401 W. 8th St.

For information and to purchase tickets for the full-length ballet at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre, visit litlewomenballet.com.



photo courtesy of The Ebell of Los Angeles

"Little Women Ballet" is based on the heartwarming Louisa May Alcott novel.



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AIDS Quilt digitally preserved

The Library of Congress has released a groundbreaking online collection of the National AIDS Memorial Quilt Records, making one of the most poignant symbols of the AIDS epidemic in the United States available to a global audience. As the largest communal art project in the world, the AIDS Memorial Quilt honors the lives of all Americans who have died of AIDS since 1981, when the disease was first identified.

Released to coincide with World AIDS Day commemorations, the newly digitized collection offers a unique window into the deeply personal stories behind the 55-ton quilt and its panels. The digitized collection, totaling more than 125,000 items, includes letters, diaries, photographs and other materials documenting the lives of those represented in the quilt.

The digitized archive is now reunited online with the communal

folk art of the quilt panels. Together, these digitized collections will be a boon for researchers, families of AIDS victims, policymakers and more. While the quilt is housed at the National AIDS Memorial in San Francisco, its voluminous records have been entrusted to the American Folklife Center at the Library since 2019.

“The digitized AIDS Memorial Quilt Records collection is a major milestone not only in our preservation efforts but also in ensuring that the stories, lives and collective memory of those lost to the AIDS epidemic remain accessible to future generations around the world,” said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. “In the digital age, we have the responsibility and privilege to safeguard this history so that, through every pixel, it can continue to educate, heal and inspire people for generations to come.”

The AIDS Memorial Quilt, first created by a group of community volunteers in San Francisco in 1987, has not only been a testament to the lives lost to AIDS but also a powerful tool for advocacy and a stark reminder of the impact of the epidemic on a local, national and global scale.

LGBTQ activist Cleve Jones created the quilt’s first panel in honor of his friend Marvin Feldman, a 33-year-old actor who died of AIDS in 1986.

“There’s a promise in a quilt. It’s not a shroud or a tombstone,” Jones said, reflecting on the quilt’s significance. “I don’t want to stop remembering Marvin Feldman and all the other friends of mine who have gone.”

The AIDS Memorial Quilt Records, totaling over 200,000 items, offer an intimate look at the victims’ lives through such artifacts as photos, manuscript letters, diaries, greeting cards, notebooks, tributes, obituaries, epitaphs, pamphlets, fabric swatches, original art-



photo courtesy of the Library of Congress

The AIDS Memorial Quilt has been presented in full on several occasions on the National Mall.

work and so much more. More than half the collection has now been digitized, allowing the general public to engage with and reflect on this important piece of history.

Explore collections, reference

services and other programs, and plan a visit at loc.gov; access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at congress.gov; and register creative works of authorship at copyright.gov.

PetSpace spreads holiday cheer through laughs

It’s the most wonderful time of the year as Wallis Annenberg PetSpace hosts a very special holiday edition of Can’t Even Comedy’s “Stand Up for Pets!” Guests are invited to laugh until they cry – with their four-legged best friend by their side – as comedians take the PetSpace stage, all for a good cause, this time in holiday sweaters.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, PetSpace will be transformed into the West Side’s premier comedy venue, welcoming acclaimed comedians Denny Love, Kelly Ryan, Mario

Adrión, Bruce Gray and Ron G, alongside host Caitlin Benson and DJ Anna Krylova.

Can’t Even Comedy is a stand-up comedy company founded by husband-and-wife team Maxwell and Caitlin Benson. They have been lauded by the Los Angeles Times as well as featured in their roundup of “The 60 Best Places to See Stand-Up Comedy in L.A.” As they explain on their website, “There are few events – if any – in Los Angeles that can offer comedy, dining, drinks, music and dogs.”

A portion of ticket sales will go towards the Wallis Annenberg PetSpace Extraordinary Care Fund, which supports PetSpace’s work with the most vulnerable animals in the shelter system – those who face significant medical needs that serve as barriers to adoption.

Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$40 for table seating. All tickets include two drinks.

For tickets, visit annenbergpetspace.org/events/3691820.

Wallis Annenberg PetSpace is located at 12005 Bluff Creek Drive, Playa Vista.



photo courtesy of Wallis Annenberg PetSpace

Attendees are invited to bring their furry friends to enjoy the special holiday comedy show.

KCCLA debuts compelling photography exhibit

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles and Photographers Society of Southern California present “The 18th Photographers Society of Southern California Exhibition-Riches of the Land: After Hours” from Dec. 5-20 in the KCCLA Art Gallery, 5505 Wilshire Blvd.

Each year, PSSC brings together the works of talented artists under a

unifying theme. This year’s exhibit “Riches of the Land: After Hours” showcases more than 40 works by 12 photographers, capturing the enigmatic allure of night. The collection illuminates the mysterious yet vibrant beauty of the night and evokes the complex emotions that twilight inspires. Visitors can immerse themselves in the tranquil

rhythms of the night and experience the subtle awakening of urban landscapes after dusk.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. An opening reception will be held on Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the KCCLA Art Gallery. Attendees will have a chance to win a limited-edition 2025 calendar featuring the work of PSSC members.

“Photographers are visionaries who uncover new meanings every day, transforming fleeting moments into timeless art,” KCCLA director Sangwon Jung said. “This exhibition vividly portrays the interaction of light emerging from the darkness and serene stillness of the night, reflecting the photographers’ devotion and artistic judgment. We hope it offers visitors a heartfelt moment of inspiration, comfort and contemplation.”

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



photo by Alex S. Kim

Photographs taken at dusk and at night, including this photograph by Alex S. Kim, are featured in the new exhibit.

Dulcé Sloan brings laughs to The Wallis

Comedian and Emmy Award-winner Dulcé Sloan will perform a side-splitting evening in a comedic showcase for one night only at The Wallis. Sloan will perform in the Bram Goldsmith Theater at the Wallis Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills on Dec. 13 at 7:30pm.

Known for her razor-sharp wit and unapologetic humor, Sloan, a former correspondent of Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show with Trevor Noah,” brings her comedic genius to The Wallis stage. Nominated for a GLAAD Award for her standout interviews, Sloan’s

hilarious anecdotes from her memoir “Hello, Friends!” promise an evening of uproarious entertainment. With a Netflix special hailed by The New York Times as a knockout, Sloan’s star power shines bright. From TV hits to the silver screen, it is sure to be an unforgettable night of comedy with one of Variety’s “Top Ten Comedians to Watch.”

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. For tickets and information, call (310)746-4000 Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. or visit thewallis.org.



photo courtesy of Dulcé Sloan

The comedian is a former correspondent on “The Daily Show,” and will perform at the Wallis on Dec. 13.



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TV City plan approved by council committee

From page 1

6th District, were absent. Councilman John Lee, 12th District, who serves as chair of PLUM Committee, and Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, were joined after 3 p.m. by fellow committee member Councilman Kevin de Leon, 14th District, establishing quorum and allowing the hearing to proceed. No reason was given for the absences or delay.

Lee, Yaroslavsky and De Leon heard public comments from supporters of the project and others who oppose it, as well as presentations by Hackman Capital Partners and attorneys for six groups that appealed a previous Planning Commission approval of the development. The three committee members denied the appeals and unanimously approved the Television City Project, also creating a Specific Plan for the studio site outlining what can be built on the property.

"There is an urgent need to jumpstart film and television production in Los Angeles. This investment in Television City will ensure the studio remains a premier production facility and continues to

employ thousands of Angelenos whose livelihood relies on the entertainment industry," said Zach Sokoloff, senior vice president of Television City. "We are grateful to Councilmember Yaroslavsky and the PLUM Committee for their recommendation of support as well as their continued confidence in the benefits the TVC Project will bring to the Beverly-Fairfax neighborhood and to our city's signature industry."

Project supporters include the Mid-City West Neighborhood Council, Park La Brea Residents Association, Fairfax Business Association, Melrose Business Improvement District, Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce, West Third Street Business Association, Holocaust Museum L.A., Los Angeles Conservancy and Los Angeles Parks Foundation.

Yaroslavsky introduced amendments during the hearing aimed at ensuring the site is used as a studio in perpetuity, as well as making the studio more compatible with the community. Among the amendments is a requirement that "uses permitted within the specific plan

area shall be consistent with the following five studio land uses: sound stage, production support, production office, general office and retail," and that "the specific plan area shall maintain a minimum of 150,000 square feet of combined sound stage, production support and production office uses. Additionally, the specific plan area shall maintain the sound stage use at all times." The Television City plan calls for 1,686,000 square feet of sound stage, production support and production office, committing more than 70% of the space for studio uses. The additional space is permitted for general office and retail space.

Other amendments introduced by Yaroslavsky stipulate that no more than 12 non-production, ticketed special events with over 500 attendees be permitted per year, that all driveways meet department of transportation standards so they don't create more traffic congestion on surrounding streets, that communications towers and equipment be integrated into the project and out of public view, and that there are no new uses of a helipad located at the studio.

Opponents of the project include Caruso and The Grove, the A.F. Gilmore Company and Original Farmers Market, the Broadcast Center Apartments, the Beverly Fairfax Community Alliance, Save Beverly Fairfax, Miracle Mile Residential Association, Beverly Wilshire Homes Association and Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development. Opponents said the outcome of the PLUM Committee hearing was disappointing, and vowed to continue fighting the project.

"There were certainly numerous points of contention. In fact, in support of the appeals, half a dozen attorneys raised important fundamental issues about the project and the process, and to be honest, the commissioners didn't even give them the courtesy of listening closely. After hours of testimony, they voted without asking a single question. I've been to a lot of hearings, but never one where it was so obvious that they were just going through the motions," said Shelley Wagers, co-founder of Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development, which has been a voice of the project's opposition. "I think it's clear from the number of appeals that have been filed that there is a very, very high probability, virtually a certainty, of litigation. And I think that the grounds are

very, very strong."

Wagers and Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development co-founder Danielle Peters said they were blindsided by Yaroslavsky's amendment requiring that only 150,000 square feet of the property be maintained for studio uses. They said it provides no guarantee that Hackman Capital Partners will follow its plan and use the property as a studio.

"It really shows what we've been saying all along that this was a giant office park," Peters said. "It also speaks to the meaninglessness of public participation. [There is] an overall feeling that the decisions were sort of predetermined before we even stepped foot through the door, and it really begs the question of whether public participation is just a farce, kind of meaningless, a required box to check in the process."

Hackman Capital Partners declined to comment on the contention that the majority of the site will be used for anything other than a studio. Yaroslavsky's spokesman Leo Daube added that the intention of the amendment was to ensure no matter what happens, the site will always remain a studio.

The hearing date for full City Council consideration of the project is expected to be announced within days.

Ice skating rink to open in West Hollywood

From page 1

want to visit the rink. This will also be a great opportunity for local nonprofits and schools to organize fundraising events at the rink. I'm really looking forward to it."

JJLA, the event company that also produces WeHo Pride, has been awarded a contract to produce the rink, with the city allocated approximately \$570,000 from the general fund, and the attraction is expected to bring in between \$90,000-\$100,000, with a suggested ticket price of \$20 for adults and \$15 for children 13 and under.

A staff report noted that the rink would align with tenets of the city's 2020 plan, which includes enhanced use of the city's public spaces.

"I'm really excited that we're bringing a really family-fun, business-friendly, community-friendly activity to our parks during the holiday season," Mayor John Erickson said. "This is just another way to get people to our city to be part of our amazing community and promote our amazing businesses. What we can do is limitless."

If successful, an option to renew

West Hollywood's contract with JJLA exists for the next two years. It is expected that the rink will be used for school events, nonprofits, work retreats and other local groups.

"We know JJLA produces and helps out with incredible events and activations. And I'm really excited to see how this ice rink not only grows this year, but in for future years to come," Erickson said.

Specific dates for the rink will be announced soon. West Hollywood Park is located at 647 N. San Vicente Blvd.

Hochman sworn in as D.A.

From page 3

light, making and keeping people sick and addicted and living on our streets ... But that all changes right now, today."

The oath of office was administered by actor and 38th California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who gave a fiery speech that sharply criticized Gascón's policies.

"I came over here 56 years ago as an immigrant to Los Angeles because it was the mecca of bodybuilding, the mecca of the movie industry, the mecca of innovation. Everything was fantastic here," Schwarzenegger said. "But what I have seen over the last few years was pitiful. Every

time you turn on the news you hear about someone getting stabbed on the Metro, someone getting robbed in their home, some store is getting broken into and robbed."

He expressed his support for Hochman, stating that the county has "hope" again that criminals will be held accountable. His speech also nodded toward his 1984 role as "The Terminator" and his catchphrase, "I'll be back."

"The city of Los Angeles is now going to be back," Schwarzenegger said, as he removed his sunglasses reminiscent of the character's wardrobe.

County offers small business holiday grants

On Nov. 30, in celebration of Small Business Saturday, the L.A. County Department of Economic Opportunity, in partnership with the Pacific Asian Consortium of Employment, launched the Economic Opportunity Holiday Grant Program, providing \$584,000 in new grants to support small businesses and nonprofits during the holiday shopping season. Applications are open until Dec. 31 at 5 p.m., with funding to be distributed in February 2025.

To apply, visit opportunity.lacounty.gov/small-business-grants/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_sour

ce=govdelivery&utm_term=

The grants are part of DEO's larger Economic Opportunity Grant Program, which has already awarded \$55.7 million in grants this year to 5,151 small businesses and nonprofits most affected by the pandemic and other economic disruptions. Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act and the State Office of the Small Business Advocate, the grants have enabled businesses to stay open, retain staff and invest in their recovery strategies – strengthening the foundation of L.A. County's economy.

In addition to the grants, DEO is promoting the Shop Local LA

County campaign, For information, visit shoplocal.la

Plummer Park's north parking lot closes for repaving project

The city of West Hollywood will begin a slurry seal asphalt project on Dec. 10 at the north parking lot of Plummer Park, located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

The parking lot will be closed during the work and will reopen by Sunday, Dec. 15. Visitors to Plummer Park are advised to plan accordingly. The Helen Albert Certified Farmers' Market will not be

affected by construction activities.

A digital message board has been placed in the parking lot area to alert visitors about the closure. Temporary no parking signs will also be posted in the area. The park's south parking lot, accessible from Santa Monica Boulevard, will remain open and available for visitors.

For information, visit weho.org.



10 Reasons Why I Don't Want An Estate Plan

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

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

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Legislators plan to institute protections

From page 3

immigration, environmental issues, LGBTQ+ rights and abortion access. California has passed many laws in recent years in attempts to enshrine certain rights, including protections for undocumented individuals, marriage equality and health care. The Trump administration and conservative courts, however, could threaten many of the positions taken by the state.

So far in the special session, which is ongoing, Newsom has requested a \$25 million allotment for legal funding in fighting sweeping administrative moves or specific actions against California policies.

“The special session is primarily to provide resources to the attorney general’s office to both do research and to defend essentially California programs,” Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Los Angeles) said.

Zbur said that the funding will

undergo committee consideration in the following weeks, which will likely be considered by the legislature at the beginning of the new year. He added that there have already been moves in recent months by the legislature to prepare the state for the potential effects of the Trump administration. Because of the restrictive abortion laws that have been passed in states like Texas and Georgia, efforts have been made to accommodate the influx of women seeking care.

“We passed expedited licensure for out-of-state doctors to be licensed to provide care in California,” Zbur explained.

He added that the session is aiming to explore ways that various policies could be protected or defended in court, including health care services available for undocumented residents and gender affirming documentation.

“What are the things that the states can do to protect undocumented folks from what could be these armed squads coming in and really tearing families apart. The transgender issues ... a lot of folks that are trying to get federal documents in before there may be executive orders that may prevent someone from getting, for example, a passport [with] their gender identity or a name change that reflects their gender identity. We have to work on all of that,” Zbur said.

Sen. Ben Allen said that he is concerned about safeguarding environmental protections.

“We’re the effective birthplace of the Clean Air Act, because of Los Angeles’ notorious smog,” Allen said. “The Clean Air Act waiver has allowed the state to go its own way in terms of imposing stricter air auto emission standards on our cars, which have helped to

lead the way globally, in fact, with regards to automobile-related pollution. And if some of the worst Trump administration promises are kept, our ability to defend our air will be also in jeopardy.”

The national landscape, Allen noted, is different than it was eight years ago, which means that the president’s actions can have greater effects on individual states and cities.

“The president has more power today than he had in 2016 because of Supreme Court jurisprudential change. Of course, he also appointed a ton of judges to the court,” he said. “This effort is about ensuring that we will vigorously defend our interests and our constituents’ interests in court and use whatever legal tools we have.”

Zbur stressed that the economic environment that he believes led to Trump’s election has to be addressed, as well.

“We really need to even increase our focus on making sure that we’re providing affordable housing, that we’re tackling the issues

of affordability in the grocery store, that we’re dealing with affordability and insurance. That’s something that’s a big issue in my district – all of those things are frustrations. When people are feeling like they can barely make it in their pocketbook, they vote for change,” he said.

But Zbur said that the human rights protections that Los Angeles residents overwhelmingly favor will remain a key focus for the state Legislature in the years to come.

“We are committed to protecting the fundamental freedoms Californians currently enjoy,” Zbur said. “We’ll probably be moving ahead with a number of things that would not have been on our agenda had it not been for Trump’s election. I know I’m looking at a number of bills myself that are coming about because constituents are raising issues and concerns, and we’re looking at what we can do to try to provide as much protection as we possibly can here in the state of California.”

Teacher files claim against school district

From page 1

and a fashion design teacher also alleged that they were victims of racism, harassment and bullying from the pro-Trump students.

Garratt said she never discussed Trump or the incident in her AP U.S. history class, which she was teaching as a long-term substitute. However, she wrote on Facebook on Nov. 7 that she was “disheartened by a recent event on campus the day after the election. A MAGA faction dressed in full Trump regalia (banners draped around them, flying banners, red hats) not only had a MAGA rally on campus but harassed and intimidated many other non-MAGA students and specifically targeted the class where the Black Student Union was meeting, yelling all kinds of racial slurs. Some students arrived at school truly upset and even crying only to be bullied later by their classmates. And don’t blame the administration for this. They are dealing with it. This

comes from their leader, His Majesty, King.”

Garratt is being represented by civil rights attorney V. James DeSimone.

“Joanie’s post, which criticized harassment at the rally and attributed student conduct to political rhetoric whipped up as part of Donald Trump’s re-election strategy, is constitutionally protected speech,” DeSimone said in a press release.

Garratt retired last year after teaching full-time in the school district for nearly 30 years. She began the long-term substitute assignment on Nov. 4 and was expected to teach through Dec. 5. However, according to the damages claim, she received an email from Matthew Horvath, the district’s assistant superintendent of personnel services. In the email, Horvath allegedly referenced Garratt’s Facebook post and asked to meet with her. According to the claim,

the two had a brief phone call, during which Horvath notified Garratt that Beverly Hills High School “did not want her back due to her online post.”

“This decision contradicts BHUSD’s policy that personal beliefs or activities outside of work should not be grounds for disciplinary action unless they violate the law or policy,” DeSimone said. “This post was entirely within Joanie’s right of free speech and violated neither the law nor district policy. We intend to fully vindicate Ms. Garratt’s rights and filing this administrative claim is the first step in that legal journey for justice.”

Garratt is seeking an unspecified amount in excess of \$50,000 in the claim.

“Not only did the district’s decision come without any rationale or legal grounds, but were based entirely on social media posts they didn’t like. One has to question

how much concern the district had about the negative impact of Joanie’s sudden dismissal on her students who were preparing for their AP exams, particularly given her unique expertise in the subject,” DeSimone said. “By punishing an exceptional teacher for the content of her expression of protected first amendment rights, BHUSD not only harmed Joanie, it hurt her students who were at school to learn.”

In a statement, BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy denied that Garratt was terminated.

“BHUSD categorically denies the assertion that Ms. Joanie Garratt was terminated from her position,” Bregy wrote. “Ms. Garratt retired from full-time teaching in BHUSD years ago and was serving and remains a substitute teacher in the district. No action was taken to dismiss her or any other employee in the last month. Our focus remains on fostering an educational environment where students and staff are respected and valued. We encourage meaningful discussions that prioritize mutual understanding,

respect and accountability. BHUSD will continue to uphold its standards and policies to ensure that our schools are spaces where all voices can be expressed thoughtfully and responsibly. We trust these facts will clarify this matter.”

City may face litigation from luxury hotel

From page 1

certificate is 1.2% of a hotel’s gross revenue. He stated that if a hotel changes ownership, the new owner must pay an additional fee only if the tax identification number of the entity is different from the previous owner. When an owner with a different tax identification number assumes ownership, the new owner must pay the fee for the certificate based on calculated earnings beginning the date of the transfer.

Zaragoza could not comment on

the Waldorf Astoria dispute.

Kahan sent the original letter on April 29, with a follow-up on May 9 threatening litigation.

“To be clear, if the city denies our request to withdraw the demand for payment, we will be forced to protect our rights through available

legal remedies, which may include litigation,” Kahan wrote.

The City Council discussed the potential litigation in a closed session hearing on Dec. 3, according to the meeting agenda.

The Beverly Press reached out to Alagem Capital Group, which did

not provide a comment by press time.

Beverly Hills City Attorney Laurence Wiener declined to comment.

Alagem Capital Group and Cain International are currently developing One Beverly Hills, a \$5 billion project adjacent to the Waldorf Astoria that includes condominiums, hotel space and commercial units. The project broke ground earlier this year and is expected to be completed by 2028.

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.

Answers From Page 22





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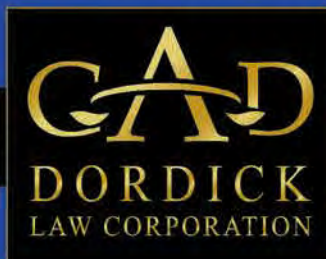
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