



Partly cloudy, temps around 70

BEVERLY PRESS

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

May 15, 2025

BHUSD says 'Just Do It' to five-year Nike deal

■ Sportswear agreement causes stir among trustees

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Following heated discussion, the Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education on May 13 approved a five-year agreement with BSN Sports for the participation in the Nike 360 Rewards Program, which will provide

BHUSD Nike-branded apparel and gear for district sports teams and athletic programs for a discounted price.

Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, BHUSD teams across all schools will receive official Nike gear, while BHUSD-branded Nike

See **BHUSD** page 25



photo courtesy of BHUSD

The agreement will provide Nike apparel for student athletes.

Hochman issues strong warning about theft

■ New state law allows more felony prosecutions

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman announced new measures to crack down on retail theft on May 14 outside a 7-Eleven store at Olympic and La Cienega boulevards which was targeted twice during flash mob takeovers, and multiple times by a serial theft suspect.

Hochman, joined by Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, Traci Park, 11th District, and numerous law enforcement officials, said changes have occurred in the way people are prosecuted for theft. Under Proposition 36, a statewide measure approved by voters in 2024, felony charges can be filed against an individual for thefts under \$950 if the defendant has two prior drug or theft convictions. Hochman said he plans to vigorously pursue felony charges against people who commit multiple thefts.

"We are here today to explain



photo by Edwin Folven

District Attorney Nathan Hochman, joined by Councilwomen Katy Yaroslavsky and Traci Park, left, said authorities have new tools to prosecute serial retail theft offenders.

... if you want to go ahead and engage in theft in Los Angeles County, you will be held accountable. You will be arrested, you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law," Hochman said. "We were all given an additional

set of laws under Proposition 36 that made a statement to these criminals, that if you are convicted two times for theft, and you want to keep engaging in theft, that third time will now be a

See **Crackdown** page 25

Judge resents Menendez brothers

■ Decision opens door to parole opportunity

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Jesic on May 13 resented brothers Erik and Lyle Menendez to 50 years to life in prison with the possibility of parole. The brothers had previously been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the 1989 double murder of their par-

ents, José and Kitty Menendez, in their Beverly Hills home.

The judge said the crimes they committed were shocking, however, he was "equally as shocked" by letters he read from prison officers which supported their rehabilitation.

"It is remarkable what they've done. There's no way to sugarcoat it," Jesic said.

The decision makes the brothers immediately eligible for parole.

"I'm not suggesting they should

be released," Jesic said. However, he added, "they've done enough in the past 35 years that one day they should get that chance," referring to a parole opportunity.

A separate clemency hearing has been set for June 13, at the request of Gov. Gavin Newsom. The governor will then make a decision on a potential pardon of the brothers.

The brothers spoke via a live video feed, taking full responsibility for their actions and expressing remorse in emotional testimony.

"Today, 35 years later, I am deeply ashamed of who I was," Lyle Menendez said, adding that he offers "no excuse or justification" for the murders. Many of his statements were made toward his extended family members, who were present in the courtroom and supported the brothers' resentencing.

"I am so sorry to each and every one of you. I am grateful for your love and forgiveness," he said. "I lied to you and forced you into a life of public humiliation that you never asked for. And you are here showing me mercy."

Erik Menendez echoed his brother's statements, expressing "profound sorrow" for his family mem-

See **Judge** page 26



photo by Tabor Brewster

The brothers' attorney Mark Geragos embraced Anamaria Baralt, a cousin of Erik and Lyle Menendez, following the announcement.



photo by Jon Viscott

Mayor Chelsea Byers will help lead the WeHo Pride Parade on June 1.

WeHo stands tall against oppression at Pride Fest

■ OUTLOUD welcomes Maren Morris as Friday night headliner

BY RANCE COLLINS

West Hollywood's annual WeHo Pride is coming out – and it wants the world to know – with

its Harvey Milk Day kickoff. West Hollywood officials are noting Pride's significance this year.

"Recognizing Harvey Milk Day is important because Harvey Milk was a trailblazer whose life and public service were cut short due to hatred and homophobia."

See **WeHo** page 26

WEHO PRIDE ARTS FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, MAY 23 – SUNDAY, MAY 25

Theater, Poetry, Art-Making Workshops, Dance, Film, Music, and More!

LA LGBT Center's Village at Ed Gould Plaza
1125 N. McCadden Place

City of West Hollywood California 1984

wehopride.com/artsfestival @wehopride @wehoarts

CALENDAR

Museum of Tolerance

Join the Museum of Tolerance and inaugural artist in residence Tomer Peretz for Creative Conversations, an exclusive discussion series from Thursday, May 15, through Tuesday, May 20. The series focuses on using creative expression for healing and art to cultivate empathy and understanding in society. Attend an event in the series and see Peretz's inspiring installation "ART WILL S8T YOU FREE." Hours are 4-6 p.m., May 15; 2-4 p.m., May 18; 4-6 p.m., May 19; and 6-8 p.m., May 20. Admission is \$35 for members; \$45 for non-members on May 15-19; \$60 for members; \$75 for non-members on May 20. 9786 W. Pico Blvd. give.wiesenthal.com/event/creative-conversations-exclusive-experiences-with-tomer-peretz/e680806.

'Just Like Us'

Latino Theater Company has extended its production of "Just Like Us" from Thursday, May 15, through Sunday, May 25, at the Los Angeles Theatre Center. Inspired by the bestselling book by Helen Thorpe, the timely non-fiction play follows four Latina teenage girls whose close-knit friendship is put to the test when each finds her opportunities in life dictated by immigration status, or lack thereof. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; 4 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$48. 514 S. Spring St. (213)489-0994, latinotheaterco.org.



Beverly Hills Chamber

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce is holding its May Networking Breakfast on Friday, May 16, from 8:15-10 a.m. at the Maybourne Beverly Hills. Enjoy a morning of engaging conversations and exchange ideas with industry leaders in an exclusive and elegant environment. The event offers opportunities to connect and grow, forge new partnerships, gain fresh insights and strengthen relationships. Admission is \$30 for members; \$60 for nonmembers. 225 N. Cañon Drive. members.beverlyhillschamber.com.

Beatles tribute

Beatles fans won't want to miss Mark Morris Dance Group's "Pepperland" from Friday, May 16, through Sunday May 18, at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. The show is a unique tribute on the 50th anniversary of The Beatles' groundbreaking album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band." Showtimes are 7:30 p.m., May 16-17; with 2 p.m. matinees on May 17-18. Tickets start at \$64.90. 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. (310)746-4000.



'Tasty Little Rabbit'

Enjoy the world premiere of "Tasty Little Rabbit," a play written by Tom Jacobson and directed by George Bamber, running Friday, May 16, through Thursday, June 5, at Moving Arts. The play is a part of "Reflections on Art and Democracy," a celebration of plays and lectures in Los Angeles aimed at raising awareness about the rise of fascism, racism and anti-semitism, the power of art and design to resist them and the confluence of visual and performative artworks to promote democracy. The production is a true story of intrigue set during the 1936 Fascist Italian investigation of pornography charges in Taormina, Sicily. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 4 p.m., Sunday, with an added 8 p.m. show on Thursday, June 5. Tickets are \$33. 3191 Casitas Ave. moving-arts.org/project/tasty-little-rabbit.

Groundlings Theatre

The Groundlings Theatre is pushing the boundaries of improv with "Got a Light?" running from Friday, May 16, through Friday, June 20. The staged new show is a completely improvised theatrical production with sets, costumes and lighting cues, but no script. Every performance is created in real-time based on audience suggestions, making each night a world premiere. Directed by H. Michael Croner, the show is a bold experiment that combines Groundlings-style comedy with full theatrical production – something the company has never attempted before. Showtimes are at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$27. 7307 Melrose Ave. groundlings.com.



Chamber music concert

Chamber Music Palisades presents a free community afternoon concert in Brentwood on Saturday, May 17, at 3:30 p.m. The concert is presented in collaboration with the Cantilena Duo

and features Kenton Youngstrom on guitar and Chamber Music Palisades co-founder and artistic director Susan Greenberg on flute and piccolo. Works for solo guitar and flute and guitar by French, Spanish, Brazilian and Argentinian composers will be performed. Brentwood Presbyterian Church, 12000 San Vicente Blvd. cmpalisades.org.

Art of Mark Leonard

Louis Stern Fine Arts presents "Mark Leonard: Common Threads" from Saturday, May 17, through Saturday, June 28. The woven forms, twisted ropes and lustrous spheres that appear, withdraw and re-emerge in Leonard's works connect them across time. From the artist's recent works to some of his earliest, created as he first began training as a painter, Leonard has retained the same fundamental methodology: mining a timeless vocabulary of recurring geometric motifs to give material shape to the pleasures and perils of human experience. An opening reception will be held on May 17 from 5-7 p.m. 9002 Melrose Ave. louissternfinearts.com.

Women's Health Movement

Join the Getty for "Envisioning Feminist Alternatives: Stories from the Women's Health Movement" on Sunday, May 18, at 4 p.m. Outraged by an inability to control their own bodies and an imposed ignorance about women's health, women across the United States launched hundreds of political projects during the 1970s and 1980s. Using examples from her book "Looking through the Speculum," professor Judith Houck will explore images and stories of feminist alternatives from the women's health movement. The talk is followed by a public reception from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tickets are free but required for admission. 1200 Getty Center Drive. getty.edu/calendar/stories-from-the-womans-health-movement.



Japan Foundation music and coffee

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles is holding "In the Tune of Art: Classic Guitar & Coffee Tasting" on Wednesday, May 21, from 7-8:30 p.m. Music was selected that matches the theme and artwork in the current exhibition "Path to the Perfect Cup: Coffee Culture in Japan." L.A.-based musician Taro Wayama will perform classical guitar in a relaxed atmosphere, including original pieces. Attendees can sample freshly brewed coffee. Admission is free but registration is required. 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 100. jflalc.org.



L.A. Filmforum

Los Angeles Filmforum is showing "Sanctuary Station" by Brigit McCaffrey on Thursday May 22, at 7:30 p.m. at 2220 Arts + Archives. Artist and filmmaker McCaffrey premieres her newest work. McCaffrey's films explore extremes of autonomy and coexistence experienced by individuals who have distinct relationships with the land. General admission is \$15. 2220 Beverly Blvd. link.dice.fm/G4c0ac124ccc.



photo by Edwin Folven

The sheriff's department had planned to get the unmanned aircraft program off the ground this summer.

WeHo grounds long-awaited drone pilot program, for now

BY RANCE COLLINS

The West Hollywood drone pilot program, originally set to begin early this summer, has been paused by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. According to the city's director of community safety Danny Rivas, the department cited "the recordation of flights from drones" as the reason. Recordation is defined by Merriam-Webster as "the act or process of recording."

"West Hollywood's Drone as

First Responder pilot program will consist of prepositioning an unmanned aircraft system, commonly referred to as a drone, on top of a building for use within West Hollywood," Rivas said.

The West Hollywood City Council will be briefed on the delay through a staff item at the June 9 City Council meeting.

Last summer, the council approved camera drones as part of a "Safer WeHo" project, which aims to more fully utilize public safety technology.

Beverly Press earns 12 nominations for 2024 journalism awards

Beverly Press and Park Labrea News was nominated for seven Southern California Journalism Awards by the Los Angeles Press Club on May 13, in addition to five previously announced recognitions from the California News Publishers Association.

Reporter Tabor Brewster is a finalist in three categories, including Criticism of Food Culture, News Feature ("The WWII Hero of Hancock Park") and Investigative Reporting ("RD Whittington and his Wires Only luxury auto showroom goes from riches to rags").

Editor Edwin Folven is nominated for Personality Profile ("Changing lives through the power of music") and Editor-in-Chief Karen Villalpando has been

named a finalist for Visual Arts/Design/Architecture Feature ("LACMA Campus Comes into Focus"). Contributor Chris Erskine is nominated for Columnist of the Year and reporter Rance Collins is a finalist for Journalist of the Year.

The L.A. Press Club honors will be awarded on June 22 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel. For information, visit lapressclub.org.

The CNPA Awards will be presented on May 17 at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City Hotel. Beverly Press and Park Labrea News is a finalist in the Columns, Enterprise News Story or Series, Food Writing/Reporting, Print Special Section and Profile Story categories. For information and tickets, visit cnpa.com.

Notable Quotes

"It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent."

Madeleine Albright (1937-2022)

Albright was born on May 15, 1937. She was the first woman to serve as Secretary of State, a position she held from 1997-2001 under President Bill Clinton.

Source: brainyquote.com

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Friedman reaches out to community

BY RANCE COLLINS

Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) is determined to bring her constituents – which includes residents of Hollywood, West Hollywood and Hancock Park – into the conversation. Four months into her first term, the 30th Congressional District representative sat down for an interview, where she highlighted the robust community response she has received at town halls – including one that had 600 people in attendance.

“Every single Democrat is doing numerous town halls and public meetings, unlike our colleagues across the aisle,” Friedman said, adding that the caucus has encouraged its members to hold the events. “The house facilitates any member of Congress doing a town hall in terms of resources, and then many of us are going beyond that.”

Friedman knows, however, that the ideals of her largely Democratic district run distinctly counter with that of the Trump administration and the Republican-led U.S. House and Senate. As such, she has veered into others’ territories, including Rep. Young Kim (R-Orange).

“There were maybe 300 people in attendance, because she’s not doing town halls,” she said, and later added that the “reason why Republicans are not doing town halls [is] because even in Republican districts, people are starting to realize that these deep, deep cuts to government mean that the services that they rely on from

government aren’t there for them anymore.”

Friedman said the focus of town halls differs depending on the district.

“What resonates to somebody in Los Angeles may not resonate with someone in Wisconsin. So you’re seeing different messaging going out to different communities, letting people know what’s at stake from the Trump administration,” she said, going on to add that cuts to Medicaid, Veteran’s Affairs and Social Security often resonates with different districts.

She also communicated the minority party’s current limitations.

“[We make] sure people understand what’s realistic in terms of what Democrats in Congress can do, because it is a Republican Congress as well as a Republican administration. So, it’s going to take Republicans standing up. We don’t have the votes if it’s just the Democrats ... we also need Republicans to vote ‘no,’ otherwise there’s nothing that we can do,” she said.

Friedman added that “some Republicans are willing to push back on Trump’s agenda,” and pointed to legislative proof.

“I’m proud to have been one of the first Democrats to sign onto a bipartisan bill clawing back Congressional power over tariffs. I’m always willing to have conversations across the aisle, but I won’t sacrifice core values or principles to make a deal,” she said.

Speaking truth to power remains chief among the congresswoman’s

goals, particularly in a time that she said media companies are afraid to do so.

“I try to point out that a lot of the things that [Trump’s] doing should be unacceptable to Democrats and Republicans,” Friedman said. “They’re just illegal and they are against the Constitution and they’re contrary to law and order. [For instance], firing all the military generals, so you can put in your own yes men – this should be scary to everybody. If you have got folks out there saying that this is the rise of the dictator, and then that would-be dictator fires the people who could hold him accountable – [those] being military generals en masse, fires law enforcement, pardons people who have committed crimes ... We should take that very seriously. No matter whether you’re a Democrat or Republican, that shouldn’t be partisan.”

She also pointed to social media moguls, who she feels have been derelict in their responsibilities.

“You see companies stepping in, you know, snapping into line and doing what [Trump] says. And in some cases, it’s censorship, as we’ve seen with the social media companies who were at his inauguration. His own cabinet wasn’t sitting in those front row seats – it was the heads of the social media companies ... who have agreed to ... stop the kind of content moderation they were doing with disinformation and far right content.”

She said that the fourth estate is necessary to establish the facts.

“[They’re] making the media



photo courtesy the office of Laura Friedman

Rep. Laura Friedman has held multiple town halls, some in neighboring Republican-led districts.

afraid to even push back, so that when they get up and they do an interview even on on NBC, and they just flat out lie, and the reporters know they’re lying, instead of calling them on it, they just say, ‘Well, thanks for coming on the show.’ They’re not doing the kind of fact checking and pushing back that they should,” she said. “There needs to be real fact checking. I expect people to hold me accountable if I say something that’s not true.”

She pointed to the importance of local media outlets in helping communities stay informed.

“In L.A. you could have 20 newspapers covering city of L.A. ... Beverly Hills, WeHo – these independent cities need someone watching them. Without the press, there’s nobody paying attention,” Friedman said.

The freshman congresswoman said that the judicial branch was paying attention and had thus far held strong during the Trump

administration, even as a series of executive orders have tested the strength of the system.

“I’ve been proud to join lawsuits and support critical efforts from folks like [California Attorney General] Rob Bonta to oppose Trump’s ridiculous actions, efforts that have been effective. In Trump’s first 100 days, federal judges have issued at least 131 court orders that block or pause the administration’s lawless and unconstitutional actions,” she said.

Friedman pointed out that many of the orders have come from “very conservative judges.”

“These are not, despite what Trump and [Elon Musk] say, crazy left-wing communists,” she said. “These are Trump-appointed and Bush-appointed conservative judges in places like Texas and in the Midwest, and they are overwhelmingly saying that they are crossing the line.”

To contact Friedman’s office, visit friedman.house.gov.

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Metro expands ticketing of parked cars in bus lanes

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, in partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, is expanding the bus lane enforcement pilot program and has started ticketing vehicles parked in bus-only lanes along additional high-traffic routes.

During phase two's initial 60-day warning period from March-May, motorists illegally parked along bus lines 910 and 950 that serve the J line and Line 70 servicing Olive Street/Grand Avenue downtown received notices by mail warning that future violations would result in fines. Motorists who illegally park in the bus lanes will now face a citation and fine that starts at \$293. Fines increase for repeat offenders.

"We're excited to take this important step forward in ensuring that our bus services remain reliable for commuters," Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins said. "By addressing the issue of unauthorized vehicles in bus lanes, we can keep buses moving smoothly, reduce delays and provide a better transit experience for all riders."

As part of this automated enforcement system, 100 cameras have been installed on Metro buses operating along the key routes with bus-only lanes. The dual-camera systems detect vehicles illegally occupying bus-only lanes. The first camera captures the presence of a vehicle in the bus lane, while the second records the vehicle's license plate number. A traffic officer with LADOT reviews the photographic evidence and verifies the accuracy of the image before issuing a ticket. Tickets include details of the violation including time, location and images or video evidence.

Since phase one ticketing began in February, the LADOT has



photo by Edwin Folven

Authorities have issued more than 10,000 citations since February for vehicles illegally parked in bus-only lanes on Wilshire and La Brea.

issued citations for more than 10,000 illegally parked vehicles disrupting service along bus Lines 720 and 212 on Since phase one ticketing began this past February, LADOT has issued citations to more than 10,000 illegally parked vehicles disrupting service on bus Line 720 servicing Wilshire Boulevard and Line 212 servicing La Brea Avenue. The enforcement program aims to curb the problem of parked vehicles obstructing bus lanes, which can delay bus services and affect the overall reliability of Metro's extensive bus network. Metro expects significant improvements in on-time performance for buses.

"Each day, thousands of Angelenos depend on public transit to get to their jobs, schools, health care and other critical destinations," LADOT General Manager Laura Rubio-Cornejo said. "This new program is already bringing results with a more reliable and efficient bus service. I look forward to expanding our partnership with Metro to ensure the benefits of dedicated bus lanes are felt across our transportation system."



photo by Edwin Folven

The fire started in a unit in a building at Flores and First streets.

Fire damages vacant apartment building in Beverly Grove

A fire erupted on May 11 in a vacant Beverly Grove apartment building undergoing renovations, damaging a single unit at 106 S. Flores St. Firefighters received a call around 5:30 p.m. and arrived to find light smoke on the first floor of the two-story garden-style apartment complex. Companies proceeded in an

offensive mode and extinguished flames in one vacant unit in 23 minutes, LAFD spokesperson Lyndsey Lantz said. No injuries or occupants at the site were reported and the cause of the fire is unknown. Firefighters remained at the scene for overhaul operations to ensure the flames did not reignite.

LAPD warns about burglaries in Hancock Park

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division is looking at ways to prevent burglaries in Hancock Park and is cautioning residents to take steps to secure their homes.

Data revealed in the neighborhood between La Brea Avenue and Rimpau Boulevard, and Third Street and Wilshire Boulevard, the number of burglaries in the last six months is relatively the same compared to last year, with 11 burglaries from Nov. 1, 2024, through May 1, 2025, compared to 10 the prior year. Lt. Mark Ro, with the Wilshire Division, said the number is too high, and resources such as extra patrols are being deployed to the area to prevent crimes.

"Burglaries are down almost 20% throughout the division, but they are higher in that area than the rest of the community," Ro said. "It's hard to tell why, there could be many reasons. But it's still way too many, especially if you're the person whose home was burglarized."

Ro said the burglaries have been occurring throughout Hancock Park and cited Citrus Avenue as a street where at least two break-ins have recently been reported. He said many of the crimes are what police call "dinnertime burglaries," when people are away from home between 5-11 p.m. Investigators believe suspects are likely watching neighborhoods, waiting for people to leave homes.



photo by Edwin Folven

Police believe suspects wait in parked cars and watch for residents to leave before committing burglaries in Hancock Park.

Residents are urged to report suspicious parked vehicles. Suspects frequently use newer-model rental cars to blend in. A parked car with people inside with an out-of-state license plate is an indicator a vehicle may be involved in suspicious activity.

Ro added that detectives have experienced multiple recent burglaries where thieves entered through unlocked windows or doors. He added that suspects are also targeting garages with doors left open or unlocked.

"We're seeing one-in-five with an open garage or an unlocked door or window," Ro said. "People have tools and other expensive things in their garage. It's important to keep

the door closed and garage secured."

Ro said Wilshire Division officers can conduct property assessments for residents and business owners to make homes and businesses less susceptible to burglaries. Ro said residents can contact the senior lead officer for their neighborhood. Senior Lead Officer Tyler Shuck, who oversees Hancock Park, can be reached by email at 40740@lapd.online. Property owners can also call the Wilshire Division's community relations office at (213)473-0200 to schedule a security assessment.

"We'll do a walk-through of a home and point out things people

See Police page 26

Original Photo of Sarria, Milk and Mavis by Daniel Nicoletta

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May 22, 6 PM

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Tents come down along Wilshire, Robertson

■ Inside Safe operations place 30 people

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The city of Los Angeles held Inside Safe operations on May 9 in the Beverly Grove and Miracle Mile areas, bringing approximately 20 people indoors in public areas where tents were a longstanding issue.

The operations were part of Mayor Karen Bass' effort to house people and remove tents when temporary housing or shelter becomes available. Tents were removed from the sidewalk along Wilshire Boulevard at San Diego Way, just west of Fairfax Avenue, and along Robertson Boulevard near Burton Way. The Inside Safe operations were held in conjunction with Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District.

"Public spaces where neighbors gather exemplify the spirit of our city coming together," Bass said. "By connecting people living on the streets or in parks with secure housing and supportive services, we ensure the health and wellbeing of all residents and the community as a whole."

"It was a priority for us. [They were] on a busy corridor and it's something we had been working on," said Leo Daube, a spokesman for Yaroslavsky.

The operations in Beverly Grove and the Miracle Mile were coupled with another Inside Safe operation the same day in Woodland Hills, and a

total of 30 people moved into housing.

On Wilshire Boulevard and San Diego Way, tents were frequently erected outside vacant buildings along the north side of the street. The area remained clear on May 14. Daube said tents were also removed near a vacant building at San Vicente and Wilshire boulevards that formerly housed a Big 5 store. City staff and service providers will be visiting the area frequently to ensure anyone who returns is offered resources. The tents will not be allowed to return.

Yaroslavsky introduced a motion to designate the building at San Vicente/Wilshire as a 41.18 site, which refers to a city ordinance that prohibits people from camping or staying on public property within 500 feet of a particular location. The area around Burton Way and Robertson Boulevard, where tents were located on sidewalks and a median, will also be designated as a no camping zone under ordinance 41.18.

The Inside Safe operations came days before Gov. Gavin Newsom released a statewide model for cities and counties to reduce homelessness, and said he expects local jurisdictions to take action.

"There's nothing compassionate about letting people die on the streets. Local leaders asked for resources – we delivered the largest state investment in history. They asked for legal clarity – the courts delivered," Newsom said. "Now, we're giving them a model they can put to work immediately with urgency and with humanity, to resolve encampments and connect

people to shelter, housing and care. The time for inaction is over. There are no more excuses."

The state ordinance is intended as a model, creating a starting point for jurisdictions to create policies on homelessness but stopping short of specifically requiring it. Newsom coupled the model with \$3.3 billion in funding from Proposition 1 for cities and counties to provide treatment for unhoused people suffering from mental illness. The state ordinance places a prohibition on persistent camping in one location, a prohibition on encampments that block sidewalks and a requirement "that local officials provide notice and make every reasonable effort to identify and offer shelter prior to clearing an encampment."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, said the governor's announcement is welcome news and that efforts will continue to reduce homelessness. The county and city of Los Angeles are currently assessing next moves regarding the state directive.

"Los Angeles County is taking urgent action to restructure our homeless services for greater accountability and real results," Horvath said. "Unless we remove the barriers to building housing and wrapping people in services, we will not break this cycle. Less bureaucracy – not more – is what's needed to solve homelessness."

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, a joint powers entity, oversees homelessness programs throughout L.A. County and receives



photo courtesy of Mayor Karen Bass' office

Tents were cleared along Robertson Boulevard after housing was found for people living on the streets.

public funding from the federal government and city of Los Angeles. Los Angeles County has decided to pull \$300 million in funds for LAHSA in a move to create its own department addressing homelessness.

LAHSA has come under scrutiny recently for alleged improprieties within the organization. Two former employees threatened to sue LAHSA, accusing CEO Va Lecia Adams Kellum of nepotism in hiring former colleagues for key positions, and alleging that she acted inappropriately. After sending letters threatening to sue LAHSA, the employees received an \$800,000 settlement prior to lawsuits being filed. Adams Kellum announced her resignation from LAHSA at the beginning of April.

The United States Attorney's Office and FBI have launched a task force to investigate how funds to address homelessness were spent in Los Angeles, amid accusations

that millions of dollars are unaccounted for.

"California has spent more than \$24 billion over the past five years to address homelessness. But officials have been unable to account for all the expenditures and outcomes, and the homeless crisis has only gotten worse," United States Attorney Bill Essayli said. "Taxpayers deserve answers for where and how their hard-earned money has been spent. If state and local officials cannot provide proper oversight and accountability, we will do it for them. If we discover any federal laws were violated, we will make arrests."

Businessman and developer Rick Caruso, who lost to Bass in the 2022 Los Angeles mayoral race, said he supports Newsom's efforts to alleviate homelessness faster.

"Enough is enough. We have homeless people around us every-

See page 7

Struggling with pain from a decades-old injury, Gregory Thompson finally underwent knee replacement surgeries on both legs at CHA HPMC.

"From the moment I arrived at CHA HPMC, I was impressed by the professionalism and care provided by the medical team.

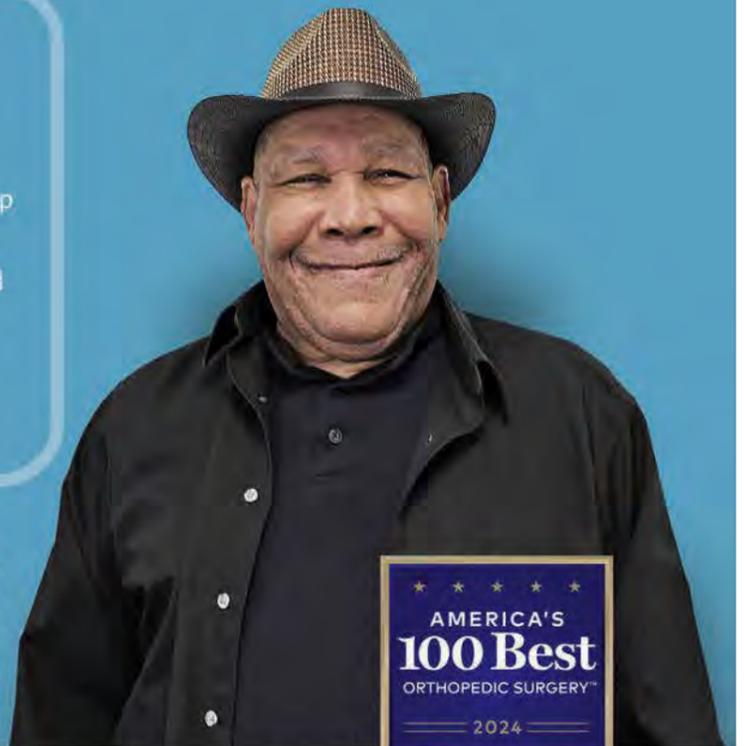
"They made sure I was comfortable and prepared, then guided me step-by-step through recovery.

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"The ability to walk again without pain has been nothing short of a miracle."

Gregory Thompson

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From page 6

where in Los Angeles and Los Angeles County, so the call for the statewide ban is welcome to all of our ears,” Caruso said. “What we know for a fact is the mayor and the City Council have failed. Homelessness is getting worse. Billions of dollars have been wasted, and now there’s inquiries into fraud. It’s time to end this. No more excuses. They have failed neighborhoods, businesses and the people that are suffering on the streets. I support the statewide ban that came out of the capital. Let’s all get behind it and push our elected officials to solve this homeless problem, help people get off the streets and get our neighborhoods back to being safe and clean.”

Gender Wellness focuses on trans, nonbinary health

■ Mental Health Awareness Month highlights challenging time for community

BY RANCE COLLINS

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and with the persistent cultural and political focus on the trans and non-binary communities, organizations such as Gender Wellness of Los Angeles have taken on increased importance.

Led by founder and president Casey Weitzman, Gender Wellness provides mental health services and resources that help transgender, gen-

der-diverse, LGBTQ+ people and their families to not only survive, but thrive. The organization has a variety of therapy options, including one-on-one, support groups and medical service referrals.

Weitzman has a long history working with the LGBTQ+ community and comes from a place of personal experience.

“Being queer myself and knowing what that was like ... I knew what oppression felt like,” she said. “I knew what it was like to have your parents throw you out of the house, and I just felt like it was a calling. I met my first client that had been misdiagnosed in the early ‘90s. And the client said to me, ‘I

love women.’ This is a cis woman. ‘I love women, but I’m not a woman.’ And then that got me to start thinking, ‘Well, what did that mean?’”

Up to that point, the trans community had largely been represented in exploitative ways, oftentimes on daytime talk shows like “The Jerry Springer Show” and “The Sally Jessy Raphael Show.”

“Back then, anyone that [saw] I was working with transgender people thought I was a freak,” Weitzman recalled. “I felt like, ‘If not me, who?’”

When Weitzman started, she said, there were virtually no services for transgender people.

“I was able to find one doctor that would give hormones, and I found one doctor that could do surgery,” she said.

She emphasizes that no matter what rhetoric and actions may happen at high levels of government, there are now greater resources available than ever before.

“Although it’s so bad, so more providers in this country and around the world that love working with this group of people,” Weitzman said.

The availability of these resources, particularly mental health resources, have had real-life benefits for Solace Rosado, a 27-year-old nonbinary West Hollywood resident who is two

See page 8



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, June 3, 2025
TIME: 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard
LOCATION: **Meeting will be held in person at:**
 Council Chamber
 Beverly Hills City Hall
 455 North Rexford Drive
 Beverly Hills, CA 90210

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

PROJECT ADDRESS: Citywide

The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at a REGULAR meeting on **Tuesday, June 3, 2025**, will hold a public hearing beginning at **7:00 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider:

AN UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE MINISTERIAL APPROVAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY ZONE FOR PROJECTS SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65589.5, AND ADOPTING AN ADDENDUM TO THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION PREPARED FOR THE 2021-2029 CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS HOUSING ELEMENT

The proposed amendments to the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) would establish a housing development overlay zone that would allow for a ministerial permit process for projects that are subject to Government Code Section 65589.5, generally referred to as “Builder’s Remedy” projects. The Ordinance establishes the following in order to facilitate the streamlined approval of eligible housing projects that meet specified objective criteria based on both the physical development and operation of the project.

- Eligibility criteria based upon submittal of required applications for a housing development project in a manner consistent with Government Code Section 65941.1 prior to May 1, 2024 that has not lapsed and based upon the historic status of the project site.
- Objective development standards including those related to use, density, setbacks, building height, minimum unit size, outdoor open space and balconies (and permitted uses therein), modulation, front yard paving, walls/fences/hedges, exterior lighting, and parking.
- Performance standards including those related to open space hours of operation, the use of amplified sound, rooftop uses, and rooftop uses.
- Affordability standards related to the number of affordable units, access, and site transferability.
- Ministerial processing standards.

On May 5, 2025, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the draft ordinance, at which time all persons interested in the draft ordinance had an opportunity to and did address the Planning Commission on this matter. The Planning Commission recommended approval by a unanimous vote (3-0-2) of the draft ordinance to the City Council by adopting Planning Commission Resolution No. 2086 and finding the ordinance consistent with the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Amendments to the Adopted 2021- 2029 City of Beverly Hills Housing Element, as supplemented by an addendum.

This summary of the Ordinance is prepared and published in accordance with the requirements of Government Code §36933. Pursuant to the requirements of Government Code §36933, a certified copy of the entirety of the text of the proposed Ordinance will be available for review during normal business hours at the Office of the City Clerk Office located at City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Second Floor, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 at least five days before the City Council will consider adoption of the Ordinance.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Ordinance was reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and State CEQA Guidelines. The Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Amendments to the Adopted 2021- 2029 City of Beverly Hills Housing Element (State Clearinghouse No. 2021090102) was adopted by the City Council on March 18, 2024 and certified by the State Department of Housing and Community Development on May 1, 2024. This Ordinance is within the scope of and consistent with that MND, as supplemented by an addendum that may be adopted by the City Council.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Please be advised that pre-entry metal detector screening requirements are now in place at City Hall. Members of the public are requested to plan visits accordingly. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending in-person or telephonically, and may view the meeting through live webcast or BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable. City Council meetings are broadcast on local Beverly Hills television and on other media platforms. Anyone who participates at the meeting and/or enters the City Council Chamber is subject to having their image displayed. These recordings will remain publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Public Comment Participation:

- Oral Comment/Listen only: (310) 288-2288
- Email: cityclerk@beverlyhills.org
- Video (during public comment only): <http://beverlyhills.org/comment>
- To Watch Video Live: <http://beverlyhills.org/live> or
- On-Demand: <http://beverlyhills.org/citycouncilmeetings>
- In-Person: Submit a Speaker Card to the City Clerk at the meeting

How to Submit Public Comment (Email/Video):

It is recommended that public written comments be submitted to the City Clerk’s office by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the City Council/Parking Authority. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the subject line of the email. The City Clerk will read only the first three minutes (approximately 350 words) of a written comment. In the event of a large number of written comments on one item, written comments may be summarized by the City Clerk’s Office. The entire written comment shall be archived in full as part of the record.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Public comment via video conference will be no longer than three (3) minutes per each individual comment, subject to City Council discretion based on the anticipated length in the meeting. In-person speaker cards may be submitted to the City Clerk directly during the meeting.

Any interested person may participate in the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the City Council. According to Government Code §65009, if you challenge the Council’s action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

In Person Participation:

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter in person. Please see the above information on the location and time of this meeting.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Cindy Gordon, AICP, Principal Planner**, in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1191**, or by email at cgordon@beverlyhills.org. Copies of the project materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Please also reach out to add your email to the interested parties list, so that important updates and notifications may be sent to you.

HUMA AHMED
 City Clerk



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

BHUSD considers building a 'BRIDGE'

■ Board creates new director of programming position

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education on May 13 began discussing the possible implementation of a "BHUSD BRIDGE Committee," a group of district stakeholders across various roles in Beverly Hills who would meet regularly to "strengthen the bonds between the BHUSD and the broader community it serves," according to the proposal.

The term BRIDGE is an acronym for Building Relationships in District Governance and Education. The committee would consist of 13-15 members, including one school board member and representatives including parents, teachers, administrators, students and personnel from the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, city government, police and fire departments, and community members and business leaders.

"By creating an open and structured dialogue between parents, educators, students, public safety leaders, civic officials and business representatives, BRIDGE ensures a

responsive, transparent and collaborative approach to shaping education policy and student success in Beverly Hills," the proposal read.

The concept was created by Board Member Russell Stuart, who said he has heard from residents and local leaders who expressed a desire to increase community participation in the school district.

"I came up with this concept not only because we have had countless people who have said transparency is an issue for us and that communication is an issue for us ... We really lose the fact that we have so many more stakeholders that have an impact on our school district that is not just internal," Stuart said.

Overall, board members expressed interest in creating a community stakeholder committee to provide input to the school district. However, some expressed concerns that it could create redundancies given existing partnerships, and want the idea to be further refined before returning to the board. The concept will return to the board at a later date not specified.

The discussion came as the board continues to grapple with issues around communication following several controversies and lawsuits

and a shift in district leadership. In March, the district hired a crisis communications firm following allegations of racism, retaliation and censorship.

At the May 14 board meeting, concerns over district leadership continued. PTA member Jennifer Wolfe read a letter written by an anonymous elementary teacher.

"Since early March when so many things started to unravel, when longtime successful leaders were removed, decisions began landing without context and communication felt more like commands," the letter read.

"The second I step out of my classroom, whether it's into an email inbox, a staff meeting or a district-wide directive, I'm reminded that I no longer work for a school district that feels like a community. It feels like I work for a corporation," the letter continued.

The anonymous teacher alleged that dedicated instructors are not being listened to.

"We are still showing up, still trying to keep our classrooms safe and joyful and consistent, even when the world outside of them seems less and less so," the letter concluded.

Journalism teacher Romeo Carey also spoke at the meeting, alleging that he has been the victim of "malicious intent," "discrimination" and



photo by Tabor Brewster

The BHUSD Board of Education is looking at ways to increase community participation.

"workplace harassment" at the hands of district leadership. Carey, a Beverly Hills High School teacher for more than 20 years, was placed on administrative leave for months earlier in the school year. Although the district never revealed the cause of the suspension and subsequent investigation, many parents, students and alumni alleged that it was retaliation for Carey allowing his students to report on an alleged assault on campus. The chief counsel for the ACLU of Southern California said the organization had "very serious concerns" about Carey's suspension.

After reinstating Carey, the board voted to cut his media director position from the school district. At the meeting on May 14, the board agreed to create a new "director of

programming" position for BHUSD's public access channels, which effectively replaces the media director position previously held by Carey.

Carey alleged that the district has not listened to his concerns.

"I can't have an honest conversation with leadership at the district office," Carey said to the board. "All I get is more of the same – assaults. So I just would consider that there should be some leadership that instead of watching an assault, that you wake up to the fact that you are aiding and abetting an assault, because you're the superiors."

Following Carey's comments, the board did not discuss the item, and voted to approve the new director of programming position in a 5-0 vote.

From page 7

years sober after experiencing years of anxiety, depression and recurring suicide attempts.

"When someone identifies as non-binary, that's up to them to decide how that looks for them and how it feels for them," Rosado said. "For me, it feels that I have both energies of masculine and feminine ... it really depends on my environment, how I choose to present myself."

Rosado grew up in a home that was not immediately accepting.

"I grew up in a Latino household where they were Catholic, and even when I was coming out as gay, it was very frowned upon. It was not something they were willing to accept right away," they said.

For Rosado, it started with realizing they were gay. Then later, Rosado said, they recognized that they had "other qualities that were not typically male."

"I was just very soft. I was flamboyant. I liked a lot of feminine things," Rosado explained. "I can't necessarily disclose where I work, but where I work there is a location that specifically helped transgender, nonconforming and nonbinary peo-

ple, and I think that's where I started to feel more connected to this side of myself. This nonbinary existence is five years old ... I started putting on makeup and heels [for the first time], feeling more comfortable in my body and empowered."

With the aid of mental health resources from organizations such as Gender Wellness, Rosado has learned to stand strong against personal attacks and inappropriate lines of questioning.

"I think when I get asked around things around my gender or gender expression, it triggers things in people that they themselves have denied or are not super aware of," they said.

Weitzman and Rosado give straightforward advice to those that are struggling in the current environment.

"We have to go out there and fight," Weitzman said.

"We're never really alone," Rosado said. "The community I've surrounded myself [with] is a very diverse crowd of queer people. Sometimes I feel we can get so drawn into the abyss that [we] don't really realize how much support is around [us]."

For information about Gender Wellness of Los Angeles, visit gen-

NOTICE CALLING FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

BEVERLY HILLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Submit Proposals

Notice is hereby given that the Beverly Hills Unified School District, acting by and through its Governing Board, will receive sealed proposals up to but **no later than 2:00 p.m. on the 5th day of June, 2025** for:

Request for Proposal No. 2425-027 – Kosher Vended Meals

Services that the District may require will consist of furnishing kosher school lunch meals in accordance with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines as well as State of California Department of Education policies and guidelines.

Each bidder will be required to furnish and maintain Commercial General Liability Insurance, endorsed naming the District as "additional insured," Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance, and Workers' Compensation Insurance.

Proposals shall be received in the District's Purchasing Department located at: Beverly Hills Unified School District, 624 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 or can be emailed to GKeshishyan@bhUSD.org.

This document is for informational purposes and shall not relieve the Bidder of the requirements to fully become familiarized with all the factors affecting the Proposal. The Bidder is advised that all inquiries and clarifications about the RFP documents, specifications, etc., shall be submitted to the District in writing no later than **May 30, 2025, 4:00 p.m.** The District will respond at its earliest possible opportunity. Verbal communication by either party regarding this matter is invalid. Inquiries shall be emailed to: Gilda Keshishyan, Director of Purchasing, at GKeshishyan@bhUSD.org.

The Proposal package, required forms, and other components of this request for proposal may be obtained from the District's website at https://www.bhUSD.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=31867&type=d&pREC_ID=1074500.

Any proposal not received by the time and date specified above at the above location will not be accepted and will be returned unopened.



photo courtesy of Gender Wellness Los Angeles

Therapist Casey Weitzman is the founder of Gender Wellness Los Angeles.

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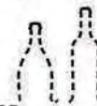
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Beverly Hills Meals on Wheels asks for a lift

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Organization seeks donations, GoFundMe organizer

Beverly Hills Meals On Wheels – a provider of low-cost, fresh meals for homebound seniors – is asking for support from residents after funds have nearly dried up.

Pat Jacobson, coordinator of the organization for 27 years, said the meal provider is at risk of suspending its services this summer.

“I’m struggling, because nobody is sending in donations,” Jacobson said. “We’re really down.”

Jacobson runs the program alongside Les Bronte, a former mayor of Beverly Hills.

“I’m trying my best, but I am not a fundraiser person. I do everything else but it’s very difficult for me to fundraise,” Jacobson said. “We did have a board once upon a time, but they were very inactive. And then when COVID hit, well, everybody disappeared and I was left.”

Jacobson said with the help of volunteers, the program currently provides meals for about 18-20 clients on a regular basis throughout Beverly Hills and the surrounding areas.

“Whether they’re sick, whether they’re elderly, whether they just need companionship, if somebody calls me and tells me they need food, I would be more than happy to deliver them food if they could

pay for it, because we do not have the funds. I can’t give it for free,” Jacobson said.

However, the food isn’t just for seniors.

“I do not discriminate against age. If somebody is 35 and having a hysterectomy and she can’t cook for herself, I will deliver,” Jacobson said. “I had a young boy who was maybe 10 years old. I delivered to him . . . If they need food, I deliver.”

The organization began approximately 50 years ago, according to Jacobson. The wife of a doctor at Cedars-Sinai was concerned for patients who left the hospital and could not feed themselves. She started the program as a way to support discharged patients, and it eventually grew to include homebound seniors and anyone needing a meal.

Until three years ago, the meal provider partnered with Cedars-Sinai. Jacobson worked out of the health center, and kitchen staff would cook the meals.

“Then Cedars decided they don’t have enough money to support us, believe it or not. So I had to leave,” Jacobson said.

Thankfully, a Meals on Wheels volunteer offered her a space in Beverly Hills to relocate her operation. But with the increasing cost of food and the loss of Cedars-Sinai’s involvement, Jacobson is struggling to keep the meals affordable. She worries she may have to dissolve the organization altogether.



photo courtesy of Beverly Hills Meals on Wheels

The meal delivery service is at risk of closing its doors due to a lack of funds.

“We need money. Otherwise we’re going to close our doors. The wheels are going to stop rolling,” she said.

In addition to donations, Jacobson is looking for a tech-savvy volunteer to help set up a GoFundMe and expand fundraising methods.

“My heart is in it. I don’t know

what I would do without doing this,” Jacobson said. “For so long I’ve been doing this, it’s like brushing my teeth every morning.”

To contact Jacobson, call (310)413-4037.

To donate, send a check to Beverly Hills Meals on Wheels, P.O. Box 5031, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

BHFD to hold meetings on state fire hazard maps

The Beverly Hills Fire Department announced two community meetings to discuss the state’s new fire hazard maps. On Wednesday, May 28, and Monday, June 9, from 6-7 p.m. in the City Hall Municipal Gallery, Fire Chief Greg Barton and the BHFD will discuss the maps and address questions and concerns before they are implemented.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as CalFire, in April released expanded fire hazard maps, which impact additional properties in Beverly Hills. The maps are broken down into three hazard zones: very high, high and moderate.

Free parking is available in the city parking structure across from City Hall.

Beverly Hills City Hall is located at 455 N. Rexford Drive.

For information and to find out which zone your property is located in, visit osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-hazard-severity-zones.

For questions specific to Beverly Hills, email firemaps@beverlyhills.org.



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Humperdinck's appearance at the Saban isn't his 'Last Waltz'

■ **Legendary singer headlines on June 14**

BY RANCE COLLINS

Engelbert Humperdinck returns to the Saban Theatre on June 14, bringing his trademark charm and showmanship to one of his favorite stages. With a new album on the way, the legendary singer is preparing for a special night in Beverly Hills.

"I find it very comforting to be going back there," Humperdinck said.

The pop sensation, who first rose to fame in the 1960s with a succession of hits such as "Release Me" and "There Goes My Everything," has long enjoyed an enthusiastic fan base — dubbed "Humperdinckers" — which seem to gain new members with each generation. Humperdinck's music has found new life, again and again, through its frequent use in popular media. Recently, "Bullet Train," "GLOW" and "Umbrella Academy" all used his songs. He also appeared as himself on "Grace & Frankie" in 2020.

"I don't do a lot of shows like that, but when they asked me ... I remember in the past, you know, when they had shows like "Hotel" and "Fantasy Island" ... I love doing them, too, because they have a great [group] of people in the industry," he said.

"Moon Knight," the series from Marvel Studios starring Oscar Issac and Ethan Hawke used his "A Man Without Love" in 2022.

"A lot of young people saw this show, and I was noticing in my audience a lot of young people started to see what an Engelbert Humperdinck looked like," he said.

Humperdinck said that he enjoys how cross-generational appearances have allowed him to have audiences of all ages.

"If you have got a [multi-generational] audience, you've got longevity. That's what happened in my career ... it's my 58th year in show business. And it's still going strong," he said.

With over 140 million records sold internationally, Humperdinck just turned 89 on May 2, and shows no signs of slowing down. His stop in Beverly Hills is just one on his latest tour, which he's titled after another of his most popular tunes, "The Last Waltz." But really — that's just a title.

"Everywhere I go, there are comments and backlash [saying I'd retire], so I decided not to give it up," Humperdinck said.

After he wraps up in the United States, Humperdinck will continue on to his native England, though he has long called California home. He has had a home in Bel Air for 18 years, but even years before that British manager Gordon Mills made a Los Angeles career possible.

"He managed me, and he gave me my name," Humperdinck explained.

Humperdinck's unique name is a moniker. He was born Arnold George Dorsey in British India, but took on his stage name, borrowed from Germany's 19th century "Hansel and Gretel" composer.

"I did what [Mills] told me to do in L.A., and I've been living here ever since," he said. "It's been my home base."

Fans can expect to hear "A Man Without Love," "The Way It Used to Be," "After the Lovin'" — all the favorites. Humperdinck will hit the stage at 8 p.m. and tickets are available at engelbert.com.

photo courtesy of Engelbert Humperdinck
The famed crooner has been performing for nearly 60 years.



photo courtesy of All Saints' Beverly Hills

All Saints' Beverly Hills welcomes the community for a concert of music from the Baroque period on May 18.

All Saints' presents 17th century musical masterpieces

All Saints' Beverly Hills presents an evening of Baroque music with "Pathopoeia: Music of 17th Century Vienna & Salzburg" on Sunday, May 18, at 5 p.m.

The performance is the final concert of Tesseræ's 2024-25 season, offering a captivating exploration of 17th century musical masterpieces.

The program features winds, strings and singers performing alternating large and intimate works by four composers who held the title of Kapellmeister at the Imperial Court in Vienna between 1626 and 1680. The composers are Giovanni Valentini, Antonio Bertali, Giovanni Felice Sances and Johann Heinrich Schmelzer. The period marked immense musical change, with composers weaving together fantastical elements

and sublime beauty, creating a truly unique soundscape.

In addition to the Vienna-based composers, the concert will showcase virtuosic chamber music by Heinrich Biber and choral works by Johann Stadlmayr, both from Salzburg.

The exceptional program, curated by Tesseræ's Grammy-nominated violinist Andrew McIntosh, brings to life the grandeur of 17th century sacred music.

Tickets, which are available at the door, are \$50 for premium seating, \$35 for adults, \$25 for seniors and SCEMS members, and \$20 for students. Admission is free for children under 18.

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



Margot McKinney.

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So why do men drone on and on?

The other night I spoke at the Shakespeare Club, a grand event with an earnest and somewhat lubricated audience, which is where I excel. By the time I arrived, half the white wine was gone. I knew then that their blood was running warm.

When my 30-minute talk was over, I inquired about possibly joining the Shakespeare Club, based in an amazing old mansion. My hosts nodded politely, then explained that the social club “is mostly for women.”

“Oh,” I said.

Be sure to tune in next week when I try to join the Junior League. After that, the WNBA.

It's not easy being me.

I'm particularly inept when it comes to books and 3-irons.

With the 3-irons, it's not such a problem, for they are designed to be hurled end over end, ping-pong off pine trees and whirly-gigging atop club house roofs.

To this day, there is a 3-iron atop a small country club near Sarasota, Fla. I like golf the way I like a cold beer poured down my britches. Honestly, if I couldn't hurl my clubs once in a while, I wouldn't play at all.

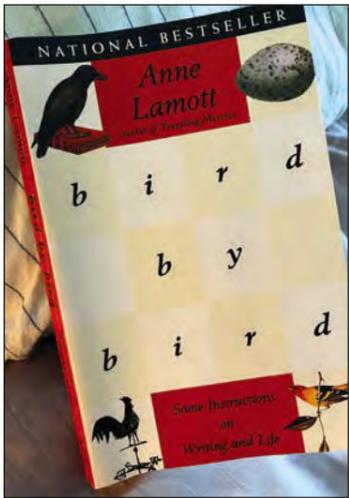


photo by Chris Erskine

I fold paperbacks as you would a warm gyro smothered in sour cream.



by
Chris
Erskine

Basically, I'm now down to a single club – the notoriously difficult one-iron.

“If you are ... afraid of lightning hold up a one-iron,” Lee Trevino once said. “Even God can't hit a one-iron.”

But with books, the rationalizations are much trickier. I'm brutal with books. When I read paperbacks, I fold them as you would a warm gyro smothered in sour cream.

I manhandle hardcovers too. I snap the spine. I prod the pages, smudge them, lick my fingers. I brawl and tumble with a book as you would a mouthy college rival.

Why all this roughness? I'm trying to squeeze out extra juice, extra meaning. Sometimes I write in the book margins or circle passages that wow me.

I've promised this woman I'm seeing to be gentler with the books she lends me – not so physical with Anne Lamott, for instance, or her copies of Ernie Hemingway.

“Maybe you are not predisposed to see the world sacramentally, to see everything as an outward and visible sign of inward, invisible grace,” Lamott writes.

Love me some Anne Lamott.

Obviously, no two people read the same way. To me, a good book gyrates, it smolders, it roars. To Suzanne, a good book hugs you back.

Know what else I love? Pillow talk. Yes, oddly, pillow talk, which I see as an aural form of literature, an intimacy within an intimacy.

I relish the confessional elements of pillow talk, especially in the early stages of a new relationship,

when we're still learning each other's backstory.

Some lucky couples get that forever, this chronic enchantment, this love of soft, silky banter.

The other night, I was trying out some new material on Suzanne – she's such a good sport about that. In bed, I was whispering to her about my moody laptop, the deer I saw, and how my granddaughter had swallowed a small rock.

“She'll pass it,” the doctor said.

So, I'm ticking down what's been on my mind – the Dodgers' bullpen, this intriguing new pope – when I hear the tiniest sound, a chuckle deep in her throat perhaps, a quick eighth-note of approval.

Turns out she's snoring.

As men will, I didn't let that stop me. I talked for maybe 10 more minutes as Suzanne softly snored – purring really, in that pretty way she has of doing anything. Honestly, she's like a glass of Champagne. I'm more of a monkey wrench (obviously).

This month's Atlantic has a piece titled “Oh, How Men Drone On.” In it, the female author complains, “My male friends love to talk at me – but not with me.”

Guilty, I suppose. But honestly, can guys do anything right anymore?

If we clam up, we're emotionally stunted. If we share, we're accused of going on and on and on.

Don't care. I've got a very kind girl who listens to me even while she's snoring.

And have you checked out the local hiking trails lately? The long grasses are so soft you can see where the deer paraded through, or where the coyotes napped away the afternoon.

It's May in L.A. and the land has never been more magic, more of a storybook. It's a good time to seek the things that make the heart thump – and the safe places of the mind.

So, carpe diem, OK? Or at least great gobs of it.

Thanks to all those who joined our Gin & Tonic Society bash in Hidden Hills on Saturday. Stay tuned. More on the way.



photo by Chris Erskine

On the hiking trails, the deer leave paths in the soft spring grasses.



Vet Prescriptions: What Your Vet Can't Say, But You Should Know

I'm not going to make many friends in my profession with this article – but pet owners deserve to know the truth.

Veterinary medications are expensive – and your vet hospital may be part of the problem. Many pet owners don't realize: **you have options**. In California, your veterinarian is legally required to write a prescription if you request one.

There are two main types of veterinary drugs:

- Human meds vets use – Seizure medications, heart drugs, antibiotics, and some anti-inflammatories. Examples: phenobarbital, furosemide, metronidazole, meloxicam, gabapentin, enalapril, prednisone, trazodone.

- Veterinary-only products – These aren't found at human pharmacies. Examples: Vetmedin, Rimadyl, Nexgard, Cerenia, Vetoryl, Vetsulin, Optimmune, Galliprant, Animax.

Many human crossover meds are available at regular pharmacies – often for a fraction of what clinics charge. I always recommend the **GoodRx** app. You'd be shocked how affordable some of these are at Costco, CVS, or your neighborhood pharmacy. I encourage clients to check the app.

Even veterinary-only meds are often available through reputable online pet pharmacies or Costco at a steep discount. Some clinics charge **40–80%** more for the same products, even when they can be shipped right to your door.

When I opened my urgent care clinic, I made a conscious – and, I believe, ethical – choice about the future of this profession: **we make money on services, not products**. Many clinics still stock large quantities of meds due to outdated habits. Stocking something like a new heartworm preventative requires a **\$3,000–\$4,000** minimum buy-in, just to carry all sizes. That creates pressure to push one brand – even if others are just as good. That's not how medicine should work. **We don't stock heartworm meds in-house – we help clients buy them at a fair price elsewhere.**

So why do meds cost more at many vet clinics?

Independent clinics buy in small quantities from veterinary distributors at high prices. Pharmacies buy in bulk – millions of units – at steep discounts. Clinics also face inventory risk, expiration loss, and have to maintain secure, climate-controlled storage.

That said, in emergencies, in-house medication is crucial. If your pet is vomiting, has an infection, or is in pain, waiting three days – or racing to a pharmacy at 9 p.m. – may not be worth saving \$10.

But for **long-term refills?** I recommend getting them elsewhere. Ask for the script. Compare prices. Good clinics won't be offended – we'll help you.

At my hospital, we keep markups modest and only stock what's truly needed. I'm a veterinarian – not a drug rep. My job is to care, not to up-sell.

About Dr. Ameis

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



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She Ready Foundation event supports foster youth

More than 300 guests will gather at The Beehive by Sola Impact to support the She Ready Foundation on Saturday, May 17, at 6:30 p.m., raising awareness for youth impacted by foster care. The third annual “Adult Prom-A Night Under the Stars-Get on the Soul Train” event celebrates individuals who have been in the foster care system, kinship care or have made an indelible impact on supporting foster youth.

May is Foster Care Month and California is home to more foster children than any other state. Statistics reveal that foster children are disproportionately vulnerable to homelessness, academic challenges and social isolation. She Ready Foundation serves as a voice for foster children suffering in silence. Actress and comedian Tiffany Haddish created She Ready Foundation to support, empower and encourage children living in the foster care system.

“Guests can expect a night full of joy, glamour and heart. We've got live entertainment, delicious food, surprise performances and of course, dancing all night long,” Haddish said.

“But beyond the fun, it's about supporting foster youth and creating opportunities for the next generation. I chose a prom theme



photo by Andrew Drachman

Tiffany Haddish's She Ready Foundation is making a difference for young people in foster care.

because I've met so many adults who never got the chance to go. I wanted to create a beautiful experience for them and help kids at the same time. It's a party with a purpose – for good.”

The organization will honor Vibrato restaurateur, entrepreneur and philanthropist Eden Alpert with the Hero Award; La La Land Kind Cafe founder, philanthropist and foster youth advocate Francois Reihani with the Champion of Love Award; and Reach TV founder and

CEO Lynnwood Bibbens with the Inspiration Award. The evening also includes testimonials by She Ready Foundation Alumni Fellows.

Guests will enjoy performances by Tanya Nolan and the Original Soul Train Dancers. An interactive silent and live auction will be held by Kara Saun “The Fashion Fairy Godmother,” in partnership with the Miss U.S.A. Pageant.

For information and to purchase tickets, visit shereadyfoundation.org/prom2025.

Two D Line stations close while new subway segment is connected

The Los Angeles County Transportation Authority is planning to close the Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/Normandie stations on the D Line from Saturday, May 17, at 9 p.m. through Friday, July 25, at 11 p.m.

The closure is necessary to connect the existing D Line with the new subway extension project, which will run between Wilshire/Western and Westwood and Wilshire/Vermont stations to accommodate D Line passengers. Bus Shuttle 855 and Metro Lines 720 and 20 will transport riders in the area during the closure. The B Line also runs between Union Station and the Wilshire/Vermont station – one station east of the Wilshire/Normandie station. B Line frequency will increase from every 12-minutes to every eight minutes during the D Line closure.

Section one on the D Line extension project, which includes the Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Cienega stations, is

scheduled to open in fall 2025. Section two, which includes the Wilshire/Rodeo and Century City/Constellation stations, is scheduled to open in 2026, followed by section three with the Westwood/UCLA and Westwood/VA Hospital stations in 2027.

On section one of the project, Metro plans to close the intersections of Wilshire/Fairfax, Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Western on different weekends in June for repaving. Wilshire/Fairfax will be closed from June 13-16, Wilshire/Western will be closed from June 20-23 and Wilshire/La Brea will be closed from June 27-30. The closures run from Friday at 9 p.m. through Monday at 6 a.m. At Wilshire/Fairfax, Wilshire Boulevard will be closed from San Diego Way to Spaulding Avenue. At Wilshire/Western, the closure runs between Western Avenue and Saint Andrews Place. At Wilshire/La Brea, the closure will be located between Mansfield and Cloverdale avenues.

At the Wilshire/La Cienega sta-

tion, street restoration continues on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard and the east side of La Cienega Boulevard. Two lanes on Wilshire Boulevard are open in each direction between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards.

Northbound La Cienega Boulevard will be reduced to a single lane from approximately 200 feet south to approximately 150 feet north of Wilshire Boulevard from Monday, May 19, through Tuesday, May 27. Crews will pour concrete for a new bus pad at the northeast corner of Wilshire and La Cienega boulevards.

Ongoing station construction is occurring at Wilshire/Rodeo. K-rail enclosures will remain in place along the northern and southern curb lanes of Wilshire Boulevard to support station construction and appendage and sidewalk construction during May. Two lanes will remain open along Wilshire Boulevard between Beverly and Crescent drives. Left turns are restricted from westbound Wilshire Boulevard to South Cañon Drive.

South Reeves and South Canon drives may have only one through lane with flaggers to facilitate traffic flow from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. South Beverly Drive could also be reduced to one lane in each direc-



photo by Edwin Folven

Subway-related construction continues along the Wilshire Boulevard curb lanes in Beverly Hills.

tion from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wilshire Boulevard may be reduced to one lane in each direction for concrete placement and deliveries in Beverly Hills overnight from 8:15 p.m.-7 a.m. South Beverly Drive may also be reduced to one lane in each direction overnight.

At the Century City/Constellation station, crews are preparing to remove deck panels and repair the street surface along Constellation Boulevard between Century Park East and Solar Way. The work is anticipated to begin in

July and will last approximately two months. To facilitate the work, traffic control will be implemented in five phases progressing from east to west. Following deck removal, traffic control measures will be reestablished on Constellation Boulevard to support continued construction.

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.

L.A. Regional Small Business Legal Aid Program expands access

The Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel are providing free legal services to small business owners and entrepreneurs across L.A. County through the L.A. Regional Small Business Legal Aid Program, helping them build, protect and grow businesses. L.A. County and DEO have invested \$3 million in the American Rescue Plan Act and partnered with the city of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department to expand the program and provide a no wrong door approach for legal services for small businesses countywide, and at scale.

The L.A. Regional Small Business Legal Aid Program has been transformative, addressing long-standing gaps in access to legal services for entrepreneurs, especially women, immigrants and communities of color. By offering free multilingual resources and tailored counsel through one centralized point of

entry, the program empowers small business owners to overcome barriers, navigate challenges and thrive. The legal aid program's comprehensive suite of services include contract review, business structuring, employment law guidance, intellectual property protection and support navigating government relief programs. It also provides business education through accessible workshops and academies, one-on-one counseling and referrals for representation. Together, the services have been a lifeline for many entrepreneurs, especially amid ongoing economic uncertainty caused by natural disasters and structural inequities.

Business owners in L.A. County seeking Legal Aid Program assessment, legal education workshops or counsel and referrals for representation can visit opportunity.lacounty.gov/legalaid or llegalhelp.org, call (866)375-9511, or email sblhelp@bettzedek.org. All services are offered free on an ongoing basis.

L.A. County Household Relief Grant disburses first wave of funding

The Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs has begun disbursing funds through the L.A. County Household Relief Grant, a program designed to provide timely financial assistance to households that suffered the greatest impact by the Eaton and Palisades fires.

To date, the department has approved over \$5.6 million in grants for households affected by the Eaton and Palisades fires. The first wave of funding marks a key milestone in the county's ongoing recovery efforts.

"We hope that these grants represent tangible steps that help families stabilize and begin their rebuilding journey after the devastation of the wildfires," DCBA Director Rafael Carbajal said. "Our team, along with our partner, The Center by Lendistry, is working diligently to evaluate applications and expedite the distribution of funds to ensure that those most impacted by these fires receive the support they urgently need."

The grant program received over

15,000 applications prior to closing on March 12. While initial grant awards have begun, applications continue to be expeditiously reviewed and grant awards will continue until funds raised are exhausted. Grants awarded range from \$6,000 to \$18,000 per household and can be used for any needs not covered by insurance or other forms of assistance.

With 60% of applicants affected by the Eaton Fire and 40% by the Palisades Fire, officials expect that most future grant awards will primarily support Eaton Fire survivors.

"These grants mark a vital step in helping our communities heal and recover from the devastating wildfires," said Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District. "I'm glad that families in Altadena and the surrounding region are finally beginning to receive the critical support they need and deserve."

The donation portal remains open, and contributions continue to shape the program's capacity to serve wildfire-affected residents. Donations can be made directly to the L.A. County Relief Fund at lacounty.gov/relief.

Applicants seeking an update on the status of their Household Relief Grant application are encouraged to log in to their existing account via lacountyrelieffund.com.

Domestic violence helpline expands access

On May 8, the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color, Homeboy Industries, the National Compadres Network, Creative Interventions and Growing a New Heart hosted an event to commemorate the Los Angeles expansion of the A Call For Change Helpline, a free service to help stop and prevent occurrences of domestic violence.

"The helpline is here to provide a place for people who are ready to practice becoming reliably safe in their close relationships," said J.A.C. Patrissi, founder and principal of the transformative justice organization Growing a New Heart, who co-founded the helpline in Massachusetts in 2020. "Callers come to terms with what they've done and practice making a new way forward. Our responders support callers in examining their deeply held beliefs, their choices and their hopes, so they can foster trusting, safe and loving relationships while being accountable to the harm they have caused."

Last fall, the helpline expanded to California through the partnership of several organizations, including ABMoC, Homeboy Industries, National Compadres Network and Creative

Interventions. The helpline provides free, multilingual, confidential assistance for people who either have used violence in their relationships or have thought about using it. Trained responders hold meaningful conversations with callers about their behaviors without using judgement or shame. Responders can also connect callers to other local organizations and services that can guide them in their journey.

"We are so proud to be involved in the expansion of the helpline to Los Angeles, and to help provide an outlet to people who know that their behaviors are hurting their relationships," said Eric Morrison-Smith, executive director of ABMoC. The helpline is part of ABMoC's Healing Together campaign, which invites individuals to create safe, accountable communities by putting healing, gender justice and racial equity over punishment as the way to end intimate partner violence. "Calling the police won't end these behaviors, but providing an anonymous place, without judgement, where we can teach people that there are better ways to deal with your frustration can and will."

For information, and to support A Call For Change Helpline, visit acallforchangehelpline.org.

Letters to the Editor

Taiwan must be allowed to join WHO

Over the past few decades, "Health for All" has been the goal of the World Health Organization. Regrettably, to this day, Taiwan, a major contributor to global health, remains excluded from the WHO. Taiwan's exclusion is not due to a lack of capacity or commitment, but rather political obstruction, particularly through the misrepresentation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1. These resolutions neither mention Taiwan nor assign the People's Republic of China any authority to represent Taiwan's 23.5 million people. The global health commu-

nity cannot afford to let political interests override public health imperatives.

Taiwan has proven itself to be a trustworthy and effective global health partner. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it extended support to countries worldwide, providing medical supplies, sharing expertise and maintaining transparent, timely communications. Taiwan's exclusion from the WHO not only disregards these contributions but risks leaving critical gaps in the global health system.

Health knows no borders. The WHO Constitution recognizes health as a fundamental human right, and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals call on us to leave no one behind.

The exclusion of Taiwan from the WHO undermines global cooperation, hinders knowledge sharing and disregards the rights of 23.5 million people.

I respectfully urge the international community to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in the WHO and all of its meetings and mechanisms, especially those related to the WHO pandemic agreement.

Health is a fundamental human right. Recognizing Taiwan's role in the global health community is not only pragmatic – it is just.

*Amino C. Y. Chi
director general
Taipei Economic and Cultural
Office in Los Angeles*

RESTAURANT NEWS

Chef Liza adds sizzle to Cat & Fiddle

The Cat & Fiddle has announced the second installment of its Chef Series, following the success of its December debut. This June, dive into vibrant Mediterranean flavors with acclaimed culinary talent Chef Elizabeth Mehditach.

Mehditach, known as Chef Liza, is a celebrated TV personality and private chef to the stars. Her dynamic approach to Cali-Mediterranean cuisine has been showcased on KTLA's "Taste This", Good Day DC (FOX 5), Food Network's "Battle of the Decades" and Hulu's "Baker's Dozen." Her signature style blends the bold, fresh flavors of the Mediterranean with California flair.

Together with The Cat & Fiddle – Hollywood's beloved British restaurant and pub known for its warm hospitality and charming patio – Chef Liza will curate an unforgettable dining experience Mondays in June.

Menu highlights include spinach and feta bourekas, curried deviled eggs, spicy meatballs with scratch focaccia, pistachio kataifi cheesecake with chocolate ganache and olive oil citrus cake.

For information, visit thecatandfiddle.com or call (323)468-3800. The Cat & Fiddle is located at 742 Highland Ave.

Sneak a taste at Bourbon Steak events

Beginning Friday, May 16, Bourbon Steak Los Angeles – the modern American steakhouse by acclaimed Chef Michael Mina, located at The Americana at Brand – welcomes guests for a series of curated culinary events.

"The Mina Experience: A Bourbon Steak Tasting Menu" is a one-night-only culinary experience on Friday, May 16, as Mina presents an exclusive multi-course

Descanso debuts new 'Late Night' offerings

Descanso Restaurant, renowned for its signature Plancha dining experience, is turning up the heat in Mid-Wilshire with a dynamic new lineup of menu offerings. Guests at the newly opened Los Angeles flagship location can explore an inspired selection of craft cocktails, flavorful entrées and a brand-new Late Night menu – each celebrating the vibrant, street-style cuisine of Central West Mexico.

With Head Chef Sergio Lopez at the helm, the new menu features hearty salads, satisfying entrées and distinctive cocktails that elevate every bite. Highlights include the chipotle shrimp salad, made with baby arugula, lemon vinaigrette, queso fresco, pico de gallo, elote asado and habanero pickled onions; and the pato con mole negro, featuring tender duck leg in rich and savory mole negro topped with crema, onions, sesame seed and micro cilantro,



photo courtesy of Descanso Restaurant

Make it a 'Late Night' with the new menu items at the Wilshire Boulevard establishment.

served with blue corn tortillas.

For an after-hours indulgence, discover Descanso's new Late Night menu, available Friday and Saturday from 10 p.m.–midnight, offering even more irresistible bites, perfect for getting the party started or ending a late night out. Highlights include ceviche tostadas, pork belly aguachile, carne asada potatoes and carnitas alambre, along with a selection of made-to-order tacos.

Pair the new menu with an equally show-stopping lineup of cocktails and mocktails, each crafted with fresh, seasonal ingredients. The Fresa Fresca blends Deleon

Blanco, Giffard Framboise, Ancho Reyes Verde and house-made strawberry agua fresca with a touch of vanilla for a vibrant, slightly spicy sip. For a zero-proof option with just as much depth, the La Catrinal combines guava purée, fresh lime, house-brewed green tea and spice syrup, topped with Grapefruit Jarritos for a refreshingly complex mocktail.

Descanso's new menu is now available exclusively at the Los Angeles location. For information and to make a reservation, visit descansorestaurant.com or call (213)672-2444. Descanso is located at 5773 Wilshire Blvd.

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tasting menu. Priced at \$175 per guest, the evening includes a signed copy of Mina's highly anticipated new cookbook, "My Egypt," along with complimentary access to the Bourbon Lounge after-party – featuring live jazz, craft cocktails and elevated late-night bites.

"Bourbon Lounge: Unwind at the Bourbon Lounge" on Friday, May 16, from 8–11 p.m. will have live jazz, craft cocktails, and bites from the new lounge menu. Tickets are \$45, but guests of The Mina Experience tasting menu enjoy complimentary access – because the best nights go beyond dessert.

"Caymus Wine Dinner" on Thursday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. will see executive chef Gabriel Pulido and lead sommelier Julia Djaoui host a five-course wine pairing dinner featuring the bold elegance of Caymus Vineyards. Enjoy expertly paired dishes like heirloom tomato tartare, braised short rib pappardelle and Santa Maria tri tip. Tickets are \$250 per person.

Reservations, including those for each event, can be made via Seven Rooms at sevenrooms.com/explore/bourbon-steakla/reservations. Bourbon Steak L.A. is located at 237 S. Brand Blvd.

Cure May gray at Katana

It's been an overcast May, but with summer right around the corner, Angelenos can soon enjoy the best outdoor patio restaurants L.A. has to offer, and Katana is one not to be missed. Perched on the iconic Sunset Strip, the hot spot has been drawing in diners for over 20 years. In a city where restaurants come and go, Katana continues to stand out for its robata-yaki, premium sushi and fun atmosphere.

Katana's buzzy patio area offers one of the best views of the strip, where diners can enjoy authentic robata-yaki, an open flame cooking technique using Binchotan (a special Japanese charcoal from the seaside village of Wakayama). Menu highlights include Kobe Pepper skewers made with American wagyu and black pepper sauce, Toro sushi featuring bluefin tuna belly, kizami wasabi, tosa shoyu and A5 wagyu seared on a flaming hot rock. Pair it all with craft cocktails like the "Tea & Harmony,"

with green tea-infused Grey Goose vodka, lemongrass, honey, orgeat syrup and yuzu, and "Sundown on Sunset," made with Monkey 47 gin, ozeki nigori, Liquid Alchemist blood orange, apricot brandy, lime and grapefruit bitters.

Katana is located at 8439 W. Sunset Blvd. For information, visit katanarobota.com or call (323)650-8585.

Head to the World Fair on Level 8

The World Fair Festival is taking over Golden Hour at Level 8. The iconic rooftop is being transformed into a vibrant, carnival-inspired playground right in the heart of Downtown L.A. Guests can enjoy classic carnival games, globally inspired bites and stunning rooftop views, perfect for spring-time vibes. Attendees can try their luck at traditional carnival games like high striker, skee ball and ring toss, all while enjoying music from the resident DJ throughout the evening.

The menu offers a flavor-packed journey with treats like funnel cake fries, churros and savory favorites such as smashburger sliders, chicken satay and quesabirria spring rolls. For drinks, the carousel bar will serve refreshing cocktails, cold beers and more throughout the evening.

Guests can also test their skills for a chance to win prizes, ranging from complimentary drinks to a weekend stay at Moxy DTLA. For information, visit goldenhourdla.com. Level 8 is located at 1254 S. Figueroa St.

Truly Pizza pops up at Patio del Mar

This Memorial Day weekend, two beloved coastal destinations come together for a once-in-a-lifetime culinary experience. On May 25-26, acclaimed Dana Point pizzeria Truly Pizza will take over Patio del Mar, the seasonal beachfront patio at Hotel Casa del Mar in Santa Monica for an unforgettable, two-day-only seaside pop-up.

With just one opportunity to taste this exclusive, never-before-seen menu, guests are invited to indulge

Restaurant team christen their 'Baby Bistro'

Baby Bistro, the Los Angeles restaurant by partners Miles Thompson and Andy Schwartz, held its grand opening on Thursday, May 8. Its constantly changing, concise menu showcases Thompson's unwavering obsession with peak-of-season produce. Add-ons for the table, such as country terrine or a side of beans and nettles, are available. An approachable drink list is centered around winemakers in California and Europe that Schwartz has cultivated deep relationships with. The restaurant is inside a gently restored, century-old Victorian bungalow located in the Alpine Courtyard complex at the edges of Chinatown and Echo Park with an interior refitted in collaboration with artist/designer Grayson Revoir. For Thompson, who originally opened the critically acclaimed Allumette in Echo Park over a decade ago, the brick-and-mortar



photos courtesy of Baby Bistro

Andy Schwartz and Miles Thompson have crafted a restaurant that combines their unique strengths.

represents a meaningful return to the area.

As their first independent restaurant, Baby Bistro is the realization of the partners' sincere desire to extend both warm hospitality and

comforting fare in a long dreamt of space of their own.

For information, visit babybistrola.com or call (213)266-8784. Baby Bistro is located at 1027 Alpine St.

in a truly rare culinary moment – one that marries the refined elegance of Casa del Mar's oceanside ambiance with Truly Pizza's inventive, celebrated flavors. Set on the open-air Patio del Mar, the limited-time event offers front-row ocean views, fresh coastal bites, cool cocktails and innovative pizzas – perfect for a sun-soaked lunch or a breezy dinner under the stars. It's an unforgettable summer dining experience in an unparalleled setting.

From the team behind Truly Pizza that includes four world champion pizzaiolos, the pop-up will showcase a menu that harmonizes the refined, seaside spirit of Casa del Mar with Truly Pizza's signature innovation, hospitality and commitment to craft. The menu is a love letter to California's coastal bounty, spotlighting signature pies like its smoky vodka and sweet and spicy, and featuring first-time creations not found anywhere else.

Patio del Mar is located at Hotel Casa del Mar, 1910 Ocean Way, Santa Monica. For information, visit hotelcasadelmar.com/experiences/truly-pizza-pop-up.

For inquiries about the rooftop event space, contact privateevents@lmeritagebeverlyhills.com.

For information, visit lmeritagebeverlyhills.com



photo by Tabor Brewster

L'Ermitage unveils revised rooftop

L'Ermitage Beverly Hills – a five-star hotel at 9291 Burton Way – unveiled its newly-reimagined rooftop on May 7. The expansive rooftop features 360-degree views of Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, West Hollywood and local landmarks including Beverly Hills City Hall, the Hollywood Sign and Downtown Los Angeles.

The spacious terrace includes two distinct areas that offer both relaxation and excitement. The pool deck offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy the sunshine and sip on a

refreshing cocktail – from classics like margaritas to original creations – while lounging poolside. An adjacent restaurant, Poza, provides classic California fare with a modern twist. Samples at the May 7 event included decadent lobster rolls, chicken skewers, crispy rice with shiitake mushroom and mango pudding. Poza will open to the public this summer.

The rooftop also features a large event space, where guests can enjoy the company of friends and family while celebrating a special occasion.

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C•CAP gala honors Chef Celestino Drago

Culinary Careers Program Los Angeles will present the highly anticipated annual C•CAP LA Gala, a spectacular event honoring Italian culinary legend Chef Celestino Drago. Renowned for pioneering regional Italian cuisine in Los Angeles, Drago will be celebrated on Friday, May 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the iconic Jonathan Club in Downtown Los Angeles. The unforgettable evening will spotlight his extraordinary contributions to the culinary world while supporting the next generation of food and hospitality leaders.

Culinary Careers Program is a national workforce development non-profit that empowers under-resourced high school students and adults to become the next genera-

tion of leaders in food and hospitality. Founded in 1990 by culinary educator and cookbook author Richard Grausman, and in partnership with board co-chair Chef Marcus Samuelsson, C•CAP serves communities across the country, including 7,000 Los Angeles high school students and its unparalleled network of industry contacts includes renowned chefs, hospitality leaders, restaurants and hotels.

Drago has shaped Los Angeles's dining landscape for more than four decades. Born and raised in Sicily, Drago has become one of the world's most lauded Italian chefs and has received numerous accolades throughout his career. He was named "Best New Chef" by Food & Wine early in his career, was a

multi-time guest chef at the James Beard House in New York on multiple occasions and named "Chef of the Year" by Food Fare Los Angeles.

Drago's highest honor was being knighted as "Cavaliere Celestino" by the Italian government for his dedication and exemplary contributions to the preservation and advancement of Italian culture and traditions in the United States. Drago is the executive chef and owner of Drago Centro in Downtown Los Angeles, IL Pastaio, Drago Ristorante, Drago Bakery, Drago Events, and Celestino Drago Catering & Special Events.

The celebratory evening will begin with rooftop cocktails and Sicilian canapés, followed by an elegant four-course Sicilian dinner



photo courtesy of C•CAP

The Jonathan Club will be the site for the C•CAP LA Gala, honoring Celestino Drago.

curated and prepared by Drago in the Grand Ballroom. For tickets, priced at \$475, and information, visit donate.culinarycareers.org/event/c-cap-los-angeles-gala/e658596.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The event on May 17 and 18 features 237 artists from around the world.

Spring art show blooms in Beverly Hills

Join the city of Beverly Hills and its Community Services Department for the spring Beverly Hills Art Show on May 17 and 18 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. in Beverly Gardens Park, 9439 Santa Monica Blvd.

Attendees can immerse themselves in a vibrant showcase of exceptional art from 237 artists spanning four blocks within the picturesque Beverly Gardens Park on Santa Monica Boulevard from Rodeo Drive to Rexford Drive. The bi-annual extravaganza, held every May and October, captivates art enthusiasts, connoisseurs and families from all over, drawing thousands of visitors to Beverly Hills.

Artists will showcase their work in ten categories including painting, sculpture, ceramics, glass, drawing, watercolor, traditional printmaking, photography and digital art and jewelry. In addition to captivating

art, the Beverly Hills Art Show will have gourmet food trucks offering delectable treats, a creative zone brimming with fun, hands-on art-making, art demonstrations in chalk art, trace drawing, watercolor and painting, and a beer and wine garden where adults can unwind in the shade while listening to relaxing music in the park.

The show's newest partner, Los Angeles Printmaking Society, a national nonprofit dedicated to the encouragement of printmaking and the artists who make prints, will feature four demonstrating artists at their booth in front of the Lily Pond in Beverly Gardens Park.

For a full schedule of demonstrations and creative zone activities, visit beverlyhills.org/artshow.

Out of the 237 artists participating, coming from countries such as Ukraine, France and Mexico, as well as 11 states across the United

States, 51 are debuting at the Beverly Hills Art Show. Additionally, 45 artists are based in the Los Angeles area and 24 are from Beverly Hills.

The Beverly Hills Art Show started over 50 years ago as a small arts and crafts fair on one block in Beverly Gardens Park. Today, it has grown to 237 artists spread across four blocks and attracts over 30,000 people over the two-day weekend, making it one of the most beloved and long-standing community events in Beverly Hills.

Convenient parking for the art show is located directly across from the show grounds and in surrounding public parking structures. A map to the city's public parking structures can be found at beverlyhills.org/parking.

For information, visit beverlyhills.org/artshow or call (310) 285-1000.

Have 'Tea for Two' at Craft in America

Sharing a cup of tea with someone can be an intimate, resonant experience, and through the eyes of Los Angeles art collectors Gloria and Sonny Kamm, the dutiful, historically laden teapot can be a site of great visual and tactile expression, where the focus becomes evocative abstraction of its most standard features. Through Aug. 30, Craft in America welcomes the exhibition "Tea for Two: The Teapots of Gloria and Sonny Kamm."

The Kamms are known and respected for collecting and commissioning studio craft teapots by a wide range of artists. Envision a teapot made of perforated clay or another made of heavily embroidered fabric or even one made of metal mesh and pistachio shells.

Gloria Kamm has called these concept teapots "delightfully useless" in terms of practical function. And yet in partnership with her husband Sonny, the Kamms see the function of a teapot less as a device for serving the beverage, but rather as a celebrated vehicle for expression. The hospitable and iconic teapot has a 500-year history and

has been widely and wildly interpreted by artists and production houses alike. "Tea for Two" will feature a curated selection giving insight into the inclinations and motivations of the renowned Los Angeles art collectors, whose collection also ranges beyond that of their teapots. The couple is also featured in one of the newest Craft in America episodes, "Collectors."

Gloria Kamm regards contemporary, one-of-a-kind teapots as "containers full of ideas" where the artist has transmuted, by their hands, their worries, celebrations or ponderings into the object. The wide scope of styles and materials in the curated selection will not only cause visitors to marvel, but to also give greater consideration to the structure of a teapot: pot, handle and spout. The irreverent and whimsical interpretations of these integral parts will provide entertaining musing for viewers of all ages.

For information, visit craftinamerica.org/exhibition/tea-for-two-the-teapots-of-gloria-and-sonny-kamm. Craft in America is located at 8415 W. Third St.



photo by Tony Cunha, courtesy of Kamm Teapot Foundation

Adrian Saxe's unique teapot is among the collection that will be on display at Craft in America.

'Right Before I Go' performs for Mental Health Action Day

Playwright and director Stan Zimmerman has set his cast for a special one-night performance of his suicide awareness play, "Right Before I Go," scheduled for Sunday, May 18, Mental Health Action Day. Zimmerman will appear as the narrator alongside Mindy Sterling, Danny Pintauro, Juliana Joel, Philip Smithy and Kalinda Gray.

The show incorporates real suicide notes from well-known people to war veterans, LGBTQ members and kids that were bullied, but ultimately ending on a message of hope.

Following the one-hour performance will be a talk-back moderat-

ed by local mental health professional Dr. Julie H. Lee. The play is sponsored by Amplify, an initiative to address the inequality in performing arts programming. The program aims to provide a platform and outlet for performing artists of all kinds while broadening the inclusivity and outreach of the Curtis Theatre to a diverse artistic community.

"I am honored that Amplify has chosen my play to be presented at the beautiful Curtis Theatre in Brea, California," Zimmerman said. "It is especially important that our production falls on Mental Health Action Day. With a subject like this, we are often left with more ques-

tions than answers. Coming together in community to talk about suicide prevention can be the first step in taking action to save the lives of our loved ones."

"Right Before I Go" is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by TRW PLAYS. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$15 for general admission and \$12 for seniors, military, medical workers and first responders.

The Curtis Theatre is located at 1 Civic Center Circle, Brea. The performance begins at 5 p.m. For information, visit curtistheatre.com or call (714)990-7722.

Hammer Museum explores Schoenberg experiences

The Hammer Museum presents "Schoenberg in Hollywood: The Making of a Modern Opera" on Sunday, May 18, at 1:30 p.m. at the Hammer Museum.

Co-presented with the UCLA Lowell Milken Center for Music of American Jewish Experience and the Schoenberg at 150 Festival, the program is part of the Hammer Conversations series. To celebrate Schoenberg's 150th birthday, join composer Tod Machover as he discusses his innovative new opera "Schoenberg in Hollywood" with conductor Neal Stulberg, director Karole Armitage and Schoenberg's son Larry Schoenberg. UCLA musicology professor Joy Calico moderates the discussion. The opera, making its West Coast pre-

miere at the UCLA Nimoy Theater on May 18, 19, 20 and 22, explores the fascinating journey of the Austrian-born composer during his time in Los Angeles, where he navigated the tension between his artistic vision and Hollywood's cinematic allure.

The panel discussion at the Hammer Museum is free and open to the public on a first come, first served basis. Tickets are required and seats will be assigned when guests pick up tickets at the box office. The Hammer Museum is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit hammer.ucla.edu/programs-events/2025/schoenberg-hollywood-making-modern-opera.

The UCLA Nimoy Theater is located at 1262 Westwood Blvd.

For tickets and information about the Schoenberg in Hollywood performance at The Nimoy, visit schoolofmusic.ucla.edu.



photo courtesy of the Hammer Museum

Composer Tod Machover discusses his innovative new opera "Schoenberg in Hollywood" at the event.

'Thunderbolts*' is here to save Marvel

Time for a hard truth: The Marvel Cinematic Universe has reached some lows since the Avengers last assembled. The next two phases of films and TV series haven't been a complete bust, but each new contribution feels like a gamble. Maybe it'll work. Maybe it won't.

Still, even mediocre ones like "Black Widow" and "Falcon and the Winter Soldier" introduce new characters that can expand into better used heroes, antiheroes or villains. If that was the plan all along, "Thunderbolts*" is the proper payoff with solid humor and action but even more emotional depth than

this entire franchise can't seem to effectively explore.

It's all about Florence Pugh. She's the present and future of the MCU. Once a Black Widow, Yelena (Pugh) feels aimless during various off-book missions for the CIA. But now she's ready to do more, follow in her sister's footsteps.

CIA director Valentina Allegra de Fontaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) seems fine with this decision after a final task: Follow an unknown infiltrator into a massive vault and subdue. Minor problem: Others like Yelena received the same orders.



photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

"Thunderbolts*" is loaded with action and features a dynamic cast of characters.

WeHo begins Summer Sounds

The city of West Hollywood's Summer Sounds Free Outdoor Concert Series presents a free one-day acoustic music experience, which will take place on Saturday, May 17 from 4-6 p.m. at Kings Road Park, located at 1000 N. Kings Road.

The Summer Sounds Acoustic Free Outdoor Music Experience is organized by West Hollywood's Arts Division. Summer Sounds concerts are free to attend; city-provided seating is first-come, first-served. Personal chairs may be allowed as space permits; blankets are not recommended. Advance RSVPs are requested via Eventbrite at [summersounds-2025May17.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Summer Sounds Acoustic will feature performances from Haley Fishberger, Rob Milton and Zeinapur. With a voice like a vintage red wine, Fishberger weaves together cinematic pop with an alternative edge. Her style is marked by

melodies that cut right to the soul, lyrics that feel like an unfiltered best friend, and queer love stories.

L.A.-based R&B artist Milton is a force to be reckoned with. From Stockholm to Nashville, audiences around the world have witnessed the undeniable magic he brings to every stage and every song.

Zeinapur is a cathedral rock artist created by Russian-Persian soprano Roksana Zeinapur and British guitarist David Labovitch. Described as a "James Bond soundtrack," the duo skillfully blends their contrasting backgrounds in opera and rock to create a sound that is equal parts nostalgic and brand new.

The special acoustic concert is in addition to the city's regularly scheduled free Summer Sounds series, which will return to Plummer Park on July 6, 27 and Aug. 17.

For information about the Hollywood's Summer Sounds Concert Series, visit weho.org/summersounds.

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

Soon enough, Yelena encounters the disgraced former Captain America, John Walker (Wyatt Russell), "Black Widow's" Taskmaster (Olga Kurylenko) and "Ant-Man and Wasp's" Ghost (Hannah John-Kamen).

This chance encounter feels more coordinated, but this motley crew experiences one unplanned surprise. Meet Bob (Lewis Pullman). He has no memories of the vault or how he got there. He's nice enough and tags along as the others try to make sense of everything that transpired.

Elsewhere, Bucky (Sebastian Stan) undertakes his own clandestine mission that will eventually lead to the others. That's also the case for Yelena's "father," Alexei Shostakov (David Harbour), the once great Soviet hero known to dozens as the Red Guardian.

This is what a street-level superhero story looks like. Fewer over-the-top sequences, more focus on fight choreography and characters with vulnerabilities. These Thunderbolts (though the asterisk implies something else will be revealed) feel human, even if three of the crew have powers thanks to a super-soldier serum and another can phase through walls.

If you've seen the trailers or know all the players involved, you might wonder how this team can



photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

Hannah John-Kamen, left, Lewis Pullman, Wyatt Russell, David Harbour, Florence Pugh and Sebastian Stan make a formidable group in "Thunderbolts*," a new film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

take on a powerful villain. All is explained and works incredibly well. Unlike other world-ending scenarios, the film's resolution doesn't rely on the hardest punch or a trick shot.

The story rests entirely on Pugh's shoulders. Stan might be the veteran MCU guy, whose debut dates back to 2011. Yelena's desire to change and help Bob is central to the story. Next up still ain't Bucky. It's John. More than any other character, he evolves into something more than the irritable, aggressive brute.

After her fourth appearance in the MCU, Louis-Dreyfus' Valentina is still a confusing figure. First, she recruits John, then tries to have Hawkeye assassinated and then arrests her ex-husband for colluding with Wakanda. Here, her intentions

and loyalties seem unclear at best, caricatured at worst.

Regardless, "Thunderbolts*" is still in the top half of all the MCU content out there. Props belong to director Jake Schreier ("Paper Towns," six episodes of A24's "Beef"), who's already rumored to helm an "X-Men" flick. As for the Thunderbolts team, they ain't going anywhere. Most have already been confirmed for the next "Avengers" film, releasing next year

"Thunderbolts*" is a refreshing film, both thrilling and unexpectedly wholesome. Hopefully, more entries take their cues from this rag-tag team. We need a touch of conflict, real stakes, charming character interactions and inventive plotting. Combine all that and you get a film worth seeing several times on a big screen.

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Alberto J. Román appointed new LACCD Chancellor

The Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees has officially appointed Dr. Alberto J. Román as the district's chancellor, following a formal vote at its board meeting on May 7. Román, who has served as LACCD's interim chancellor since November, was selected following a comprehensive and rigorous search process.

As chancellor, Román will spearhead one of the nation's most diverse and expansive community college systems – serving more than 194,000 students annually across nine colleges – and will be instrumental in advancing the district's mission to deliver accessible, high-quality education across Los Angeles County.

“As an immigrant and first-generation college graduate, I've experienced firsthand the power education has to transform lives and I'm honored to champion accessible education through my appointment as chancellor of LACCD,” Román said. “I carry the district's mission to heart – ensuring that every student, regardless of background, has access to education and the opportunity to succeed. Our colleges are engines of opportunity, and I'm proud to continue leading this work forward.”

Román brings more than 25 years of experience in education, having served in numerous capacities ranging from classified employee and faculty member to

director of human resources, assistant superintendent, vice president at Southwestern College and vice chancellor of human resources at LACCD.

“During Dr. Román's tenure as president of East Los Angeles College, I had the privilege of working closely with him and observing firsthand the exceptional strength of his leadership,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, 1st District. “His unwavering commitment to both students and the surrounding communities was evident in every initiative he championed. I am excited to see him carry that same passion and vision forward as chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College

District. Dr. Román's leadership is poised to continue shaping a college system that not only uplifts and empowers but also reflects the rich diversity and resilience of Los Angeles County, fostering an environment where every student can thrive.”

Prior to his appointment as interim chancellor, Román served as president of East Los Angeles College for four years. His leadership is informed by his own journey as an immigrant and first-generation college graduate – experiences that closely reflect those of many students across the district. Román is passionately dedicated to transforming communities and advancing social mobility by championing equitable access to education and student success.

For information, visit laccd.edu.



photo courtesy of LACCD

Alberto J. Román brings over 25 years of experience in education.

Join the L.A. County Women's Lifeguard Prep Academy May 17-18

The Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguard Division, in partnership with the Women's Fire League, will host the fourth annual Women's Lifeguard Prep Academy on Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the county's Venice Beach Lifeguard Operations Facility, 2300 Ocean Front Walk.

Open to participants 16 and older, the free annual two-day academy provides an opportunity to learn hands-on lifesaving skills

from professional ocean lifeguards. Participants will engage in activities such as swimming in the ocean and running in the sand, as well as physical fitness exercises. The event gives interested candidates an introduction to the duties and responsibilities of firefighters and ocean lifeguards.

Registration is required. For information, email womensfireleague@fire.lacounty.gov, or visit fire.lacounty.gov/womens-fire-prep-academy.



photo courtesy of the L.A. County Fire Department

The Women's Lifeguard Prep Academy introduces young women to the rigors of being a lifeguard.

BHUSD welcomes new Horace Mann Elementary School principal



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Dr. Steven J. Suttle has served as a principal in several school districts throughout California.

The Beverly Hills Unified School District announced on May 9 the appointment of Dr. Steven J. Suttle as the new principal of Horace Mann Elementary School. Suttle brings more than 15 years of experience in leading school communities with heart, purpose and results.

Suttle has served as a principal in multiple California school districts, where his work led to substantial academic gains, state and national recognition, and campus cultures centered around strong relationships and student growth. His schools have earned honors such as the Gold Ribbon Award, PBIS Platinum and Silver Awards, and consistent high performance on the

California School Dashboard.

Suttle's leadership is shaped by a background in educational psychology, a doctorate in educational leadership and advanced training from both Harvard University's Data Wise Improvement Process and the National Institute for School Leadership. He is known for creating school environments where every child is seen, every educator is supported and families are engaged as true partners.

“Dr. Suttle brings a thoughtful, people-first approach to leadership,” BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss said. “He listens deeply, leads with heart and believes in the power of partnership. We are thrilled to welcome him into the Horace Mann community, where his presence will only strengthen our shared commitment to students, staff and families.”

For information, visit bhUSD.org.



EXHIBITION	CUISINE	PERFORMANCE
<p>UNITY IN DIVERSITY May 22 - June 6, 2025</p>	<p>Taste of KOREA 한국</p>	<p>YOUTH CONCERT</p>
<p>The 56th Annual KAASC Exhibition: 'Unity in Diversity'</p> <p>A Special exhibition celebrating the unique sensibilities of the Korean diaspora through 70 remarkable artworks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ May 22nd - June 6th ✓ Opening Reception May 22nd, 6 PM ✓ KCCLA Art Gallery ✓ WALK-IN 	<p>2025 Taste of Korea</p> <p>Join us the "Taste of Korea" cooking competition and explore the flavors of Korea by taking part in various food activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ May 23rd, 8 AM - 2 PM ✓ LA Harbor College ✓ WALK-IN 	<p>'Youth Concert' Screening</p> <p>Experience the magic of Korean traditional orchestra blending K-pop, game music, and more!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ May 29th, 7 PM ✓ KCCLA Ari Hall ✓ KCCLA Website RSVP

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BHHS senior to attend University of Wisconsin

Beverly Hills High School announced that Adina Eastman, a member of the class of 2025, will attend the University of Wisconsin. Eastman will major in business at one of the top public research universities in the country.

Eastman's time at BHHS has been defined by leadership, service and school spirit. She played varsity soccer all four years, serving as team captain for two, and brought the same dedication to every part of campus life. As co-president of the Service Learning Program, she helped lead major initiatives such as Albion Street, donation drives and weekly inclusive programming with BHHS's special education students.

She also founded Friendship from Far, a club that delivers hand-made bracelets and notes of encouragement to children in hospitals, and participated in By Your Side, a lunchtime social program for special education students, throughout all four years of high school. This year, she also joined the BHHS Madrigals Choir, continuing to expand her involvement in the arts.

"Adina's warmth, drive and leadership have made a lasting impact on our school," BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said. "She leads with heart, and we are so proud of everything she's accomplished. Wisconsin is lucky to have her."

For information, visit bhUSD.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD
Asina Eastman will study business at the University of Wisconsin.

BHUSD announces new principal of El Rodeo

The Beverly Hills Unified School District announced on May 9 the appointment of Kim D'Aloisio as the new principal of El Rodeo Elementary School. D'Aloisio brings more than 20 years of transformative leadership in public education.

D'Aloisio started her career in elementary education and most recently served as principal of an award-winning middle school in Los Angeles, where her leadership led to recognition as a California Distinguished School, a Magnet Schools of America Merit of Excellence recipient (2024-25) and a PBIS Silver Award honoree. She has also secured multiple competitive grants for innovation, outdoor learning and STEM expansion.

In 2024, D'Aloisio was named ACSA Region 16 Principal of the Year and North Valley Chamber of Commerce Principal of the Year, and she was featured in LAUSD's Beating the Odds digital magazine for her outstanding contributions to student achievement and innovation. She is currently a national Cahn Fellow, a prestigious program recognizing distinguished principals across the country and a finalist for LAUSD's Principal of the Year.

"It's a true privilege to be stepping into the role of principal at El Rodeo Elementary," D'Aloisio said. "I'm eager to partner with this dynamic community to listen, collaborate and help every learner take flight. Together, we'll create a joyful and forward-thinking envi-

ronment where students soar."

"Ms. D'Aloisio is a dynamic, accomplished leader who brings both innovation and heart to everything she does. Her track record speaks for itself, and her commitment to students, families and staff makes her an exceptional fit for the El Rodeo community," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss said.

Known for her collaborative leadership style and dedication to data-driven instruction, D'Aloisio has a strong record of advancing academic achievement and community engagement. She has served in various roles across Southern California, including teacher, assistant principal, district coordinator and mentor for aspiring administrators.

For information, visit bhUSD.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD
D'Aloisio recently served as a middle school principal in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Beverly Hills High School senior to attend UC Irvine



photo courtesy of BHUSD
Ruby Matenko will study public health sciences at the university.

Beverly Hills High School announced that Ruby Matenko, a proud member of the class of 2025, will be attending the University of California, Irvine. Matenko will major in public health sciences and join the prestigious Campuswide Honors Collegium at one of California's most respected research universities.

Matenko's time at BHHS has been shaped by intellectual curiosity, creative expression and a deep commitment to women's health. A three-year member of the Medical Science Academy, she also participated in the Osborne Medical Scholars Program, interned with TAD Health and volunteered over 100 hours at Cedars-Sinai, laying the

foundation for a future in maternal and public health.

In addition to her academic and medical pursuits, Matenko published a book on women's health at age 15 and contributed to BHHS as a columnist for Highlights and participated as a member of the yearbook staff. She served as captain of the speech and debate team, president of the Teach to Change peer tutoring club and played on the varsity girls tennis team throughout high school.

"Ruby is a powerhouse of intellect and empathy," BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said. "She leads with compassion, curiosity and confidence, and we know she will be a force for good in the world of healthcare and beyond."

For information, visit bhUSD.org.

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KCCLA presents works from the Korean Artists Association

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles and the Korean Artists Association of Southern California present the 56th annual "Exhibition of Korean Artists Association of Southern California," opening with a reception on Thursday, May 22, from 6-8 p.m. at the KCCLA Art Gallery.

This year's exhibition, held under the theme "Unity in Diversity," celebrates the KAASC's long-standing dedication to fostering artistic dialogue and cross-cultural connection.

Seventy artists from the association will present a dynamic range of works including painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics and mixed media, demonstrating the diversity of creative expression within the Korean American artistic community.

Founded in 1964, the KAASC has played a vital role in promoting cultural exchange and harmony between Korea and other communities. Through initiatives such as juried student exhibitions and

Korean American collaborative shows, the association has actively encouraged the next generation of artists. Over the years, the inclusion of younger artists has brought renewed energy and innovation to the group, blending fresh perspectives with traditional forms.

"This annual exhibition by the KAASC, which boasts over six decades of history, offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the association's artistic accomplishments and evolution," KCCLA Director Haedon Lee said. "I hope this gathering of artists from diverse generations and backgrounds will serve as a platform to highlight the depth and potential of Korean American art within the broader immigrant community."

"This exhibition – where different materials, perspectives and experiences harmonize – reflects the passion and experimental spirit of artists creating new artistic languages at the intersection of Korean identity and America's multicultural society," KAASC president Yun Sun Jeon added. "With 70 artists participating, I hope this exhibition reaffirms our pride and solidarity as immigrant artists and opens up new possibilities for artistic expression. We sincerely invite the Korean American community to join us and offer their warm support."

The exhibition is free and open to the public and will remain on view through June 6. KCCLA is located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (323)936-3014, or visit kccla.org.



photo courtesy of KCCLA

Works by Korean Artists Association of Southern California members, including a piece by Jongsung Kim, are included in the exhibition.

Holocaust Museum L.A. holds exhibition on antisemitic attacks

Holocaust Museum L.A. presents "Antisemitism's Echo: The Impact of Pogroms," an exhibition documenting attacks against Jews spanning 2,000 years and three continents running through Aug. 4.

Banners displayed throughout the museum detail the violent and destructive pogroms (organized massacres against the Jewish people) beginning in 66 C.E. in Alexandria, Egypt. The banners document infamous pogroms throughout history: Strasbourg, France, in 1349; late 19th century Russia and the Habsburg Empire; Nazi-perpetrated Kristallnacht (the "Night of Broken Glass") in 1938; Baghdad, Iraq, in 1941; Tripoli, Libya, in 1945; and Oct. 7, 2023, in Israel. The banners feature eyewitness quotes, historical facts and

photographs of artifacts from the specific time periods. Survivor testimonies include members of the Los Angeles community, historic accounts and reflections by former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury W. Michael Blumenthal.

In addition to reflections from Holocaust survivors, the exhibit includes firsthand testimonies from the USC Shoah Foundation's new collection of Oct. 7 survivor accounts. The Oct. 7 survivor testimonies will become part of Holocaust Museum L.A.'s permanent collection and can be watched by visitors after viewing the exhibit.

Holocaust Museum L.A. is located at 100 The Grove Drive. For information, visit holocaustmuseumla.org/pogrom.

Fans invited to see 'Star Wars' film series at Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills will hold the third annual "Star Wars Spectacular" with a

weekend screening of the three trilogies at the historic theater from May 23-26. The series celebrates



photo by Edwin Folven

The 'Star Wars' canon will be shown at the Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills from May 23-26.

the 20th anniversary of "Episode III: Revenge of the Sith" and the 48th anniversary of "Episode IV: A New Hope."

"To celebrate the 20th anniversary of 'Star Wars: Episode III: Revenge of the Sith' and the 48th anniversary of the original 'Star Wars,' we want to give back to our theatergoers who have been supporting us for the last few years at our 'Star Wars' events by offering them the opportunity to see the entire canon in one weekend," director of public programming and senior manager of theatre operations Jerry A. Blackburn said. "Theatergoers are encouraged to be in costumes and make-up for photo ops and social media exposure."

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

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Wednesday, May 21, 2025
6:00 p.m. K kosher Refreshments
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Beverly Hills, CA

Hosted by **Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian** featuring a panel of Jewish leaders from diverse backgrounds who will share stories, confront stereotypes and celebrate identity.



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Co-host, Never Again is Now Podcast Activist



Dr. Sheila Nazarian
Plastic Surgeon Activist



Matthew Nouriel
Director of Community Engagement, JIMENA – Jews Indigenous to the Middle East & North Africa Activist



Elisheva Rishon
Founder of the BJZ Squad Activist



Jacki Karsh
Moderator Emmy nominated Journalist

Dr. Sharona Nazarian
Mayor of Beverly Hills



For details, please visit beverlyhills.org/neveragainisnow

POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between May 4 and May 10. 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

May 4

At 2:14 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Santa Monica and Rexford.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo at 1:15 p.m.

At 1:57 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 500 block of N. Elm at 3:48 p.m.

At 8:15 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 600 block of N. Hillcrest.

May 5

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 8:51 p.m.

May 6

At 4:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of S. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 200 block of S. La Cienega at 9:17 p.m.

May 7

At 11:45 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of Moreno.

May 8

At 2:52 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

May 9

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft from a vehicle in the 8900 block of Wilshire.

May 10

A vandalism incident was reported in the 200 block of N. Swall at 12:30 a.m.

At 2:40 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near La Cienega and Wilshire.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 200 block of N. Crescent at 9:50 p.m.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

May 4

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

At 1:35 a.m., an unknown suspect

assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. Sweetzer at 5:39 a.m.

At 6:24 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of Almont. A second burglary was reported in the same area at 9:50 a.m.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Fountain and Harper at 9:45 a.m.

May 5

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7500 block of Santa Monica at 9:41 a.m.

At 5:45 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 10 p.m.

May 6

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7500 block of Santa Monica.

May 7

At 10:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8500 block of Sunset.

May 8

At 12:06 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of West Knoll.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8600 block of Sunset at 3:55 a.m.

May 9

At 12:17 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1000 block of N. La Brea at 3:23 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 500 block of West Knoll.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 100 block of N. Sierra Bonita at 10 p.m.

May 10

At 1:45 a.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7300 block of Santa Monica at 1 p.m.

At 10 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 900 block of N. Sweetzer.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 10 p.m.

At 11:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

Supervisors turn screw on copper wire theft

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion on May 13 introduced by Board Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District, in support of Assembly Bill 476, which will crack down on copper and nonferrous metal theft.

Barger's motion highlights the growing public safety and infrastructure risks posed by thefts that have disabled streetlights, disrupted telecommunications and impacted critical services such as water systems and public transportation. AB 476, which was introduced by Assemblyman Mark González (D-Los Angeles), would require junk dealers and recyclers to keep more extensive records on people who sell them materials.

"Copper theft is far from a petty crime, it's a direct threat to the safety and well-being of our communities," Barger said. "Supporting this bill reflects our shared commitment to holding perpetrators accountable and supporting stronger enforcement tools that will deter this type of theft. We need clear recordkeeping, tighter restrictions and better coordination with law enforcement to stop these dangerous crimes."

Additionally, AB 476 would increase regulation of junk dealers



photo by Edwin Folven

The theft of wires from streetlights is a problem throughout Los Angeles.

and recyclers by requiring proof of ownership and licensure for sellers, authorizing law enforcement inspections and enabling enforcement actions against violators. Barger's motion also instructs county departments to continue tracking incidents and sharing data with the district attorney's office, while urging the district attorney to

prioritize prosecution of copper theft due to its widespread public impact. For information, visit lacounty.gov/government/board-of-supervisors/kathryn-barger.

L.A. Court makes it easier for drivers to track citations

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County is introducing a new Traffic Citation Alert System that will alert court users via text message and/or email when their traffic citation has been filed with the court.

Before the launch of the alert system, court users were required to manually check the Court's Traffic Online Services system until a traffic citation was filed with the court by law enforcement. With the new TCA, once the user registers, the court's online system performs daily checks for license number and citation number to determine if the citation has been filed with the court. Once the citation is filed, TCA alerts the individual through their preferred means of communication.

To use the system, a Court ID must be created with a valid email address and password. The user then visits the TCA, provides consent and searches for a traffic citation filed with the court using a license number with date of birth or ticket number. Court users can elect to receive email reminders and/or text messages from the court, with the option to receive a notification as soon as the ticket is received.

Traffic citations typically take up to 30 days to be posted online. The court will not have information about the traffic citation until the law enforcement agency files the ticket in the system.

The launch of the TCA is part of a broader effort to modernize court systems. For information, visit lacourt.org.

Police caution about motorcycle safety on roads in Beverly Hills

The Beverly Hills Police Department is reminding drivers to always look twice for motorcycles. With warmer weather coming in May, more motorcycles are on the roads, making it essential for everyone to stay alert to help reduce crashes and save lives, police said.

"Motorcycles may be difficult to spot, so be extra careful before changing lanes," BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook said. "A simple double-take can make a life-saving difference. Motorcycle riders do not have the same protections drivers and passengers do. Let's all do our part to keep each other safe out there."

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data, 6,218 motorcyclists were killed in traffic crashes in 2022, representing 15% of total highway fatalities for the year. In California, 634 motor-

cyclists were killed in 2022, an increase of 3.8% from 2021.

To help protect riders, always check mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes and do not follow a motorcycle too closely. Always keep a safe distance and make sure that the rider is turning, whether or not they are signaling, before moving ahead.

Motorcyclists are cautioned to always wear a U.S. DOT-compliant helmet with eye protection, as well as leather or other sturdy clothing such as a jacket, pants, boots with nonskid soles and gloves. Add reflective strips or decals to clothing and motorcycle to make it easier for other drivers to see. Always ride defensively and avoid blind spots.

Lastly, police warn drivers and riders that they should never drive or ride distracted or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Establishing a Family Trust

Thinking about what happens to your assets once you're gone is never fun but spending just a few hours preparing for the inevitable could save your family months of confusion, arguments, court costs, attorney's fees, and grief.

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Getty extends hours for the summer

The Getty Center will be open to visitors later with new extended hours beginning June 17. The hours will be ongoing and allow more time for visitors to enjoy the site, see exhibitions and attend events.

The center will be open from 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and Sunday. On Saturdays, the site will be open into the evening from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and will have free parking after 6 p.m. Additionally, the center will be expanding its bar service, offering an evening cocktail program in a relaxed outdoor setting near the arrival plaza. Admission to the center is free and requires a timed-entry reservation for general admission and all events.

“Off the 405,” the center’s annual free outdoor summer concert series, features musicians on the courtyard stage and creates a vibrant musical

experience amid stunning architecture and breathtaking sunset views. The concerts will return on select Saturdays in the summer months with artists including SML on May 31, Mabe Fratti on June 14, Madi Diaz on July 12, Empress Of on July 26 and Emile Mosseri on Aug. 23. Ticket reservations from Getty’s website are required, with release dates available online.

During weekends in August, families can attend Garden Concerts for Kids to dance and sing along to musical performances on the center’s grass lawn. This summer’s musicians include 123 Andrés on Aug. 2-3, Kymberly Stewart on Aug. 9-10, and Divinity Roxx Presents: Divi Roxx Kids World Wide Playdate on Aug. 16-17. Free ticket reservations will be available closer to the event dates.

Additional public programs and exhibitions celebrate Pride Month in June, including “\$3 Bill: Evidence of Queer Lives” opening June 10 and “Queer Lens: A History of Photography” on June 17. Getty’s online calendar includes free film screenings and art talks inspired by these exhibitions. Opening June 3, the Pride Pop-up Shop in the Getty Center’s Entrance Hall celebrates Pride, visibility and self-expression through bold, rainbow-inspired merchandise. Coinciding with the exhibitions, the shop features exclusive products showcasing the new Getty Pride logo. This merchandise will be available in Getty’s online Museum Store on June 2.

Also opening at the center during summer are “Symbols and Signs: Decoding Medieval Manuscripts” on May 20, “Artemisia’s Strong Women: Rescuing a Masterpiece” on June 10 and “Lines of Connection: Drawing and



photo courtesy of J. Paul Getty Trust

Events will be held at the Getty Center all season long.

Printmaking” on July 1.

For a full list of Getty’s public programming and to make a free reservation, visit getty.edu. The Getty Center is located at 1200

Getty Center Drive.

The Getty Villa remains temporarily closed until further notice and an opening date will be announced soon.

Cinespia is back for the season

Cinespia, L.A.’s favorite cinematic experience presented by Amazon MGM Studios and Prime Video, is back for its 24th season at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery, kicking off the summer with two tales of one amazing city: “The Big Lebowski” (May 24) and the 30th anniversary of “Clueless” (May 25), followed by a tribute to the once-in-an-eternity auteur David Lynch with “Blue Velvet” (May 31).

Additional screenings for the 24th season will be announced soon.

“Cinespia has always been a love letter to Los Angeles and to the movies that shaped us,” said Cinespia founder, John Wyatt. “We’re honored to begin this season with two unforgettable portraits of our city, and a tribute to the great David Lynch.

Cinespia DJs are back to spin onsite sets before and after each screening, setting the vibe alongside the iconic free photo booth featuring dreamy scenes inspired by everyone’s favorite films. The beer and wine bar and concession stands will also be returning for guests to enjoy during their experience.

What began with a screening of

“Strangers on a Train” for a few hundred people has become a Los Angeles institution, hosting hundreds of thousands of moviegoers on the famed Fairbanks Lawn. Now the most popular outdoor cinema event in Southern California, Cinespia is celebrated by fans and filmmakers for hosting a relaxed, off-beat experience. Welcoming up to 4,000 moviegoers per night, guests are invited to bring their own blankets, food and drinks (including

beer and wine), before settling in under the stars for a classic (and sometimes campy) cinematic experience. The magic of Hollywood’s most memorable moments is heightened by the roar of the crowd and movies on the big screen. Every screening also features world class DJ talent to keep the crowd buzzing before and after the main event.

For information or to purchase tickets, visit cinespia.org. Hollywood Forever Cemetery is located at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd.



photo courtesy of Cinespia

Hollywood Forever Cemetery will serve as the setting for a host of screenings starting in May.

The Broad invites art lovers to Jeffrey Gibson exhibition

The Broad has announced that free tickets are available on Thursday evenings for “Jeffrey Gibson: the space in which to place me,” an exhibit currently on view at the museum.

The free tickets are available every Thursday evening from 5-8 p.m., starting May 15. “Jeffrey Gibson: the space in which to place me” is a special exhibition of the artist’s multidimensional work, adapted from its original presentation at the U.S. Pavilion at the 60th

Venice Biennale in 2024, where Gibson was the first Indigenous artist to represent the United States with a solo exhibition. The Broad’s presentation is Gibson’s first single-artist museum exhibition in Southern California and includes more than 30 artworks affirming his radically inclusive vision. The exhibition highlights Gibson’s distinct use of geometric design and saturated color alongside references to 19th and 20th century foundational American documents and modern

music, critiquing systemic injustices and imagining a more equitable future. The show will be on view in the museum’s first-floor galleries through Sept. 28.

“Jeffrey Gibson: the space in which to place me” borrows its title from the Oglala Lakota poet Layli Long Soldier’s poem “He Sápa,” which contemplates Indigeneity using a playful geometric format. Like Long Soldier, Gibson probes the visceral feeling of belonging. Across 10 paintings, seven sculptures, eight flags, three murals and one video installation, Gibson honors the multiplicity of identity. The museum galleries morph into kaleidoscopic environments of Gibson’s paintings.

“Jeffrey Gibson imbues unabashed radiant color into his paintings, murals, sculpture and video installations, signaling through his art that frank examination of difficult truths can be affirmative expressions of hope, identity and beauty,” said Joanne Heyler, founding director of The Broad.

The Broad is located at 221 S. Grand Ave. For information, visit thebroad.org.



photo by Joshua White/JWPictures.com

The installation is on display through Sept. 28 at The Broad.

Decode medieval secrets at the Getty

The J. Paul Getty Museum presents “Symbols and Signs: Decoding Medieval Manuscripts,” an exhibition showcasing how medieval scribes and artists used textual and visual strategies to captivate readers and engage them in deciphering enigmatic codes.

The exhibition, drawn predominantly from the Getty’s manuscripts collection with additions from the museum’s holdings in photographs, will be on view at the Getty Center from May 20–Aug. 10.

Medieval manuscripts were filled with “codes” such as monograms, ciphers and visual symbols that fascinated those living during the Middle Ages. Codes can be defined as a system of words, letters, figures or symbols substituted for other words, and only someone familiar with the system could correctly decode the information. Many were based on cultural references that audiences at the time could understand, similar to today’s use of emojis or text abbreviations.

“People today are fascinated by ciphers, puzzles and secrets,” said Elizabeth Morrison, senior curator of manuscripts at the Getty Museum and co-curator of the exhibition. “This exhibition explores the clever ways that scribes and artists of the past deliberately and playfully employed such codes to arrest the attention of medieval

audiences and engage their minds.”

The exhibition will be divided into three sections: word codes, image codes and schematic codes. The first section, word codes, highlights how medieval manuscripts, written in familiar alphabets such as Latin, Hebrew or Armenian, often appear strange due to their intricate and imaginative design. The texts used abbreviations, monograms and names as playful puzzles for medieval audiences.

Image codes focuses on the visual arts from the Middle Ages, which employ abstract symbols, personal emblems and selective colors to capture complex thoughts and hierarchies. The tactics were clear to medieval audiences but require some explanation for modern viewers to be able to understand.

Lastly, schematic codes explores how codes devised in the Middle Ages, such as musical notation, indexes and calendars, organize complex information visually, a solution invaluable in modern life as well. Medieval scribes and artists strove to make codes enjoyable for the mind and the eye.

To complement the exhibition, Getty will host an online conversation about the Voynich Manuscript with Dr. Lisa Fagin Davis on June 13 at noon.

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive.



photo courtesy of the Getty Museum

Visitors can explore codes in medieval manuscripts including “Canon Table Page,” 1615.

Singalong to Great American Songbook with Hershey Felder

The Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival, in partnership with Temple of the Arts and The Saban Theatre, will present a special one-night-only performance of Hershey Felder's Great American Songbook Singalong on Monday, May 26, at 7 p.m. for a special Memorial Day evening of shared nostalgia, musical brilliance and heartfelt connection through song. Felder's production has earned critical acclaim for his emotional resonance, virtuosic musicality, while breaking box office records for sold out shows.

The unforgettable evening invites audiences to experience the joy of singing along with some of the most iconic songs in 100 years of American history. Originating with Felder's Broadway run of "George Gershwin Alone at the Helen Hayes Theatre," Felder realized the audience's desire to sing along with the great American classics. This led to the creation of a theatrical story and performance featuring the celebrated actor, pianist, performer and storyteller, Felder. The lively theatrical event features beloved selections

by Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, and as songs made famous by Elvis Presley with an invitation for the audience to sing along.

"There's something profoundly moving about a room full of people singing together," Felder said. "These songs are part of our collective memory and bringing them to life with an audience is a joyful experience."

"Hershey Felder's Great American Songbook Sing Along celebrates the enduring power of music to bring people together," said Hilary Helstein, executive director and founder of the Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival. "This will be a momentous and unifying event where our community can join together to sing the songs that have shaped our nation's history while honoring our American heroes."

Felder is renowned worldwide for his singular approach to musical storytelling, which includes 12 historic musical characters live on

stage, 18 musical feature films and award-winning documentaries, including "Chopin & Liszt" and "The Assembly." Over the past two decades, Felder has brought to life legendary composers such as Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Chopin, Bernstein and Gershwin on stages across the United States, Europe and Asia. His work blends live performance, biography and theatrical narrative, captivating audiences with a deeply personal and immersive experience.

The Saban Theatre is located at 8440 Wilshire Blvd.

Tickets start at \$49.87 and are available at [eventbrite.com/e/hershey-felder-s-great-american-songbook-sing-along-one-night-only-tickets-1359076116249?aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hershey-felder-s-great-american-songbook-sing-along-one-night-only-tickets-1359076116249?aff=oddtcreator).



photo courtesy of Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival

The music comes to life in Hershey Felder's "Great American Songbook Sing Along."

Craft Contemporary celebrates 60th

Craft Contemporary celebrated 60 years of crafting a brighter cultural landscape in Los Angeles County on May 10 with its annual benefit and art auction. The benefit honored the visionary legacy of founder Edith R. Wyle, "The Egg and The Eye" and the exceptional contributions of contemporary artist Bari Ziperstein. Executive Director Rody Lopez, left, celebrated with the founder's grandson, actor Noah Wyle and his wife, actress Sara Wyle.

5814 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit craftcontemporary.org.



photo courtesy of Milan DiLeo/Craft Contemporary

Craft Contemporary is located at

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

Rare document offers glimpse into mind of da Vinci



A manuscript with writing and drawings by Leonardo da Vinci was shown in the May 14, 1981, issue of the Park Labrea News. The manuscript, which was approximately 470 years old at the time, was part of a traveling exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The document is from the Codex Leicester (also known as the Codex Hammer), which includes notes and drawings by da Vinci on a wide range of subjects including astronomy, geology, the moon and the motion of tides. The exhibition was displayed in LACMA's Ahmanson Building before heading to the Royal Academy of Arts in London later that year.

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SATURDAY MAY 24

FREE CONCERT PERFORMANCE SATURDAY, MAY 24 at 6:30 pm

Save the Date → **SHABBAT DINNER & SERVICE** Friday, June 6 at 6:30PM

Randi Tahara installed as L.A. County Arts Commission President

The Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture announced that Randi Tahara has been installed as president of the arts commission, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors' longstanding advisory body for the arts. The commission seats 15 members chosen by supervisors to represent each of the five districts in the county. Tahara was appointed to the commission by Supervisor Holly Mitchell, 2nd District.

Commissioners are diverse arts community leaders and staunch advocates for arts funding and resources for arts organizations, young people and equity initiatives. Their role includes the approval of annual grant award recommenda-

tions that support nonprofit arts organizations and community-based arts projects across L.A. County. In the past year, they recommended more than \$5 million in grants, including a significant increase adopted by the board of supervisors in 2024 for Arts and Culture's longstanding Organizational Grant Program.

"It is time to lean in and show who we are as Los Angeles County, particularly in the creative world where we can fully express ourselves and powerfully resist the erasure of our diverse communities," Mitchell said. "President Tahara's willingness to bring her lived experience to this role is very important to the residents of the 2nd District and throughout

L.A. County, and I am grateful for her willingness to serve."

Tahara was born and raised in the South Bay area of Los Angeles, where she grew up immersed in Japanese performing and visual cultural arts. She trained in classical dance and shamisen – a three-stringed lute instrument. As an adult, she ventured into theater and film which she continues to explore today. She currently serves on the board of directors of A Noise Within Theatre, the LAPD Museum and Nihon Buyo Kai of California, a Japanese cultural presenting organization.

"I draw the comparison of a diverse cast coming together to mount a play with the common goal of entertaining the audience members, to the arts commissioners coming together with the common goal to make quality arts and culture available to all within Los Angeles



photo by Martin Zamora

Randi Tahara, center, grew up immersed in the Japanese performing and visual arts.

County," Tahara said. "I look forward to working with the staff of the Arts and Culture Department and the 14 other arts commissioners. Rarely do you find a group of leaders so focused on the single mission

of uplifting and supporting the arts, arts education, training, employment and the creative economy all working together."

For information, visit lacountarts.org.

Retrospective explores the films of Chung Mong-Hong

The Taiwan Academy in Los Angeles is collaborating with American Cinematheque to present the "Chung Mong-Hong Retrospective" from May 16-18 at the Los Feliz 3 Theater and Aero Theater. The series includes the films "Parking," "Godspeed," "A Sun" and "The Embers."

As the Golden Horse Award winner in Taiwan, director Chung's films have been selected three times as Taiwan's submission to the Academy Awards' Best International Film category, establishing him as a significant figure in the country's film industry. Chung's oeuvre consists of genre-bending films distinguished by gripping plots, nuanced performances and poetic cinematography, according to American Cinematheque. From psychological horror to crime saga, Chung explores the recurring themes of violence, memory and reconciliation with a distinctive style.

Chung authored and directed his first work of fiction, "Parking"

(2008), a black comedy cleverly constructed with characters and narrative twists. The feature received critical acclaim and was nominated in the Un Certain Regard section at the Cannes Film Festival.

"Godspeed" (2016), a rare road film, showcases Taiwan's distinctive environment, culture and vibrant society, while also presenting Chung's genuine concern for the land. The film "A Sun" (2019), an engrossing account of a family that experiences heartbreak, extreme loss, shame and unmet expectations, was on a shortlist of 15 for Best International Film at the

93rd Academy Awards. Chung's recent work "The Embers" (2024) explores the process of personal reconciliation with Taiwan's history and memories against the backdrop of Taiwan's martial regime era and the years following its repeal.

Chung will participate in a Q&A session or introduction at the screenings, discussing his filmmaking. The Los Feliz 3 Theater is located at 822 N. Vermont Ave., and the Aero Theater is located at 1328 Montana Ave. in Santa Monica. For information and tickets, visit americancinematheque.com/series/chung-mong-hong-an-american-cinematheque-retrospective.



photo courtesy of the Taiwan Academy in Los Angeles

Four films by director Chung Mong-Hong are included in the American Cinematheque series.

Zachary Society hosts Vocal Competition Grand Finals

The 53rd annual Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competition Grand Finals Concert will be held on Sunday, May 18, at 2 p.m. at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre.

Ten finalists selected from a nationwide search will compete in the opera competition, accompanied by pianist Brent McMunn. Judging the competition are Maestro Daniel Suk (conductor and artistic director, Los Angeles Dream Orchestra), Dr. Michele Patzakis, professor Mark Goodrich, Bruce Johansen, Kenneth Morris and Nedra Zachary.

The Loren L. Zachary Society for the Performing Arts was founded in 1972 by the late Loren L. Zachary and its current president, Nedra Zachary. The organization's goal is to assist in the development of the careers of young opera singers through the annual Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competition.

The Wilshire Ebell Theatre is located at 4401 W. Eighth St. Admission is free, but seating is assigned and tickets are required. For information, call (310)276-2731, or visit zacharysociety.org.

Rhodes School of Music invites community to Spring Recital Weekend

Rhodes School of Music is holding its Spring Recital Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18. Enjoy an inspiring weekend of live performances showcasing the talents of the school's students of all ages, levels and musical backgrounds.

Featuring a diverse lineup of solo and group performances across genres – from classical and jazz to rock, pop and beyond – the event highlights the dedication and progress of the students. Many will be accompanied by piano or a full band.

A special Adult Student Recital will be held on Saturday, May 17, at 5 p.m. celebrating the musical journeys of the school's adult learners in a supportive and dynamic setting.

Families of current students, friends and music lovers in the community are invited to the Spring Recital Weekend. The recitals are a testament to the power of music education and the vibrant, creative spirit of the school's students and teachers.

Rhodes School of Music welcomes students of all ages and skill levels, offering private instruction in piano, voice, guitar, drums, strings, woodwinds and brass. For

those interested in performing in the next recital, the recital weekend is the perfect time to learn about the school and enroll.

Rhodes School of Music is located at 215 N. Larchmont Blvd., Unit C. For information, call (323)522-4888, or visit rhodesschoolofmusic.com.



photo courtesy of Rhodes School of Music

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Crackdown on retail theft announced

From page 1

felony, a Proposition 36 felony, and as a felony, no longer is it a slap on the wrist. You are actually booked, you will go downtown and you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

The district attorney said that approximately 1,000 felony arrests have been made countywide since mid-December for thefts that would not have been felonies before the passage of Prop. 36.

Hochman highlighted a case involving Corry Summerville, 38, who repeatedly stole merchandise from the 7-Eleven at Olympic and La Cienega boulevards over a two-year period beginning in 2022. Summerville routinely went inside the store and stole items, sometimes valued at up to \$100, Hochman said. The suspect also threatened employees and violently attacked a 7-Eleven worker last June. Summerville is currently facing 12 felony theft charges and a felony robbery charge for assaulting an employee.

Yaroslavsky and Park said they fully support the new steps being

taken to prosecute people responsible for retail theft, and they will make a difference in keeping communities safe.

"I live a few blocks from this 7-Eleven, and like a lot of families in the area, my kids sometimes stop here after school. But when a store like this is repeatedly targeted or a theft turns violent, it does more than hurt the business, it makes you wonder if it's safe to send your kids in. It makes you worry that someone could get caught in the middle. And it makes you feel like no one is in charge," Yaroslavsky said. "Our job as leaders is to restore trust by making sure people feel safe, are safe and know that accountability matters."

"Enough is enough. Retail theft has been completely out of control. Small business owners are fed up. Shoppers and workers don't feel safe," Park added. "This isn't, as some people would describe, just petty crimes. These are group thefts, smash and grabs, daylight raids on stores big and small. These crimes are damaging property and putting people at risk of serious harm."

Los Angeles Police Department officials said authorities are also investigating two flash mob takeover robberies that occurred at the 7-Eleven last summer, where large groups of young people swarmed inside, stole merchandise and caused damage. Police are using security camera footage to identify and locate people involved in the takeovers.

Jawad Ursani, who has owned the 7-Eleven store at Olympic and La Cienega boulevards for 25 years, said the thefts have had a major impact on his business. Four employees have quit due to thefts, threats and violence perpetrated inside the store. He has also sustained thousands of dollars in damage to property losses.

"Communities have been targeted repeatedly by shoplifters, not one-time offenders, but the same individuals coming back over and over, knowing that there were no real consequences," Ursani said. "This isn't just about theft, it's about the fear and instability it brings to everyone who depends on this store



photo by Edwin Folven

District Attorney Nathan Hochman, left, and Jawad Ursani, who owns the 7-Eleven store at Olympic and La Cienega boulevards, posted a new sign in the window warning thieves about stiff penalties for theft.

and our entire community."

Hochman unveiled a new sign that reads, "Warning! This is a Protected Business" that he encouraged business owners to post in windows, alerting would-be criminals about maximum enforcement against theft. He said 10,000 signs will be available free at local police stations throughout the county.

"Mr. Ursani and his fellow 7-Eleven franchisee owners and small business owners ... have been on the front lines, essentially trying to fight crime on their own. They no longer will be," Hochman said. "Law enforcement will be there in full partnership. The D.A.'s office will be there in full partnership. Help is absolutely on the way."

BHUSD approves sportswear deal with Nike

From page 1

merchandise will also be available for purchase to the community, according to the district. Under the contract, BSN Sports will be the exclusive provider of Nike products to the district. However, individual schools and teams are not required to purchase Nike products.

Benefits include 40% off Nike stock uniforms, 30% off Nike footwear and up to 20% off other products. Although the contract does not require a certain spending amount, if the district spends at least \$225,000 annually, it becomes eligible for additional promotional benefits including \$20,000 in annual Nike product credit and a one-time \$40,000 "branding package." The specific details of the benefits were not immediately made clear by the proposal.

"I'm not happy. I'm going to be honest with you guys. I feel bullied and I don't like the process of what we just went through."

-BHUSD Board Member
Amanda Stern

"This partnership is a major step forward for BHUSD," Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss said. "Our student-athletes will now compete in the highest quality gear available, and our entire community will benefit from enhanced branding and spirit wear that reflects the pride we have in each school."

Although the concept of a streamlined, professional sports apparel program across the district was overall well-received by the board, the process in which it was approved caused argument among board members. The item was not marked as a discussion item and was instead placed on the agenda as a consent calendar. As a result, Board President Rachelle Marcus

and Board Member Amanda Stern stated they were not prepared to vote on it due to a lack of information.

"I really like the idea and it's a very exciting concept ... What I'm questioning more is just the process of this because ... consent calendar is sort of more routine things that we don't necessarily have to deliberate about or aren't as necessarily complex as some of the other issues," Stern said. "I want to unpack this further and I am not prepared right now to vote on it because I think it is a big deal."

Marcus echoed Stern's concerns. "This is an item that I felt, personally, did not belong on the consent calendar," Marcus said. "This was something that really popped out as something that we should have a better discussion about ... It mentions the PTA. I don't know that the PTA has zeroed in on this and bought this. I have no idea. I know that they buy their own stuff and they get it cheap or they can do it much more reasonable than buying it at the Nike prices. I am not opposed to this, but I do feel that I would like more time to be able to analyze."

Board Member Russell Stuart, the main proponent of the agreement who has previously expressed interest in improving the school's athletic program, responded by stating that the board should focus on the direct impact the updated uniforms will have on student athletes.

"This is for the kids," Stuart said. "I think we've always forgotten the fact that this is for the kids. So let's stop talking about PTA, it's for the kids. It's so the kids can feel like professionals. It's so the kids don't have to go to another sports event and [watch] the kid across the field from him look like he's in the NFL and we look like we're the YMCA, and no offense to the YMCA. This is for the kids, everything we're supposed to do up here is for the kids."

Stern and Marcus expressed

confusion over the proposal, questioning whether the program would require all teams to purchase uniforms from BSN Sports and whether it would result in overall savings.

"If educational excellence is really what we're after, we want to unpack this," Stern said. "These are huge corporations. I don't know if I want to start--"

"I'm going to refute that statement," Stuart interrupted. "If we started educational excellence while you've been on the board for five years you would have done something like this yourself. For five years you've been here and

we've approved no outfits for anybody, and our kids are wearing pathetic clothing."

Although there was disagreement, mirroring Nike's "Just Do It" slogan, the board approved the item in a 3-0 vote, with Marcus and Stern abstaining.

At the end of the meeting, Stern and Marcuss expressed disappointment in the way the item was passed.

"I'm not happy. I'm going to be honest with you guys. I feel bullied and I don't like the process of what we just went through," Stern said. "Tonight we decided to table some of the technology apps so that we could have further consideration. A while back, I think last meeting, we decided to table the purchase of iPads for the same reason. It is a fundamental courtesy if someone

asks to defer an item for further consideration, it should be honored. It was rude and it was not the governance I know, and I expect more. There's a lot of us who listen, and there are some of us who talk over people, and we don't feel like we are respected."

"I felt disrespected in a way when ... it was inferred that I don't do things for kids. And I got very upset by that comment," Marcus said. "If anybody has ever done anything for kids it's Mrs. Marcus. I have been an advocate of students no matter where I go, what they do and so on. No one has given more time to students and to kids than myself. To say that because I wanted to delay something because I didn't think it was the right thing to do, infer that I do not care about the kids - I was really quite upset."

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WeHo prepares for annual Pride Festival

From page 1

Councilman John Heilman said. “Honoring him annually helps educate the community about his contributions, but it also helps new generations of people understand the dangers of homophobia.”

For the third year in a row, West Hollywood will present the José Sarria Drag Pageant on Harvey Milk Day. The drag contest is named for José Sarria, the first openly gay person to run for office in the United States. A well-known drag performer, Sarria’s candidacy paved the way for Milk’s eventual political win in San Francisco.

Councilman Danny Hang said that marking Harvey Milk Day was an important moment to pause and remember the LGBTQ+ movement’s roots.

“It’s not just about honoring Harvey’s legacy, it’s about reminding ourselves why we keep pushing,” Hang said.

Heilman added that it was particularly important to recognize Pride in a year where the LGBTQ+ community has been the subject of political attacks.

“Pride is always exciting and always important, but especially this year,” Heilman said. “The Trump administration is targeting our community. They have cut critical funds for HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs. They have tried to erase transgender and intersex people. They have attacked immigrants, including LGBTQI immigrants.

Celebrating pride is an act of resistance against the hatred coming out of Washington.”

Councilwoman Lauren Meister echoed Heilman’s sentiment.

“I can’t wait to see what WeHo

“I’m so proud that the city of West Hollywood stands firm in the fight for LGBTQ rights and creative expression.”

*-West Hollywood Mayor
Chelsea Byers*

Pride has in store for us this year. Given the current national political landscape, it is more important than ever that we speak out loud and proud for the LGBTQ+ community,” Meister said.

From Harvey Milk Day, West Hollywood will continue the Pride activities with the WeHo Pride Arts Festival May 23-25, which includes several concurrent programs. WeHo Pride will take over the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Renberg Theatre, located at 1125 N. McCadden Place, for a performance of “Sweet Lorraine,” a play exploring the friendship of queer literary luminaries Lorraine Hansberry and James

Baldwin, on May 23. On May 24, a musical centered around house music of the 1990s entitled “ARENA: A House MUSIC-al” will also perform at the venue, as will the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles and Mariachi Arcoiris on May 25.

Workshops on poetry, patch-making, painting and writing will also be offered. Hang pointed out how the events relate to resisting oppression.

“We can’t forget that it started as a protest. And with everything happening at the federal level with attacks on LGBTQ+ rights, trans healthcare bans, book bans, it’s now more important than ever that we show up, speak out and stand proud,” Hang said.

WeHo Pride weekend will be held May 30-June 1, with the OUTLOUD Music Festival taking center stage. While previously announced Lil Nas X has been forced to drop out from the festival due to ongoing medical issues, Lizzo, Kim Petras, Honey Dijon, Paris Hilton and Remi Wolf are all set to perform. Additionally, Maren Morris will headline the free opening night concert. An RSVP is required at outloud-musicfestival.com. The passes for May 31 and June 1 concerts are available for purchase on the same website.

“I’m so proud that the city of West Hollywood stands firm in the fight for LGBTQ rights and creative expression,” Mayor Chelsea Byers said. “I hope to see everyone out at



photo by Tony Coelho

A queen will be crowned at the José Sarria Drag Pageant at the May 22 Harvey Milk Day celebration in West Hollywood.

Friday Night at OUTLOUD!”

The WeHo Pride Parade will step off at Santa Monica and Crescent Heights boulevards on June 1, with the route heading west to Doheny Drive. The marshals for the parade, dubbed “Icons” for WeHo Pride, will be announced soon. Previous Icons include Melissa McCarthy, Cyndi Lauper and Niecy Nash-Betts.

Other events include the Women’s Freedom Festival, set for May 31 from noon-6 p.m.

“Women’s Freedom Fest presents a unique opportunity at WeHo Pride that offers a free stage of programming centering queer women, nonbinary/TGI and BIPOC emerging artists,” organizer Jackie Steele said. “Now more than ever we need to stand together as a community, as

women and queer folks. [And] don’t miss one of the best highlights at Pride every year, the Dyke March, kicking off at the Celebration Stage at 6 p.m.”

For information, visit theproject.org/womens-freedom-festival.

Prior to West Hollywood’s Pride kickoff, the Beverly Center will partner with OTULOOD for Pride @ BEV on May 17 from 1-4 p.m. in the Grand Court on Level 6, 8500 Beverly Blvd. Performers will include “RuPaul’s Drag Race” stars Onya Nurve, Arrietty, Kori King and Suzie Toot. For tickets and information, click “Buy Passes” at outloud-musicfestival.com/weho.

For a full schedule of WeHo Pride events, visit wehopride.com.

Judge resentences Menendez brothers

From page 1

bers and accepting full responsibility for his actions.

“I stole from my parents the right to a full life,” Erik Menendez said. “I have no excuse, no justification for what I did ... My parents should be alive. They’re not. And that’s because of me.”

The brothers described their actions leading up to and on the night of Aug. 20 in detail, acknowledging guilt for the choices they made and also their efforts to cover up their involvement.

“My crime was not just criminal,” Erik Menendez said. “It was wrong and immoral. It was cruel and vicious.”

At the hearing, the judge heard testimony from several witnesses, including cousins of the Menendez brothers, a former inmate who spent time in prison with them and a retired judge who met the brothers through a prisoner therapy program. All witnesses attested to the brothers’ level of rehabilitation, stating they had changed dramatically since committing the gruesome murders in 1989.

“We all on both sides of the family believe that 35 years is

enough,” the brothers’ cousin Anamaria Baralt said. “We are hopeful that they get a second chance at life.”

Retired judge Jonathan Colby, who started a therapy program for prisoners in maximum security prisons, said that his heart was “touched” by the care and compassion of the brothers. He described how he observed the brothers at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego as they led a program they started that provides hospice care for elderly inmates.

“I never thought about rehabilitation,” Colby said. “It wasn’t until I met Lyle and Erik ... that I changed my thought process about whether rehabilitation was possible.”

Anerae Brown, a rapper also known as X-Raided, spent time in prison with both brothers after being convicted of a gang-related homicide in 1992. In 2018, he was released on parole after the California Board of Parole Hearings found that he had been successfully rehabilitated. He credited his freedom to Erik and Lyle Menendez, who he described as his mentors in learning how to change his life.

Following the hearing, the brothers’ attorney Mark Geragos celebrated the judge’s decision outside the courtroom.

“Now we see the pot at the end of the rainbow, so to speak, on their freedom,” Geragos said. “One of the things I think is important is to recognize, like the Legislature has done, we have evolved. This is not the ‘90s anymore. We have a more robust understanding of a lot of things ...

I just know that on a day like today, redemption is possible.”

During the course of the resentencing hearings, prosecutors argued that the brothers had not accepted full responsibility for their crimes and their attempts to cover up the murders. Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman responded to the judge’s decision in a statement on May 13.

“The decision to resentence Erik and Lyle Menendez was a monumental one that has significant implications for the families involved, the community and the principles of justice,” Hochman said. “Our office’s motions to withdraw the resentencing motion filed by the previous administration ensured that the court was presented with all the facts before making such a consequential decision.”

At a press conference on May 14, Hochman reiterated that he does not believe the brothers have taken full responsibility for their

attempts to cover up the crime, but stated that the board should consider them eligible for parole “if and when they do come fully clean.”

“I believe that the Menendez brothers have started down the path of fully accepting responsibility for all their actions, but they stopped short in their statements,” Hochman said. “If they can deal with the issues that cause their risk level to be increased and then finally, come clean with all their bias, fraud and deceit, then they should be an appropriate candidates for parole.”

Police caution about Hancock Park burglaries

From page 4

can do to make their homes safer,” Ro added. “It’s one more step to make neighborhood more secure.”

Shuck joined approximately 25 members of the Hancock Park community for a neighborhood walk on the evening of May 13 to discuss crime prevention measures. An additional community walk is

scheduled on Tuesday, May 20, at 6 p.m. Participants will gather in the 600 block of North Lilian Way and all are welcome, Hancock Park Homeowners Association president Cindy Chvatal-Keane said.

“I was great. We had Tyler Shuck and three representatives from the private security companies in our area. We’ll be doing another one

next Tuesday and it’s a great way to get the community together,” Chvatal-Keane said. “[The burglaries have] been a terrible problem. That’s why we are doing the walks. We are trying to help the neighbors, we are working with the LAPD. Hopefully, more resources from the LAPD will help solve the problem.”

Answers From Page 27



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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

- Spoil
- Crumbly salad topping
- Cut, as firewood
- “___ you sure?”
- Rousing cheers
- “___ ear and out the other”
- Card
- Skip
- Steer clear of
- Carpenters’ tools
- Mickey Mouse Club name
- Compass point
- Kind of land
- Flow
- Didn’t shuffle
- Retail expo
- Card
- Do followers
- Spite
- Rubber gaskets
- Dissertation
- Some sports cars
- Univeristy of North Carolina player
- How architects’ models are built
- 2001 symbol of corporate misconduct
- Not quite yet
- Dark suits
- Mount ___, Utah peak
- Much may follow it
- Corinne Bailey ___ Grammy nominee
- Big city in Iraq

Down

- Barracks bigwigs
- A Musketeer
- Cooking instructions
- Rock music’s ___ Fighters
- Trickster
- “First Blood” director Kotcheff
- Eastern land mass
- Paul and Carly
- Embrocate
- Avengers’ character
- Stop
- ___ Plains, Ill.
- Gold units, abbr.
- Palindromic actress
- High, prefix
- Tip off
- Works hard at
- Speed
- Fruity pastry
- CPR pros
- Ratify a contract
- 60s bad guys in the UK
- Beethoven’s “Eroica” is in it
- Stallion motion
- Sister of Zeus
- Fujairah bigwig
- Chopper, to GIs
- Funhouse cries
- Male or female
- Venus’s sister
- Garden feed

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48. All over the world
49. Come to your ___
51. ___ Gatos, CA
53. Ripken Jr.
55. Execute perfectly
57. Kind of story
58. One of golf’s “majors”
59. Compass point
60. ‘The Da Vinci Code’ author Brown
61. Austin time

answers on page 26

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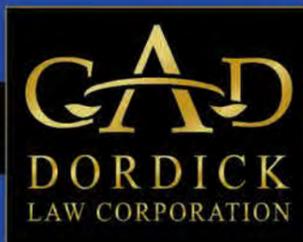
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