



Partly cloudy, temps around 80

BEVERLY PRESS

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

September 18, 2025

WeHo City Council OKs Fountain Ave. bike lanes

■ Vote follows divisive saga in city's history

BY SAM MULICK

Following years of contentious disagreement and controversy, the West Hollywood City Council approved an update to the Fountain Avenue Streetscape Project in three separate votes on Sept. 15.

The council approved plans for

Phase 1 of the project and an agreement for services with transportation planning and engineering firm Fehr and Peers for the amount of \$131,040 in a 3-2 vote, with Councilmembers John Heilman and Lauren Meister dissenting. The council unanimously approved a

See **WeHo** page 22



photo by Rance Collins

The West Hollywood City Council approved a streetscape project for Fountain Avenue that includes a protected bike lane and other traffic calming measures.

Homeowners denounce SB 79 vote

■ Legislation awaits governor's signature

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Senate Bill 79, legislation that would allow more housing to be built near major public transportation stops, was sent to Gov. Gavin Newsom after receiving final approval from the California Legislature on Sept. 12.

Newsom has until Oct. 13 to sign, veto or take no action on the bill, said a spokesman for the governor, who added that 809 bills are currently under consideration. SB 79, authored by state Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), was approved 41-17 in the Assembly on Sept. 11, and 21-8 in the California Senate on Sept. 12. Some members of each legislative body were not present or abstained from voting.

The legislation, known as the Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act, aims to address the state's affordable housing crisis by allowing developers to construct larger multi-unit residential buildings near transit stops. Around heavy rail (rail lines com-



photo by Edwin Folven

Under SB 79, taller buildings would be allowed in single-family neighborhoods such as Hancock Park.

pletely separated from roads and other infrastructure) stations, buildings up to nine stories would be permitted if they are directly adjacent to the transit stop, buildings up to seven stories would be allowed within a quarter mile of a transit stop and structures up to six stories would be allowed between a quarter mile and half mile of the

stop. At light rail (rail lines that operate on existing streets and infrastructure) stations, buildings up to eight stories would be permitted directly adjacent to a stop, six stories if within a quarter mile and five stories if they are within a quarter mile to half mile of a transit stop.

See **SB 79** page 21

Beverly Hills green lights holiday party budget

■ City plans to spend \$685,000 for festivities on Rodeo Drive

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills City Council on Sept. 16 approved a \$685,014 budget for the 2025 Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Celebration. The annual holiday season kick-off celebration is a one-night festival,

occurring on the three blocks of Rodeo Drive north of Wilshire Boulevard. The event features live entertainment, Christmas and Hanukkah music, food trucks, two wine gardens and a fireworks display. The event is organized by the Rodeo Drive Committee and will take place on Thursday, Nov. 13, from 5-8:15 p.m. This year's theme, "Enchanted Holiday Dreams," is inspired by the 1892 Tchaikovsky ballet "The Nutcracker."

,"The holiday lighting ceremony is a lot more than just a community event. It is by far one of our biggest branding opportunities for [Rodeo Drive], for the city and for the community. We curate an entire program for the evening that is internationally recognized," Rodeo Drive Committee President Kathy Gohari said at the Sept. 16 study session.

The budget for this year's event is a decrease of \$343,952 from 2024. With the additional Rodeo Drive holiday décor budget of \$497,969, the city will spend a total of \$1,182,983 on the holiday festivities, compared to last year's total of \$1,553,468. The \$497,969 holiday décor budget funds the festive tree and street lights on Rodeo Drive that are ceremonially lit during the event on Nov. 13 and repeatedly displayed each night of the holiday season until Jan. 4.

The committee made cuts to almost every aspect of the program after the City Council expressed an interest in 2024 to reduce spending for the event.

Gohari called the budget "the most condensed version of the budget that we [could have and] still be able to have an event that is worthy of Rodeo Drive."

See **Beverly Hills** page 22



photo courtesy of the Rodeo Drive Committee

The annual event will take place on Rodeo Drive on Thursday, Nov. 13, from 5-8:15 p.m.



photo courtesy of Kitten Kay Sera

A sign placed near the flagpole at the Matthew Shepard Human Rights Triangle criticized West Hollywood's decision to lower its flags after the death of Charlie Kirk.

WeHo's decision to lower flags draws ire

■ Council followed flag code and presidential proclamation

BY SAM MULICK

The city of West Hollywood's decision to lower its flags from Sept. 11-14 after the killing of

Charlie Kirk received significant criticism from the community.

President Donald Trump had issued a proclamation that all United States flags flown at public buildings and grounds were to be lowered to half-staff until sunset on Sept. 14 following the murder of conservative political

See **Flags** page 21

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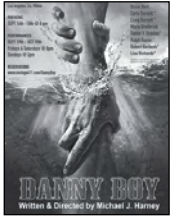
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CALENDAR

'Danny Boy'

Lightning Horse Productions' "Danny Boy" runs from Friday, Sept. 19, through Sunday, Oct. 19, at the Other Space at The Actors Company in West Hollywood. Written and directed by Michael J. Harney, the play tells the story of a man undergoing spiritual struggle while dealing with addiction and sorrow. Danny showed promise as a talented writer. Crushed by publishing house rejections and a troubled past, he ekes out a living as a street clown, entertaining children in the park. At least he gets to make them smile. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$30. 916-A N. Formosa Ave. onstage411.com/dannyboy.



Aly & AJ

Aly & AJ take the stage at The Ford on Friday, Sept. 19, and Saturday, Sept. 20, at 8 p.m. The duo burst onto Radio Disney and Billboard charts as teenagers with pop hits such as 2007's "Potential Breakup Song." After a hiatus, they continually reinvented themselves, producing increasingly mature and emotionally candid music. Aly & AJ's 2023 album "With Love From" took inspiration from Americana, country and 1970s rock. For the 2025 release "Silver Deliverer," the duo teamed with producer Jonathan Wilson, celebrated for his revival of the Laurel Canyon sound. Amanda Shires opens the shows. Tickets start at \$54. 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East. theford.com.

Art of Greg Rose

CMay Gallery presents "The Story So Far..." the first solo exhibition at the gallery by longtime Los Angeles artist Greg Rose, running from Saturday, Sept. 20, through Saturday, Nov. 22. Rose has lived and worked in Los Angeles since graduating from Claremont Graduate University, where he studied under the mentorship of Roland Reiss and Karl Benjamin. In "The Story So Far..." the artist continues his sustained investigation into the flora of the San Gabriel Mountains. An opening reception will be held on Sept. 20 from 3-5 p.m. 5828 Wilshire Blvd. cmaygallery.com.



Floral art exhibit

"In Bloom: Flowers in Contemporary Art," an artful exploration of contemporary approaches to timeless floral themes, runs from Saturday, Sept. 20, through Monday, Feb. 15, at the Forest Lawn Museum in Glendale. The media and artworks in the exhibition vary dramatically, with paintings, sculptures, installation and video that range from naturalistic to abstract, playful to contemplative. "In Bloom" features the work of David Flores, DAB-SMYLA, Francesca Gabbiani, Eddie Ruscha, Simonette David Jackson, Jasmyn Marie, Analia Saban, Kim Schoen and Tiffanie Turner. An opening reception will be held on Sept. 20 from 5-7:30 p.m. 1712 S. Glendale Ave. forestlawn.com/parks/glendale.



Art of Karl Benjamin

In commemoration of the artist's 100th birthday, Louis Stern Fine Arts presents "Karl Benjamin: A Centennial Exhibition" running from Saturday, Sept. 20, through Saturday, Nov. 1. A selection of rare and early works will be on view from the 1950s, the decade that launched Benjamin's (1925-2012) 45-year artistic career. The diverse and exploratory output set the stage for the innovative expressions of color and form that followed. The 1950s saw the birth of what Benjamin called his "love affair" with painting – an earnest and joyous creative quest at the intersection of intellect, impulse and intuition. An opening reception will be held on Sept. 27 from 5-7:30 p.m. 9002 Melrose Ave. louissternfinearts.com.

'Sound of Music Sing-A-Long'

The Hollywood Hills will be alive with the sound of music during "Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound of Music Sing-A-Long" on Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Hollywood Bowl. The event celebrates the film's 60th anniversary. Put on your lederhosen and sing your heart out while watching the Oscar-winning film on the Bowl's big screens. A costume contest start at 6 p.m.; film begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$39. 2301 N. Highland Ave. hollywoodbowl.com.



'The Age of Aquarius'

"The Age of Aquarius '67 to '72: The

Songs of Rock N' Soul," a Theatre West concert event, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 21, at 3 p.m. Created by Victoria Lavan and John A. Goux, and produced and directed by Victoria Lavan, the show offers a joyful celebration of the music and soul of an extraordinary time. Highlighted artists include Tina Turner, Linda Ronstadt, Joni Mitchell, Gordon Lightfoot, The Mamas and the Papas, The Beach Boys, Aretha Franklin, Simon and Garfunkel, Roberta Flack, Carole King, The Beatles, The Who and Jimi Hendrix. Suggested donation is \$20. 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West. (323)851-4839, theatrewest.org.

BroadStage Dance Party

Get ready to groove during "The Reverend Shawn Amos Dance Party" on Saturday, Sept. 20, at 8 p.m. on The Plaza at BroadStage. The Reverend Shawn Amos opens the 2025-26 season by inviting everyone onto the dance floor. Join the joyful bluesman for a night of classic 1960s dance and rhythm & blues, plus favorites from his catalogue. As always, The Reverend has festive surprises. The performance is part of BroadStage's blackbox series. Tickets are \$45. 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. broadstage.org



'Queer Lens' at the Getty

The Getty is hosting a screening of "Made in Hollywood" on Sunday, Sept. 21, at 4 p.m. at the Getty Center. The film is shown in conjunction with the exhibitions "3 Bill: Evidence of Queer Lives" and "Queer Lens: A History of Photography," both open through Sept. 28. Employing the language of advertising, television and mass media, the film is an allegorical satire that explores emotion and identity, reality and fantasy. The event is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts. 1200 Getty Center Drive. getty.edu.

WeHo Chamber mixer

Join the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce for its September Mix & Mingle event on Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 6-8 p.m. at Breakthrough Pilates. Come for the food and stay for the connections. Admission is free for chamber members with advance registration; \$10 at the door. Non-member admission is \$20 in advance; \$30 at the door. 7494 Santa Monica Blvd. wehochamber.com.

Lecture on John Ruskin

Yale University's Tim Barringer gives the 25th annual "Ruskin Lecture," sponsored by the Ruskin Art Club, on Thursday, Sept. 25, from 5-6:30 p.m. in USC's Doheny Library. The topic will be John Ruskin's "Labor." Ruskin had a complex understanding of labor as a creative force. From his defense of the Pre-Raphaelites to his denunciation of capitalism and admiration of the ironworkers of Sheffield, Ruskin saw labor as the core of ethics and aesthetics. Barringer is the Paul Mellon Professor of the History of Art at Yale University. 3550 Trousdale Parkway. ruskinartclub.org/calendar.



photo courtesy of PETA

The West Hollywood ban on live animal sales will prohibit the sale of parakeets.

WeHo City Council bans retail sale of live animals

The West Hollywood City Council approved a code amendment that prohibits the retail sale of live animals during the Sept. 15 City Council meeting.

Following input from PETA and local animal advocates, the council adopted the most comprehensive ban of animal sales in retail stores nationwide – bolstering its longstanding ban on the retail sale of cats and dogs to spare countless birds, reptiles, arachnids, fish, hermit crabs and other animals from the entrenched neglect and cruelty of the pet trade.

The groundbreaking ordinance – which also follows the city's bans on cat declawing, glue traps and fur sales, as well as a statewide ban on selling rabbits in pet stores – marks a significant win, especially for birds, who are often captured in nature by animal dealers and smuggled into the U.S. more than any other animal. Before being shipped, birds are often force-fed, their wings are clipped, their beaks are taped shut and they are stuffed into everything from spare tires to luggage. Captive-bred birds fare no better – a PETA investigation into one breeding facility revealed para-

keets crammed by the dozens into small, dark cages, while severely stressed birds plucked their offspring's feathers out, leaving bloody patches.

"West Hollywood has taken a stand against an abusive industry that sees thinking, feeling beings as nothing more than commodities and condemns them to a lifetime of misery," said PETA president Tracy Reiman. "PETA is celebrating the compassionate decision by Mayor Chelsea Byers and the entire City Council to enact this lifesaving law and is urging other cities to follow their lead."

Across the country, animal shelters and adoption groups for birds, small mammals, reptiles and other animals are bursting at the seams with discarded and unwanted animals in need of homes. PETA is calling on Petco to stop fueling this deadly cycle by ending its live animal sales and until then, urging everyone to stay out of the chain's stores.

The policy will affect the Petco on North Doheny Drive, which sells some live animals including hamsters and fish. Stores will have until May 1, 2026, to comply with the ban.

For information, visit weho.org.

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YOM KIPPUR:
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Yom Kippur Day: 10:00 am, Thursday, 10/2
Yizkor service at 5:30 pm
(After sunset, we break the fast together with a pre-paid buffet)

County OKs \$30 million in relief funds

■ Immigrants targeted by federal agents, fire victims will receive help

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved two motions on Sept. 16 to provide \$30 million in relief for people still impacted by the January wildfires and those affected by federal immigration raids.

The companion motions, one by Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, and the other by Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, 1st District, also

called for the county to explore options for a ban on evictions of tenants facing hardships due to immigration enforcement.

“Los Angeles County will never look away when our neighbors are living in fear of losing both their homes and their livelihoods,” Horvath said. “We invested nearly \$30 million in rent relief and directed swift action to explore eviction protections so immigrant families and wildfire survivors can breathe easier.”

The emergency rent relief program will provide rent or mortgage relief for wildfire survivors who lost homes, jobs or income, as well as

immigrant families who have faced sudden loss of wages due to federal raids. Tenants and homeowners displaced by the wildfires who have exhausted FEMA or insurance benefits, small landlords repairing rent-stabilized units and immigrant households impacted by federal enforcement actions will be eligible for up to six months of assistance. People who were impacted can apply for up to \$15,000 each. For tenants who apply and are approved, relief funds will be paid directly to their landlords, who are also negatively impacted when tenants are unable to pay, the supervisors said.

“[These] motions are more than just relief. For many, they will be a vital lifeline,” Solis said. “We know our residents, especially wildfire victims and those impacted by immigration raids, are navigating an incredibly difficult year. As the safety net for our most vulnerable, the county of Los Angeles must do its due diligence to provide relief and meet the needs of our residents.”

The Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs will launch the program within 90 days and provide more information on eligibility requirements and how to apply for emergency funds. The new emergency rent relief program builds on nearly \$30 million previously committed for fire relief.

Immigrant and housing rights advocates rallied outside the L.A. County Hall of Administration before to the vote to show support.



photo by Edwin Folven

Supervisors Hilda L. Solis, at lectern, and Lindsey Horvath, second from left, were joined by immigrant rights activists during a rally before the vote.

Jose Sanchez, a member of the immigrant rights group Council of Mexican Federations in North America, said enforcement operations have caused fear and financial impacts in immigrant communities.

“There are lot of families out there right now in need. Basically they’re afraid to come out because of the raids, and if people are afraid to go out and work, then that means that they have no funds to pay the rent,” Sanchez said. “We feel that they need protection. We feel that this has been an ongoing problem that just got accelerated by [the Trump] administration’s efforts, getting rid of people that are different nationalities. I feel that it is an attack on the community.”

Solis pointed out that approximately 3.5 million immigrants live in L.A. County and make significant contributions to the local economy.

“Their spending power amounts to \$79.7 billion helping to fuel the economy,” Solis said. “Just think if you take the spokes out of that wheel, what’s going to happen. That tire gets flat, that economic engine doesn’t move. Guess who is having to pick up the slack? Many of us and many of our public institutions, because we have to step up and try to help them provide for that safety net. Not everybody should be treated with the same brush, and that’s what we’re trying to say here.”



photo courtesy of the city of Manhattan Beach

Former Beverly Hills City Planner Masa Alkire is the new community development director for the city of Manhattan Beach.

Beverly Hills City Planner Masa Alkire heads to Manhattan Beach

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Beverly Hills City Planner and Assistant Director of Community Development Masa Alkire has parted ways with the city of Beverly Hills, accepting a new position as the community development director for the city of Manhattan Beach. The city of Beverly Hills is currently hiring a replacement for the position previously held by Alkire, according to deputy city manager Keith Sterling.

“We thank Masa for his years of dedicated service to Beverly Hills and wish him all the best in his new role.”

*-Beverly Hills Director of Community Development
Michael Forbes*

“We are thrilled to welcome Masa Alkire to the city of Manhattan Beach,” Manhattan Beach City Manager Talyn Mirzakhanian said in a press release. “His management of significant development projects, and his commitment to collaborative problem solving make him an invaluable asset to our team and our community. We are confident that his leadership will advance our planning goals and environmental sustainability efforts while preserving our cherished small-town character.”

Alkire joined the city of Beverly Hills in 2016 as a principal planner, before becoming a project manager in 2022 and taking on his most

recent position in 2023. Alkire oversaw the planning process of several transformative developments including the One Beverly Hills project. Additionally, during Alkire’s time as city planner, the city became the center of several lawsuits over builder’s remedy projects and the city’s housing element. Alkire worked directly with the California Department of Housing and Community Development to resolve the city’s insufficient housing element, which was ultimately approved in 2024.

“Masa’s service to the city of Beverly Hills included overseeing the city’s planning programs and handling several major development projects,” Beverly Hills Director of Community Development Michael Forbes said. “We thank Masa for his years of dedicated service to Beverly Hills and wish him all the best in his new role.”

Beverly Hills Planning Commissioners thanked Alkire for his services in his last meeting on Aug. 14 and congratulated him on his new position.

“This is very bittersweet news,” Commission Chair Jeff Wolfe said. “It comes with mixed thoughts. Obviously we’re very sorry to see him go ... The city will be losing a great resource.”

In turn, Alkire thanked the commissioners and city staff.

“It’s been a great nine and a half years in Beverly Hills,” Alkire said at the meeting. “I’m always impressed by everyone that serves on a commission – all the time and effort and energy that every single commissioner in Beverly Hills puts into this task. It’s not paid, it’s a lot of work and it’s appreciated. I want to thank staff. It’s been really great working with everybody here.”

From our family to yours,
wishing you the best this Rosh Hashana.
Happy New Year!



*The Lieu Family
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photo by Tabor Brewster

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman applauded the judge's decision to deny a request for a new trial.

Judge denies new trial for Menendez brothers

■ D.A. Hochman praises judge's decision

BY TABOR BREWSTER

On Sept. 15, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge William C. Ryan rejected a request for a new trial for brothers Erik and Lyle Menendez.

The brothers were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in 1996 for the double murder of their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez, which took place in their family home in Beverly Hills in 1989.

In May 2023, the Menendez brothers filed a habeas corpus petition, which sought a new trial based on new evidence. The evidence included allegations by a former member of boy band Menudo that Jose Menendez sexually abused him, and a letter written by Erik Menendez before the murders that alleged the brothers were sexually abused by their father.

While the judge found that the evidence "slightly corroborates" the brothers were abused, he stated in the ruling that it does not warrant a new trial because it "did not negate the finding of premeditation and deliberation and the lying-in-wait special circumstance."

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman, who has opposed the release of the Menendez brothers since taking on the case in February, applauded the judge's decision.

"I have long said 'not never, but not yet' when asked about the possibility of resentencing or parole for the Menendez brothers. That decision rests not on

public opinion or campaigns, but on their willingness to fully accept responsibility for their crimes and the pattern of lies they spun to conceal them," Hochman said. "To this day, they have not acknowledged their calculated plan to kill their parents, nor their attempts to suborn perjury from friends to bolster their false self-defense narrative – which included fabrications that their father raped Lyle's girlfriend, that their mother was poisoning the family and that they sought a handgun the day before the murders to protect themselves. Until the brothers come clean and tell the truth, they will remain imprisoned not only by the walls around them – but by the lies they built themselves."

In addition to Ryan's recent ruling, the brothers were denied parole in August following separate hearings. The parole board found that while the brothers did display some signs of rehabilitation, they were not suitable for parole based on infractions committed while imprisoned, including possession of cell phones by both brothers and Erik Menendez's association with a prison gang and involvement in a tax fraud scheme.

In May, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Jesic sentenced the brothers to 50 years to life in prison with the possibility of parole, which opened the door for the August review by the parole board.

Although their recent attempts at release were rejected, the brothers can reapply for parole in as little as 18 months with good behavior, and Gov. Gavin Newsom may grant clemency at any time in the form of a pardon or commutation.

Woman stabbed during brawl in West Hollywood

■ Victim remains in critical condition

BY SAM MULICK

A woman was stabbed and is in critical condition following a fight outside a West Hollywood bar in the early morning on Sept. 14.

The West Hollywood Sheriff's Station responded to a fight outside Beaches WeHo around 3 a.m. in the 8900 block of Santa Monica Boulevard. Deputies found a female victim in her early 20s suffering from a stab wound to her upper body. The victim was treated by the Los Angeles County Fire Department and then transported to a hospital, where she was in critical condition as of Sept. 17 at noon, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Lt. Michael Modica. Modica added that the incident involved around 3-4 people and spilled over from a larger brawl. There is no further information on the victim.



photo by Sam Mulick

A female victim was stabbed in the 8900 block of Santa Monica Boulevard in the early morning hours of Sept. 14.

"The fight involved several people and at this time, there is no suspect information to release," according to a notice from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

One person of interest was detained on the afternoon of Sept. 14, Modica said. The suspect's case was presented to the L.A. County District Attorney who rejected the

case for further investigation, he added.

Restaurants and bars on the 8900 block of Santa Monica Boulevard, including Rocco's, Beaches WeHo and Mother Lode were closed until around 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 14 following the stabbing.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information is urged to call detectives at (323)890-5500.

Suspects in Hancock Park murder return to court

Two suspects accused of murdering an 84-year-old man in June during a burglary at his Hancock Park home are scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday, Sept. 24.

Rolando Guardado, 41, and Madeline Fresia Rivas, 45, are jointly charged with murder with the special allegation that the homicide occurred during the commission of a crime, as well as residen-

tial robbery and burglary. Rivas is also charged with being an accessory to a crime.

Guardado and Rivas are accused of stabbing longtime Hancock Park resident Gary Nelson on June 11 at his home in the 100 block of North Rossmore Ave. Police tracked the couple to their residence in Palmdale, where an LAPD SWAT team took them into custody.

Authorities said they recovered a knife believed to be the murder weapon at the residence. A vehicle the couple used was also seized as evidence, police said.

Guardado and Rivas are scheduled to appear in court for a preliminary hearing on Sept. 24 at 8:30 a.m. in Dept. 37 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, downtown.

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Body in trunk identified as missing girl from Riverside County

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A body found in the trunk of a Tesla registered to the singer-songwriter known as D4vd has been identified as Celeste Rivas, a 15-year-old girl missing since April 2024.

The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner confirmed the victim's identity but has not determined a cause of death, pending further tests. The body was found in an advanced

state of decomposition.

The medical examiner's office said Rivas was from Lake Elsinore, approximately 75 miles from the Hollywood impound lot where her body was found on Sept. 8. The Tesla was towed to Hollywood Tow at 1015 N. Mansfield Ave. on Sept. 5 after the Los Angeles Department of Transportation determined it was abandoned in the Hollywood Hills. Police have not disclosed where the vehicle was parked, but media

See [Investigation](#) page 16



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BHUSD faces new civil rights lawsuit

■ Parents allege El Rodeo failed to protect students from assaults, harassment

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Parents of two 9-year-old students at El Rodeo Elementary School filed a civil rights lawsuit against the Beverly Hills Unified School District, alleging school leaders did not protect the two children from repeated sexual assaults and harassment by another student. The action is the latest in a string of lawsuits against BHUSD amid increased scrutiny over district leadership.

“Our clients’ lawsuit is a demand for El Rodeo School and the Beverly Hills Unified School District to finally take appropriate action and protect all children harmed from a hostile environment of sexual harassment, assault and bullying that denies our clients access to their education, as we explain in our complaint,” attorney Christopher Frost said. “Since the first incident happened in November 2024, our clients have been met with deliberate avoidance, bureaucracy and inaction at every turn, despite numerous complaints and formal claims to multiple school and BHUSD authorities and despite the fact that the same authorities are mandatory reporters pursuant to California Penal Code

Section 11166.5. After exhausting all other remedies available to them, our clients have filed this lawsuit as a last resort.”

The lawsuit alleges that then-principal Sarah Kaber and director of student services Benjamin Wardrop did not properly address the situation after the parents reported the student’s behavior to the district. It also alleges that the parents urged the school to launch a Title IX investigation, to which the school refused. Title IX is a federal civil rights law that protects students from sex-based discrimination, unwanted sexual advances, sexual assault and harassment. The lawsuit states that following the departure of Kaber and then-Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy from the district, the new Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss took “immediate action to have [the] perpetrator suspended” and began a Title IX investigation.

The lawsuit described Cherniss’ action as “a tacit acknowledgement of [the district’s] own failure to train and supervise employees.” Although the litigation states that the district eventually took action against the student, Frost added that “there are currently no measures in place to prevent similar incidents from happening to other children at El Rodeo School.”

“BHUSD was deliberately indifferent to the harassment and assaults occurring on a regular basis at El Rodeo Elementary School,” the law-

suit states. “BHUSD was on notice for months of the troubling events involving [the alleged perpetrator] and plaintiffs or others, yet BHUSD did nothing to even attempt to fix the problem. Rather, BHUSD continually tried to sweep the incident under the rug and obfuscate any investigation into their actions.”

BHUSD declined to comment, citing pending litigation.

The litigation follows several other lawsuits that have been filed against BHUSD in recent months and years – which include allegations of bullying, racism, discrimination, sexual harassment and retaliation in the district.

On Oct. 6, a trial will begin to determine potential damages awarded to former Beverly Hills High School student Laurie Siegman after a former teacher admitted to sexually abusing her between 1978 and 1981.

Siegman filed a lawsuit against teacher Henry “Hank” Friedman and the Beverly Hills Unified School District in 2020 alleging that Friedman sexually abused her and that BHUSD knew that Friedman was unfit to be employed at the time.

According to court documents, Friedman and BHUSD admit that Friedman molested Siegman when she was between 15 and 18 years old. However, the district has maintained that it did not know at the time that Friedman posed a threat to students.



Beverly Press/Park LaBrea News file photo

The alleged assaults took place at El Rodeo Elementary School, the lawsuit states.

Rosh Hashanah marks beginning of Jewish High Holy Days

The High Holy Days, considered the most important time of the year for the Jewish community, begin at sunset on Sept. 22 with Rosh Hashanah, a celebration of the Jewish New Year. The High Holy Days run through Yom Kippur, known as the Day of Atonement, which begins at sunset on Oct. 1 and lasts through sunset on Oct. 2. Rosh Hashanah is marked with celebrations in temples and gatherings.

Numerous synagogues in the local community are holding High Holy Days services, including Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts at the Saban Theatre. Rosh Hashanah services will be held on Monday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m., and Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 10 a.m.

Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts’ Yom Kippur guests will include rescued hostage Andrei Kozlov, held for 247 days in Hamas captivity in Gaza and Nimrod Erez, producer, writer and editor of the film “October 8.” Yom Kippur services will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at

8 p.m. and continue on Thursday, Oct. 2, at 10 a.m. The Saban Theatre is located at 8440 Wilshire Blvd. For tickets and information, visit bhtota.org.

Hollywood Temple Beth El and Congregation Beth Israel are holding joint services, ushering in the new Jewish year of 5786 with Rosh Hashanah eve services on Monday, Sept. 22, at 6:15 p.m. Yom Kippur services begin on Oct. 1 at 6:15 p.m. and continue on Oct. 2 at 9:30 a.m.

Hollywood Temple Beth El and Congregation Beth Israel’s services will be held at 8338 Beverly Blvd, second floor. Admission requires pre-registration. For information and to register, call (323)651-4022, or visit eventbrite.com/e/rosh-hashanah-and-yom-kippur-2025-tickets-1555186156659.

Ahavat Torah of Los Angeles is holding a service on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m., and a Rosh Hashanah Day One observance on Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. Yom Kippur services will be

held on Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. For information, visit ahavattorahla.org.

Cantor Estherleon Schwartz, founder of Beth Shirah House of Song Congregation, is holding Rosh Hashanah services on Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 23 at 10:30 a.m. at the Matrix Theatre. Yom Kippur services begin on Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. and continue on Oct. 2 at 10:30 a.m. The Matrix Theatre is located at 7657 Melrose Ave. For information, call (323)272-4290, or visit estherleon.com.

Wilshire Boulevard Temple is holding High Holy Days services at its Glazer campus at 3663 Wilshire Blvd.; Irmas campus at 11661 W. Olympic Blvd.; and Resnick campus at 11960 Sunset Blvd. As the sun sets on Erev Rosh Hashanah, Wilshire Boulevard Temple’s Rabbi Joel Nickerson leads the service on Sept. 22 at 5 p.m. in the Leder-Magnin Sanctuary at the Glazer campus. Rosh Hashanah Day One services begin on Sept. 23 at 8:30 a.m. on Glazer campus. Rosh Hashanah Day Two services begin on Sept. 24 at 9 a.m. at the Resnick campus and 10 a.m. on the Irmas campus.

Wilshire Boulevard Temple’s Yom Kippur services begin with Kol Nidrei on Oct. 1 at 5 p.m. at the Glazer campus, and 7 p.m. at the Resnick campus. Yom Kippur services continue on Oct. 2 at 8 a.m. at the Glazer campus and 9:30 a.m. at the Resnick campus. For information and tickets, visit wbtla.org/hhd2025.

Congregation Kol Ami, a reform synagogue in West Hollywood, celebrates Rosh Hashanah on Sept. 22 at 7 p.m., in-person at the temple and online. Rosh Hashanah Day One services will be held on Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. Yom Kippur Kol Nidre services will begin on Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and continue on Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. Congregation Kol Ami is located at 1200 N La Brea Ave. For information, visit kol-ami.org/hhd.



photo by Edwin Folven

Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts will hold High Holy Days services at the Saban Theatre.



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, providing general practice, urgent care, and acupuncture.



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West Hollywood Public Access TV is back on the air

■ City asks residents to produce content

BY RANCE COLLINS

West Hollywood residents have a new way to make their voices heard. After a five-year hiatus, the city's Public Access Television station – which airs within the West Hollywood boundaries on Spectrum Cable channel 36 – has returned with an all-new studio inside the Aquatic and Recreation Center. The program itself has existed since 1990, but the new digs arrive with fresh, new ways for the community to get involved.

"We're the community television station for the city of West Hollywood," public access coordinator Peter Levine said. "What that means is that anybody who lives in the city can come in, they can sign up, they can get trained on the equipment, and then they can make their own noncommercial TV shows for cable."

Any West Hollywood resident can sign up to be a content producer for just \$30 annually, with two mandatory studio training sessions required to start calling "action!" In addition to being packaged for air on WHPA, the content is given to the producer for their own use. There are even editing suites on site to help make the programs look just right. So, if someone wants to start a podcast or a YouTube series but has never had the tools to put together a clean, professional product, WHPA can help make that dream happen – and it will go on air locally to boot.

"The one big caveat is that it has to be noncommercial, so this is

designed specifically for community, noncommercial production," Levine said.

Producers can also get together with other creatives to form a company, which can include non-residents as long as one member of the company lives in West Hollywood. The company can band together to make its own show, with each company member contributing \$75 annually.

Currently, WHPA has several blocks of programming already filled, including a spiritual program with Oscar-nominated actress Sally Kirkland, shows devoted to animal welfare and timeslots booked for those struggling with addiction and recovery.

"We've had musicians come through and play sets. We've had some pretty experimental puppet stuff. I've been bringing some clown people in a little bit. That's been interesting. So, it's pretty much just like a free for all ... as long as you're safe – not breaking the equipment, you're being respectful, there's no hate speech. It's a free speech platform, but ... we have a code of conduct," Levine explained.

There are plenty of "TBA" spots on the WHPA listings currently, so the city is actively looking to fill the rest of its programming block. Currently, the channel only airs on weekdays, although – if successful – a seven-day expansion, as well as a potential streaming component, may eventually come along.

Until then, it serves as a new way for residents to get hands-on production experience with state-of-the-art equipment, fuel their creative passions and, perhaps most importantly, connect with fellow community members.

"I do put [the programs] on

cable, but you can make mistakes. It's OK," Levine said. "It's a really great way to learn. I feel like [for] all of you creative people, it's really hard to just finish things. So, it's nice to just be like, 'We're doing it. We just have to finish it.' This is a great way to get involved, feel what it's like to be in a studio and even meet other people that you could make a show with."

The next program orientation will be held online on Oct. 8. Workshops are held throughout the month. For information, visit weho.org/city-government/communications/public-access-television.



photo by Rance Collins

Community members had the opportunity to try out the studio during a West Hollywood Public Access Television open house on Sept. 16.

Applications open for Taiwanese translator mentorship

The Taiwan Academy of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles continues its partnership with the American Literary Translators Association in presenting the "Emerging Translator Mentorship: Literature from Taiwan" program. The annual program nurtures English translators and enhances the publication of Taiwanese literature through selecting an emerging translator to receive mentoring from an experienced translator on a project. Online applications are accepted through Nov. 30. Translators who have not published more than one full-length translated work are eligible to apply.

The Taiwan Academy has invited Lin King, translator of Yang Shuang-Zi's novel "Taiwan Travelogue" and winner of the 2024 U.S. National Book Award for translated literature, to serve as the mentor in the coming year. The Ministry of Culture will provide support to the selected translator to work with the mentor for a nine-

month period starting in February 2026. The selected translator will have the opportunity to participate in the ALTA annual conference in fall 2026 in Portland, Ore., facilitating valuable networking connections with publishers.

Founded in 1978, U.S.-based ALTA is dedicated exclusively to literary translation. Initiated in 2015, the ALTA Emerging Translator Mentorship Program was created to foster a strong and collaborative relationship between an experienced translator and an emerging translator on a project. The program has supported 90 translators working with 30 languages. Since the Taiwan Academy started the project in 2020, "Fang Si-Chi's First Love Paradise," translated by Jenna Tang, has been published, with several short stories printed in literature journals.

For information and to apply, visit literarytranslators.org/2026-alta-emerging-translator-mentorship-program-open-for-applications.

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WeHo City Council denies union appeal of former Standard Hotel

■ Newly branded Public Hotel will open in 2026

BY SAM MULICK

The West Hollywood City Council denied an appeal filed by Unite Here Local 11 against planned rooftop renovations of the former Standard Hotel property on Sept. 15 in a 4-1 vote, with Councilman John Erickson dissenting.

The appeal focused on renovations approved by the West Hollywood Planning Commission in June for the newly branded Public Hotel, located at 8300 Sunset Blvd. The renovations include a 14,016-square-foot rooftop deck with a 399-person capacity and an expansion of space where alcohol is permitted. The Standard Hotel permanently closed in 2021 and was designated a local cultural resource after its closing. It sat unoccupied for several years before renovations began.

The appeal opposes the Planning Commission's approval of the hotel's renovation and expansion of space where alcohol is permitted. The appeal alleges that the project's noise level study does not adequately address noise impacts from the newly renovated rooftop and stated the project's traffic study did not address parking demands of the hotel at capacity and would congest traffic on Sunset Boulevard. The

union also opposes two exemptions, related to it being a preexisting and historical building, from the California Environmental Quality Act.

"In short, the project is likely to generate noise and traffic impacts that will have significant cumulative impacts on residents and neighbors immediately south of the hotel site," the appeal read. "The city is well aware of the unique noise issues presented with rooftop hotels, which the project's noise study did not adequately consider various factors."

Jordan R. Sisson, who represents Unite Here Local 11, clarified the appeal did not aim to stop the renovation of the hotel or halt historic renovations but instead advocated for better studies on the hotel to be conducted, alleging that rooftop noise from 399 people on the rooftop could violate city code.

Andrew Brady, who represents developer Ian Schrager Company, said that Unite Here Local 11 failed to present any technical evidence in their appeal that proved the noise and traffic studies were inadequate.

"Because this is a technical appeal of the California Environmental Quality Act, what you're ultimately looking for is — have we achieved compliance with the code, particularly with the noise issues?" he said. "In this case, compliance with the code has been achieved."

Brady added that he believes the

union filed the appeal in an attempt to pressure the hotel into signing labor agreements, rather than out of genuine concern for the surrounding neighborhood.

Supporters of the project spoke in favor of revitalizing the Sunset Strip, while opponents stressed the impact of noise and traffic congestion.

"This project on Sunset is going to be a wonderful, wonderful restoration of a very prominent hotel," resident Stephanie Harker said. "We all know that Sunset needs livening up."

Eli Quiñones, who worked as a bartender at the former Standard Hotel, said the renovations would significantly congest traffic and raise noise levels.

"The rooftop, the nightclub, the bar and the pool will all bring far more people than the development assumes," he said. "We know from experience that bars and nightclubs on the Sunset Strip attract large crowds from outside."

Erickson said that the union made valid concerns and supported amending the project to please both parties.

"I believe that we could have found a middle ground with the concerns of the appellant, the neighbors and the hotel," he said. "There were some simple fixes we could have made to the [conditional use permit] that would, I believe, have made all parties happy."

Since the union did not oppose the project while it went through approval from both the Planning Commission and the Historic Planning Commission, Vice Mayor John Heilman said he did not find the concerns significant enough to



photo by Edwin Folven

The rooftop of the former Standard Hotel property will be renovated to include a newly expanded rooftop deck, where alcohol is permitted.

halt the renovations.

"This property operated as the Standard Hotel for many years," he said. "Returning the property to its prior use doesn't seem to raise any significant issues for me."

Mayor Chelsea Byers also said there was not sufficient evidence brought forth in the appeal.

"The concerns raised around public access to the hotel and around noise and alcohol related issues are understandable — but the appeal itself did not produce tangible facts for the city to act on," she said. "The Planning Commission will have three opportunities to review compliance issues with the hotel, and should we discover these issues are creating real impacts, we will take immediate action to remedy."

Unite Here Local 11 endorsed

Byers, Hang and Erickson in their most recent city council campaigns.

Brady added that the council's decision to deny the appeal will revitalize an important part of the Sunset Strip.

"We are very pleased that the West Hollywood City Council voted to deny the appeal, allowing this important project to move forward," he said. "Businesses along this stretch of the Sunset Strip have faced challenges in recent years, and we are eager to help revitalize the area. Restoring this historic building will not only support the local business community but also create a new landmark that the entire West Hollywood community can take pride in."

The newly branded Public Hotel is scheduled to reopen in the second quarter of 2026.



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Judge rules in favor of L.A. Press Club in two cases

■ Rulings protect journalists covering protests

BY TABOR BREWSTER

United States District Judge Hernán D. Vera ruled in favor of the Los Angeles Press Club in two lawsuits alleging the violation of press rights by the Los Angeles Police Department and Department of Homeland Security.

On Sept. 10, Vera issued a preliminary injunction against the LAPD, which prohibits the department from arresting journalists for not following dispersal orders during a protest. Additionally, the judge ruled that LAPD cannot interfere with the rights of journalists covering a protest in Los Angeles by using force or arresting them. The ruling also orders LAPD to notify all sworn officers of the court-mandated policies the department must follow during protests.

“Being a journalist in Los Angeles should not be akin to a combat zone assignment. The judge’s order is an important step in getting the LAPD to respect First Amendment rights,” a statement from lead counsel Carol Sobel read. “We intend to hold the LAPD accountable if they violate the order.”

A similar ruling by Vera on Sept. 10 in a separate L.A. Press Club lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security – which includes Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Patrol – prohibits federal agents from “dispersing, threatening or assaulting” journalists without probable cause that they have committed a crime. Additionally, it prohibits agents from using crowd control weapons on journalists who do not pose an immediate threat to officers or other people. The ruling also orders DHS to inform all agents in the region on the rules set by the court.

“Under the guise of protecting the public, federal agents have endangered large numbers of peaceful protestors, legal observers and journalists – as well as the public that relies on them to hold their government accountable,” Vera’s ruling states. “The First Amendment demands better.”

“The rights to protest and report are critical to our constitutional democracy,” co-counsel Matthew Borden said in a statement. “If the government can suppress them with

violence, the government is the only one controlling the messages to our nation. That is the hallmark of a totalitarian state and the very evil the First Amendment was designed to protect against.”

The Department of Homeland Security’s assistant secretary for public affairs Tricia McLaughlin responded to the ruling in a statement.

“We disagree with this activist ruling, which is completely out of step with the original meaning of the First Amendment. The First Amendment protects speech and peaceful assembly – not rioting. Anyone who actively obstructs law enforcement in the performance of their sworn duties will face consequences, which could include arrest,” McLaughlin said. “ICE officers are facing a 1,000% increase in assaults against them as they put their lives on the line to arrest murderers, rapists and gang members. We remind members of the media and journalists to exercise caution as they cover these violent riots. President Trump and [DHS] Secretary Noem are committed to restoring law and order in Los Angeles and around the country. This ruling will not be the final say on this, and we are confident in our position. We have the law, facts and common sense on our side.”

Adam Rose, press rights chair of the Los Angeles Press Club, said both lawsuits were filed following the summer protests that erupted amid the federal immigration raids and deployment of the National Guard in Los Angeles. He said that during the protests, dozens of journalists were injured by LAPD officers and federal agents, and some were unlawfully detained while covering the protests – in some cases, on live television.

Rose added that many of the complaints by journalists against the LAPD have been an issue for years.

“LAPD in particular has been presented with evidence of officer misconduct in these situations for years. They’ve known about it for 25 years, but especially in the past five years, I have sent them hundreds of examples of this,” Rose said. “It always felt like they were giving it lip service, but it never felt they were really going to do something. The first time in the five

years I’ve been working on this that I felt that someone had authority, and recognized the problem and was going to do something about it, was when I sat in the courtroom during the hearings last month and the judge called all of this evidence I’ve been collecting ‘a mountain of evidence’ ... It is a relief for someone with real authority and independence to say that this is not OK, and that journalists have the right to do their job without the threat of being attacked, injured, arrested or any other chilling actions which law enforcement have been doing.”

The LAPD did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

The L.A. Press Club has also filed litigation against the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department for similar allegations.



photo by Harrison Costello

The lawsuits were filed by the Los Angeles Press Club after many journalists were injured while reporting on protests in Los Angeles against federal immigration raids and the deployment of the National Guard.

Margot McKinney.

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Notable Quotes

“I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend?”

Robert Redford (1936-2025)
Yosemite National Park Dedication, 1985

Robert Redford was an American actor known for films such as “The Way We Were,” “The Natural,” “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,” among many others. As a director, Redford achieved success with “Ordinary People,” for which he won an Oscar for Best Director, “A River Runs Through It,” “The Horse Whisperer,” and others. He founded the Sundance Film Institute in 1978, showcasing American-made, independent films. Redford was an advocate for the environment and made the statement above at the dedication of Yosemite National Park in 1985.

Source: BrainyQuote.com

Sitting in the kitchen, waiting for the kids

Look, I know I tend to chomp from the sunny side of the peach, sometimes right off the tree.

But, as I sit in my sister's kitchen, hearing her six adult children return for the weekend one after the other, hearing the front door slam but not knowing which kid will enter, it becomes this game show of modern parenting.

There is something to be said for sameness. This is the same front door my sister's kids came through after they got off the bus for second grade. This is the same front door they went out to trick-or-treat, or off to prom and college.

And now, in their early 30s, they return home to this big, brick suburban Chicago home through the same door, to the mud room off the kitchen, the one everyone uses without knocking ... neighbors,



by
Chris
Erskine

Imagine the house in "Home Alone" if the kids weren't quite so chippy and the parents such dolts.

In the past 20 months, three nieces and a nephew have been married, so there has been much celebration at my sister's home. She has one of those long, lush backyards with a pool, and I was pretty sure they'd throw up a wedding tent and hold all the wedding bashes right there.

So far, though, they have chosen lovely venues on the edges of townships in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin. One wedding took place in a monsoon, another in a reindeer blizzard.

Just added to the lore.

But they come home, kids do. Smiling. And in a time when our hearts are torn and society seems so mucked up, let's take the joys where we find them – in the sounds of autumn homecomings, in the sweet slams of those family front doors.

Hi Mom! Where's Dad?

Similarly, Rapunzel returned to her childhood home the other day, with that new baby – her first baby, the one that changes everything for all time.

We call her Mookie, because she has that beaming Dodger smile. Also, because at 2 months of age, she just looks like a Mookie.

Hey Mook!

BTW, here's how to get wrapped around a tiny finger. Watch her wiggle her chin. Wiggle your chin back. Yawn when she yawns. When she makes bubbles, you make bubbles.

I'm "nerding out," grandpa style.

It's a fine day for a visit, a near-perfect afternoon. Rapunzel

uncles, friends, family.

And they all enter smiling, an Irish thing...no, wait, a very human thing, the way we wag out tails.

So, take heart, you recent empty-nesters, they do come home – over and over and over again.

Hi Mom. Where's Dad? Whatcha got to eat?

When I visit, there is nothing better than sitting at that kitchen island, with a cup of coffee, or a cold beer, and wondering who'll return home next.

As noted, my younger sis has six kids – four of them quadruplets, who arrived like the Beatles, all at once.

In those early days, with six kids under the age of 5, her house was more than a house; it was a "Peanuts" cartoon. It was the big boot in a fairy tale.

Still kinda is.



photo courtesy of Chris Erskine

Nerding out, grandpa style.



photo by Chris Erskine

They keep showing up to this kitchen, one after the other.

and Smartacus debate the size of the perfect meatball, then watch perhaps the greatest love flick of all time, Lady Gaga's "A Star is Born."

Seems fitting, right, Mook? See the overlap?

I tell Rapunzel and Smartacus that "A Star Is Born" is the only Hollywood remake that was ever any good. All four versions are excellent, but the most poignant ending is the one where a dispirited James Mason just walks straight out to sea.

That's the stuff of Fitzgerald right there. That's movie literature.

You know, some people do everything the hard way. D.H. Lawrence wrote provocative books that no one would publish. Frank Lloyd Wright designed prized houses that leaked.

I'm one of those guys. If I ever built a sailboat, it wouldn't sink. It would just float away in the wind

the day I added the mast.

"He builds a nice kite," the critics would say.

But I do know children. And I love them mostly – for what they do for us, for the innocence they lend to an often evil world. Our children rule our lives the way Britannia once ruled the high seas.

And there will come a time – waaaaaay too soon – when Rapunzel sits nursing a cup of coffee in the kitchen, and she hears a car door slam, and bursting through the door will be Mookie with her crew of high school friends, or Mookie with a funny husband, or Mookie with a gaggle of noisy grandkids.

We often wonder, in our quieter moments: What's the point? What's it all mean?

Well, this.

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

Sunday Socials

WITH Sharona

Come join Mayor Sharona Nazarian for an afternoon of fun, games, and connection!

Whether you're a senior, a teen, or anywhere in-between, all community members are invited to this exciting new intergenerational initiative. **This is a chance to build new friendships, share ideas, and celebrate our Beverly Hills community.**



INTERGENERATIONAL GAMES DAY

Sunday, September 28, 2025

Roxbury Park Community Center
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Students May Receive Volunteer Hours for Participating!

- Karaoke, Backgammon, Trivia and Crafts!

📅

Save the Date for the next Sunday Socials with Sharona:

- December 7, 2025
- February 8, 2026



Light refreshments will be served and RSVP is required at beverlyhills.org/SundaySocials



Subway stations keep moving toward completion

Metro is working at the new subway stations on the D Line subway extension project and is restoring streets and sidewalks along Wilshire Boulevard.

Work is ongoing at the Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Cienega stations, including street restoration near Wilshire/La Cienega.

Temporary road closures may be implemented on South Hamilton and South Tower drives and a K-rail work zone remains in place on the south side of the street. Two lanes remain open in each direction on Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards.

A K-rail work zone remains in place on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction in the area. The traffic control supports

ongoing restoration work along Wilshire Boulevard such as the construction of new curbs, sidewalks, pedestrian ramps and tree wells. Work hours may extend into the night and heavy equipment may be used until 9 p.m.

Hamilton, Gale and Tower drives may be intermittently closed at Wilshire Boulevard during the street restoration work. Drivers are prohibited from making left turns from Wilshire Boulevard onto Hamilton Drive. Additionally, Wilshire Boulevard may be intermittently reduced to a single lane in either the westbound or eastbound direction on weekdays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., weeknights between 8 p.m.-7 a.m. and weekends from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. for material deliveries.

Farther west, crews are working at the Beverly Drive Station and in work zones along Wilshire Boulevard. K-rail enclosures will remain in place along the north and

south curb lanes on Wilshire Boulevard. Two lanes will be maintained in each direction between Beverly and Crescent drives.

Excavation and concrete placement also continue for appendages, which are rooms and passageways adjacent to the station. Sidewalk closures may be in place around the station. Lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard for the removal of geotechnical instruments are tentatively scheduled from Sept. 15-19 on Wilshire Boulevard between Beverly Drive and Camden Drive.

At the Century City Station, preparations are underway to remove deck panels and restore the street along Constellation Boulevard between Century Park East and Solar Way. The work is expected to last approximately two months. Work on appendage structures on the north side of Constellation Boulevard, east of



photo by Edwin Folven

Work continues at construction staging areas near Wilshire and La Brea.

Avenue of the Stars, also continues in late September.

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.

Allen enters race for state insurance commission



photo courtesy of Ben Allen for Insurance Commissioner

State Sen. Ben Allen has served California's 24th Senate District since 2014.

California State Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) has announced his candidacy for California insurance commissioner in 2026, pledg-

ing to put consumers first while ensuring a strong, fair, robust and climate-resilient insurance market that meets the state's evolving challenges. Allen has represented California's 24th Senate District since 2014 and is termed out at the end of 2026.

Allen said the Palisades fire in January was a defining moment of his career in public service. The fire erupted near a trail he knows well, within sight of where he grew up and where he is raising his family.

"The Palisades fire underscored what we've known for years: our world is changing beneath our feet," Allen said. "If we want to keep California affordable and livable, we must make our insurance system adaptable to the realities of a changing world, while making sure insurance companies treat people right and stay viable so that consumers and our economy have real options."

Allen immediately got to work on efforts to assist with the initial governmental response – bringing state and federal leaders together to help with resident assistance, securing

funding to rebuild critical local infrastructure and landmarks, and helping families piece lives back together. He authored legislation to assist mobile home park residents who lost everything, provide tax assistance for fire victims and give greater help to victims trying to maximize contents coverage from insurers. Allen has supported efforts to establish standards to help residents better protect homes from future fires and reduce liabilities for the insurance market. He said the experience has given him a clear look into the challenges and limitations of the current insurance system.

"I like digging into tough policy issues and working on solutions that put people and quality of life first," Allen said.

Allen's candidacy was welcomed by U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire (D-North Coast) and Pro Tem-designee Monique Limon (D-Santa Barbara) and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Hollister).

For information, visit benallen.com.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Several consuls general representing countries from around the world gathered in Beverly Hills on Sept. 12 with Mayor Sharona Nazarian to discuss future events.

Nazarian unites with tourism roundtable

On Sept. 12, Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian hosted the first ever "Unity Through Tourism Roundtable" where consuls general representing countries from around the world gathered to discuss future collaborations.

The luncheon event took place at Steak 48 and was held in partnership with the Beverly Hills

Conference and Visitors Bureau. With an increase in international visitors over the next few years for sporting events including the 2028 Summer Olympics, the gathering was a timely event to discuss shared priorities and increased opportunities for cross-promotion and cultural exchange.

For information, visit beverlyhills.org.

Letters to the Editor

House should expand the number of representatives

Re "Friedman urges support for redistricting," Sept. 11 issue

Rep. Laura Friedman was recently quoted as saying, "We lose, or we engage them in the arena they have created." That phrase stuck with me because it goes deeper than partisan fights over redistricting.

The real "arena" is not just about where district lines are drawn – it is the size of the U.S. House of Representatives itself. That arena was frozen at 435 seats in 1911, when our country's population was less than 100 million. Today, with over 330 million people, we are still trying to play democracy inside an arena designed for a much smaller nation. Each congressional district now holds roughly 760,000 people, making genuine local representation nearly impossible.

By only debating temporary redistricting fixes, Rep. Friedman and other leaders are still accepting the rigged playing field. They are fighting inside an arena that was structurally tilted over a century ago, when Congress capped itself at 435 members and never adjusted for population growth.

If we want true representation – not just partisan reshuffling of the same too-large districts – we must confront this root problem. A modern House of Representatives that grows with the population, as the Constitution originally envisioned, would restore the voices of everyday citizens and make the arena itself fair again.

Otherwise, we remain trapped, fighting each other inside a space that has been stacked against voters for generations.

We lose not just because of gerrymandering. We lose because we never fixed the arena.

Pini Herman
Beverly Grove

Mayor Bass names new chief of staff

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass announced on Sept. 12 that Mitch Kamin will serve as her new chief of staff. Kamin will continue the mayor's momentum moving Los Angeles in a new direction, building on historic decreases in homelessness, historic lows in homicides, comprehensive improvements in citywide safety and the fastest disaster recovery in state history.

"I'm excited to be bringing in Mitch – a seasoned leader and status quo disrupter who will elevate our momentum to move Los Angeles in a new direction," Bass said. "We will build on historic decreases in homelessness, historic lows in homicide totals, comprehensive improvements in citywide safety and the fastest disaster recovery in state history."

Kamin is a second-generation Angeleno and an effective and experienced leader in the nonprofit, commercial and public sectors. Kamin led Bet Tzedek Legal Services, growing the organization to serve thousands of low-income and elderly individuals across the city and the nation. He was a founding partner of the Los Angeles office

of Covington & Burling, helping to build the branch from the ground up. During his tenure with the firm, he successfully defeated the Trump administration in court on behalf of the city of Los Angeles, stopping the Department of Justice from tying federal resources to immigration enforcement.

"I'm excited to be bringing in Mitch – a seasoned leader and status quo disrupter who will elevate our momentum to move Los Angeles in a new direction."

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass

"I'm thrilled to be joining Mayor Bass at this critical time for our city," Kamin said. "I look forward to helping Mayor Bass execute her vision – accelerating progress on

homelessness, public safety and the responsiveness of City Hall, among other pressing goals."

Bass thanked outgoing chief of staff and senior advisor Carolyn Webb de Macias, who came out of retirement to serve in this position.

"Carolyn's passion and dedication to this city has made Los Angeles shine," Bass said. "Her indomitable pursuit of advancing social and economic justice for all Angelenos has delivered results that have saved lives, and I thank her from the bottom of my heart for her work."

For information, visit mayor.lacounty.gov.



photo courtesy of L.A. Mayor Karen Bass' office

Mitch Kamin will help Mayor Karen Bass continue addressing homelessness and crime, and bring more improvements to L.A.

RESTAURANT NEWS

Cheers to bourbon at Marina del Rey Hotel

On Friday, Sept. 26, Garrison Brothers, Texas's first legal bourbon distillery, is teaming with Marina del Rey Hotel for an elevated cocktail class experience – Mixology 101 with Garrison Brothers. Set against the marina's scenic backdrop, the one-night-only event offers a hands-on cocktail class led by the makers behind the exquisite bourbon, showcasing the bold, award-winning flavors of Garrison Brothers. It's timed to coincide with Bourbon Heritage Month and offers an accessible but premium take on whiskey culture.

Tickets are \$95.48 per person and include a special welcome cocktail and small bites paired with Single Barrel Pacifica Bourbon, Garrison Brothers Single Barrel, Garrison Brothers Lady Bird and Garrison Brothers Small Batch. Tickets are available at eventbrite.com/e/

whiskey-pairing-with-garrison-brothers-at-marina-del-rey-hotel-tickets-1095508327899?aff=odcleoeventsincollection. The Marina del Rey Hotel is located at 13534 Bali Way.

Breakfast Republic supports education nonprofit

This October, Breakfast Republic's Echo Park location is partnering with local education nonprofit organization 826LA.

From Oct. 1-31, 100% of proceeds from its Churro Pancakes will be donated to support 826LA's ongoing programs. Breakfast Republic's Churro Pancakes feature three pancakes, dusted with cinnamon sugar. Located at 1918 W. Sunset Blvd, diners will find cozy indoor seating along with plenty of patio space for outdoor dining.

With the goal of unlocking and cultivating the creative power of

KA'TEEN hosts Hispanic Heritage Month fiesta

Celebrate Mexican Independence Day at KA'TEEN, at the Hollywood VOLUME through Sept. 21. The Yucatán-inspired hideaway will honor Hispanic Heritage Month with festive programming, hand-crafted cocktails and new tacos such as the El Gobernador with garlic shrimp, Taco Hass with prime skirt steak and jalapeno salsa, and the Chicken Ajonjoli with sesame mole and citrus marinated chicken thigh.

KA'TEEN also launched La Hora Dorada (Golden Hour), a new happy hour Wednesday-Sunday from opening until 7 p.m. at the bar and lounge, featuring specials on cocktails, botanas and sides. It features the Santo Remedio with Amaras espadin mezcal and grilled pineapple and the "Ay que rico!" with Tres Generaciones plata, Jamaica, strawberry and smokey chipotle.

Programming kicks off with Taqueria Tuesdays at KA'TEEN, a



photo courtesy of KA'TEEN

The Taco Hass at KA'TEEN features skirt steak and jalapeno salsa, just in time for Mexican Independence Day.

weekly celebration of bold flavors featuring taco specials, mezcal fueled cocktails and the jungle oasis vibes for which the restaurant is known. The night continues with DJs and live performances, which is perfect for dining, drinks and dis-

covering music. It's the perfect way to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month with great food, cocktails and culture in the heart of West Hollywood.

For information, visit kateenla.com. KA'TEEN is located at 6516 Selma Ave.

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writing for students ages 6 to 18, and helping teachers inspire students to write, 826LA provides after-school tutoring in all subjects, evening and weekend workshops, in-school programs, field trips, college access, help for English language learners and assistance with student publications.

For information, visit breakfastpublic.com.

Angry Chickz fire up football season

Football season is here, and game-day spreads just got an upgrade. Angry Chickz catering brings bold flavor and unbeatable heat straight to watch parties and tailgates. From signature tenders and sliders to scratch-made sides such as mac and cheese, coleslaw and rice, there's something to satisfy every fan.

With spice levels ranging from mild "Country" to the blazing "Angry," guests can customize the heat, so everyone walks away happy (and full). Don't fumble the next football gathering – let Angry Chickz deliver bold, crave-worthy flavor directly via DoorDash.

For information, visit angrychickz.com. Angry Chickz is located at 5065 Hollywood Blvd.

Academy Museum serves Sips on the Terrace

After a day of one-of-a-kind film exhibitions and rare Hollywood artifacts, see Los Angeles the way the stars do – cocktail in hand, overlooking the city and the Hollywood Sign. The Academy Museum is serving up Sips on the Terrace, with cocktails by Fanny's and a spectacular view. Enjoy a seasonal Pumpkin Spice Espresso Martini, a non-alcoholic Matcha Tonic or choose from a variety of spritzes.

Sips on the Terrace is free with museum admission or a film ticket and held every Saturday through Nov. 1 from 3-7 p.m. Beverages are available for purchase. Last call is at 6:30 p.m.

For information, visit academy-museum.org. The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd.

Prost! to Oktoberfest at Dog Haus

When it comes to Oktoberfest, Dog Haus goes bigger, bolder and better than anyone else. This year, the craft-casual favorite is cranking up the celebration with an over-the-top collaboration with food personality Josh Elkin, debuting two epic creations – Bratzel Sliders and Bratchos.

Available Sept. 20 through Oct. 26, the limited-time Oktoberfest-inspired dishes deliver the full bier hall experience right to your table – lederhosen and dirndls optional, appetite required.

Bratzel Sliders include three bratwurst sliders topped with bacon-onion jam, sauerkraut, mustard aioli and crispy fried onions served on grilled King's Hawaiian pretzel buns.

Bratchos combine crispy flour tortilla chips smothered with cheese sauce, sauerkraut, bacon onion jam, bratwurst, scallions and mustard aioli.

"Oktoberfest has become just



photo courtesy of Dog Haus

Oktoberfest offerings at Dog Haus include Bratzel Sliders.

as much a tradition for our guests as it has for us," said Hagop Giragossian, co-founder of Dog Haus. "Each year, we push ourselves to go beyond the expected brat and pretzel to create something new, fun and unforgettable. This year's Bratzel Sliders and Bratchos deliver exactly that – and with Paulaner's limited-edition Oktoberfest Bier on tap and shots of Jägermeister to keep the party going, we're taking the celebration to the next level."

To round out the Oktoberfest experience, participating Dog

Haus locations will be pouring Paulaner Oktoberfest Bier and Hefe-Weizen as part of the rotating 24-tap lineup. Guests looking to turn up the celebration can also enjoy ice-cold shots of Jägermeister.

This year, Dog Haus is making Oktoberfest bigger than ever with festive décor and stein-holding competitions. For local event details and tap lists, visit doghaus.com/oktoberfestival-2025.

For information, visit doghaus.com. Dog Haus is located at 615 N. Western Ave.

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It's game on at Warwick Sports Book

DCB Hospitality, the force behind Beverly Hills beloved restaurant The Hideaway, announced the launch of Warwick Sports Book, an elevated sports viewing club, transforming Sundays into the premiere game-day experience, inside the iconic nightlife destination Warwick. Partners on the project include Sylvain Bitton, David Jarrett, JT Torregiani, Jeffrey Best and Ken Jones.

Warwick Sports Book has been refreshed to feel like an upscale living room, where guests can settle into swivel club chairs arranged in intimate seating vignettes, while state-of-the-art televisions have been installed throughout the venue. Every seat offers a view of the action, with all Sunday NFL games streamed live. One featured game will play on house volume,

while all others can be accessed through an app that allows guests to simply use their own headphones and listen to whichever match they want to follow.

Warwick has always been recognized as a design-forward venue. With the launch of Warwick Sports Book, the club is evolving that legacy into a true jewel box of a game-day destination, where thoughtful décor intersects seamlessly with hospitality. Guests can expect a welcoming atmosphere where watching the game becomes a sought-after experience.

Entry to Warwick Sports Book is set at a \$20 cover, which includes access to complimentary, curated food offerings served throughout game time from the Melrose deli All About the Bread. Warwick Sports Book ensures that every guest enjoys an unmatched viewing

experience with the level of hospitality Warwick is known for. Warwick Sports Book will be overseen by general manager Rob Stoffel, who has been with Warwick since it opened its doors.

“Warwick Sports Book is setting the standard for sports bars in Los Angeles,” Best said. “We’ve set out to create a new way to watch your game of choice, offering complimentary game-day food and bottle service with an approachable price point.”

Warwick Sports Book is for the fan who is looking for more than the typical sport bar offers – a comfortable, luxury space with a higher level of service. Guests are encouraged to come ready for game day in their favorite jerseys and team gear, both professional and collegiate.

Beyond Sundays, Warwick Sports Book will eventually expand with additional event days throughout the season – MLB playoffs and



photo courtesy of Warwick

The new lounge at Warwick provides an elevated atmosphere to watch football on Sundays.

the World Series, NBA basketball, NFL post-season and more.

Warwick Sports Book is open every Sunday from 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Warwick is located at 6507 W. Sunset Blvd. For information and reservations, visit warwickla.com or call (323)460-6667.

Black Music Action Coalition to honor changemakers



photo by Guy Aroch

Singer and philanthropist John Legend will receive the Quincy Jones Humanitarian Award.

The Black Music Action Coalition announced it will honor music industry icons John Legend, Irving Azoff, Kai Cenat, Apple and Apple Music, Sherrese Clarke and Primary Wave Music at the fifth annual BMAC Gala taking place on Thursday, Sept. 18, at The Beverly Hilton. The milestone evening – co-hosted by Grammy-nominated country trailblazer Mickey Guyton and cultural curator Kenny Burns – will celebrate the artists, executives, activists and brands who are unapologetically leveraging their platforms to advance equity, inspire action and ignite lasting change.

Marking five years of advocacy, accountability and impact, the 2025 Gala will also spotlight a movement that has reshaped the music industry's role in social justice and proved that culture can drive systemic change.

Since its founding shortly after Juneteenth in 2020, BMAC has distributed more than \$4 million in direct economic relief, reached more than 5,500 students and mentored over 500 emerging music artists and industry professionals through initiatives and pipeline programs, and created more than 200 paid internships and job placements. BMAC has transformed advocacy into measurable impact by launching guaranteed income programs to empower emerging music artists and industry executives and to create economic opportunity in communities; building mentorship pipelines and Music Maker Grants for emerging talent with cultural leaders such as Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, Victoria Monét, the Luther Vandross Foundation, the James Brown Estate, the late Chubbie Baby and the Gunna x BMAC 30349 Guaranteed Income Program with hip-hop superstar Gunna; and creating paid internships, jobs and industry access

through accelerator partnerships with the Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Fame, Academy of Country Music, Live Nation and Rolling Loud.

BMAC also drives policy change to protect artists’ rights, defend creative expression and amplify marginalized voices in every corner of the industry. The organization’s landmark legislative support includes the CREATE Art Act, NO FAKES Act, RAP Act and HITS Act.

“It’s an honor to be recognized by the Black Music Action Coalition, an organization that not only uplifts artists but fights for justice, equity and lasting change in our industry and beyond,” Legend said. “Championing these causes has been central to my own journey, and to receive an award bearing my friend and mentor Quincy Jones’ name is deeply humbling. His legacy reminds us that music can be a force for joy, beauty, love and empowerment.”

KCCLA explores films of prolific Korean director Kim Tae Yong

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles will welcome filmmaker Kim Tae Yong, known for “Family Ties” and “Late Autumn,” as part of the 2025 K-Cinema Touring program. The three-day event will take place from Sept. 28-30 at the University of Southern California, Gardena Cinema and Chapman

University, in the city of Orange. Launched in 2015, K-Cinema Touring introduces Korean films to students at leading film schools in Los Angeles – the epicenter of the movie industry. The program also features lectures and discussions with Korean filmmakers, providing insight into Korea’s film industry

and fostering cultural and professional exchange between Korean and American cinema.

The program expanded significantly this year with the addition of a community theater screening at Gardena Cinema, broadening access beyond film students to residents. As part of the 2025 series, “Late Autumn” (2011) will be shown on Sept. 28 at 3 p.m. at Gardena Cinema; “Family Ties” (2006) on Sept. 29, at 4 p.m. in Chapman University’s Folino Theatre; and “Wonderland” (2024) on Sept. 30, at 7 p.m. in USC’s Eileen Norris Cinema Theatre. Each screening will be followed by a conversation with the director.

Known as the “Master of Emotions,” Kim debuted with “Memento Mori” (1999) and has built a career spanning film, theater and stage productions. His works are celebrated for originality, warmth and sensitive explorations of human connection. “Family Ties” and “Late Autumn” received widespread acclaim for heartfelt storytelling, while “Wonderland” – the first Korean feature film to spotlight artificial intelligence – offers a striking exploration of human relationships in the digital age.

Gardena Cinema is located at 14948 Crenshaw Blvd. Chapman University’s Folino Theatre is located at 283 N. Cypress St. in the city of Orange. USC’s Eileen Norris Cinema Theatre is located at 3507 Trousdale Parkway. The screenings are free and open to the public; advance reservation is required by visiting kccla.org.



photo courtesy of IMDb

The Korean film series includes “Late Autumn” on Sept. 28.

Second annual Manhattan Beach Food and Wine flourishes

The second annual Manhattan Beach Food and Wine festival was held on Sept. 12 and 13, featuring 46 signature dishes from dozens of L.A.’s acclaimed chefs. The sold-out crowd of visitors tasted delectable dishes like Mikandai crudo from chef Joel Hammond of Uchi in West Hollywood and wagyu cigars from chef Brendan Collins of BOA Steakhouse.

Attendees also sipped wines from some of the most beloved wineries from across California and the world, including Taub Family Vineyards of Napa and Faire La Fête of Limoux, France. Additional offerings included craft beers and spirits from local breweries and distilleries. For information, visit manhattanbeachfoodandwine.com.



photo by Tabor Brewster

Selections at this year’s Manhattan Beach Food and Wine festival included Maine lobster rock shrimp rolls from chef Raphael Lunetta of Lunetta in Santa Monica.

Robert Redford dies at 89

■ Los Angeles-native grew up to become one of Hollywood's brightest icons

BY RANCE COLLINS

If any star's memories ever lit the corners of the mind, it must be Robert Redford.

To most, he was a movie icon – the actor who graced the screen, time and again, with his boyish good looks and tussled blonde locks – with performances over decades of hits, from “Barefoot in the Park” to “Indecent Proposal.” He was even in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

But his work in front of the camera only tells part of his story.

He was an Oscar-winning director, and he used his immense fame to help launch the Sundance Film Institute, which has since become famed as the preeminent independent film showcase. That festival has thereby given some of Hollywood's most successful filmmakers their big break, including Quentin Tarantino, Paul Thomas Anderson, Steven Soderbergh

and Damien Chazelle. The actual Sundance Kid of “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” is responsible for bringing modern classics like “American Psycho,” “The Blair Witch Project,” “Whiplash,” “CODA” and “Little Miss Sunshine” to a wider audience ... at Sundance.

And then there was his environmental advocacy. He was a Natural Resources Defense Council trustee, a leading voice against the Keystone Pipeline and led Pitzer College in Claremont, California, where was also a trustee, to divest all fuel stocks from its endowment. He vocally protested the 2019 decision for the U.S. to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, part of a series of op-eds he authored in recent years raising awareness for causes he held dear.

“I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security,” Redford once said. “Defense of our resources

is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend?”

Redford was a California native, born in Santa Monica and graduated from Van Nuys High School. He started college at the University of Colorado, then made the leap to New York City, where he graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. He debuted on Broadway in 1959 in the play, “Tall Story.” The next year, that was made into a movie with Jane Fonda, and they both made their screen debuts – though her with the lead and him with an uncredited bit role.

During the early 1960s, Redford built up an impressive resume with regular stage and television appearances, including in “Perry Mason,” “Alfred Hitchcock Presents” and a seminal 1962 “Twilight Zone” episode, playing a charming grim reaper in “Nothing in the Dark.”

His big break in the movies came with a pair of Natalie Wood vehicles, 1965's “Inside Daisy Clover,” in which he played the then-scandalous role of a closeted homosexual, and “This Property is Condemned.” He again appeared with Fonda, although this time as a co-lead, in “The Chase” in 1966. The next year, he teamed with Fonda for the hit Neil Simon adaptation “Barefoot in the Park,” a role he had created on Broadway.

With his casting in “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,” opposite Paul Newman in 1969, Redford became a true megastar. Redford made a series of daring hits during the tumultuous decade that followed, and everything he touched turned to gold.

He earned his first Oscar nomination for 1973's “The Sting,” a card caper picture that re-teamed him with Newman and won Best Picture. In 1972, he made the blockbuster western “Jeremiah Johnson,” and in 1973



photo courtesy of IMDb

“The Sting” earned Redford his first Oscar nomination.

Academy offers free admission for fourth anniversary

The Academy Museum is offering free general admission on Sept. 28 to celebrate the museum's fourth anniversary. Advance ticket reservations are encouraged but not required. Standby entry is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The museum is offering a variety of programming for every kind of movie fan during the month of September.

The Academy Museum opened “Jaws: The Exhibition” on Sept. 14, the museum's first large-scale exhibition dedicated to a single film, and the largest exhibition ever mounted showcasing Universal Pictures' landmark summer blockbuster. The museum will host a special event on Sept. 19 to discuss the impact of “Jaws” on sharks, science and cinema in “Jaws and its Community Impact: Sharks, Science, and Blockbusters.”

Also on Sept. 19, guests can see Gregg Araki's haunting adaptation of “Mysterious Skin,” followed by a post-screening conversation with writer/director Gregg Araki, actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt and novelist Scott Heim, moderated by filmmaker Sean Baker.

On Sept. 20, guests can join Cheech Marin in person for a screening of his directorial debut and first feature film without his longtime comedic partner, Tommy

Chong – featuring comedian Paul Rodriguez, Daniel Stern and the late and much beloved Lupe Ontiveros as Rudy's mom.

On Sept. 21, families can attend an animation demonstration celebrating the 30th anniversary of “Toy Story” with Bob Pauley, art director and production designer for Pixar Animation Studios. Following the workshop will be a screening of the film with producer Bonnie Arnold and co-writer Pete Docter.

Also on Sept. 21, Michael Mann will be present in person for a 30th anniversary screening of the epic Los Angeles crime saga “Heat,”

which casts two titans of contemporary acting, Al Pacino and Robert De Niro, as respectful enemies on opposing sides of the law.

On Sept. 26, guests can celebrate 50 years of zealous commitment to repeat viewings and shadow plays with a 50th anniversary viewing of late-night classic “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” the ultimate cult movie. Guests will get the full-blown audience participation experience, complete with a live shadow cast.

For information, visit academymuseum.org. The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd.



photo courtesy of the Academy Museum

Guests can visit the Academy Museum for free on Sept. 28 for the museum's fourth anniversary.



photo courtesy of IMDb

Redford portrayed journalist Bob Woodward in “All the President's Men.”

he played Hubbell opposite Barbra Streisand's Katie in one of the all-time romantic successes, “The Way We Were.”

Then he was Jay Gatsby in “The Great Gatsby.” Then came “Three Days of the Condor.” For three years in a row, Redford was named the top box office star in the country.

His fame helped catapult the Watergate-centered thriller, “All the President's Men,” in which he played Bob Woodward to Dustin Hoffman's Carl Bernstein, into one of the decade's biggest grossers. On that movie, Redford also served as an executive producer, a first step on a journey that would lead him to “Ordinary People,” his 1980 directorial debut that won Best Picture at the Academy Awards ... and won Redford an Oscar for Best Director.

He continued to have success both in front and behind the camera in the decades that followed. His directing work brought audiences films like “A River Runs Through It,” “The Horse Whisperer,” “The

Legend of Bagger Vance” and “The Company You Keep.”

He appeared in “The Natural,” 1985's Best Picture-winning “Out of Africa,” “Up Close & Personal,” “Sneakers,” “The Last Castle,” the one-man-show “All Is Lost,” “Truth” (where he played Dan Rather) and “The Old Man & the Gun,” the 2018 drama which served as his final lead role. His last screen appearance was a cameo in 2019's “Avengers: Endgame.”

“I have no regrets, because I've done everything I could to the best of my ability,” Redford once said in an interview.

Redford died at his Sundance, Utah, home on Sept. 16. He was 89. Married twice, first to Lola Van Wagenen and since 2009 to Sibylle Szaggars, Redford is survived by his widow and two of his four children with Van Wagenen.

Meryl Streep, his co-star in “Out of Africa” and “Lions for Lambs,” told CNN, “One of the lions has passed.”

So long, Sundance.

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POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Sept. 7 and Sept. 13. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)550-4951.

Beverly Hills Police Department

Sept. 7

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 9:24 a.m.

At 11:59 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of S. Spalding.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9300 block of Gregory at 2:53 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of S. Swall.

An unknown suspect burglarized a garage in the 200 block of S. Doheny at 6 p.m.

Sept. 8

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9600 block of Wilshire at 1:26 p.m.

At 3:17 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 100 block of Hamilton.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 100 block of N. La Cienega at 4:56 a.m.

Sept. 9

At 2:38 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Tower.

Sept. 10

At 5:32 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 200 block of N. Robertson.

Sept. 11

At 12:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Spalding at 5:48 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 9600 block of Olympic.

Sept. 12

At 5:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 500 block of Hillgreen.

A vandalism incident was reported near Wilshire and Stanley at 9:01 a.m.

At 12:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Rodeo.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 100 block of N. Clark at 6 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 300 block of N. Palm.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9700 block of Olympic at 6 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9700

block of Wilshire.

Sept. 13

At 1:16 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 200 block of S. Elm.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

Sept. 7

At 6:08 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1000 block of San Vicente.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of N. La Cienega at 9:30 p.m.

Sept. 8

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of N. Genesee at 1:30 a.m.

At 5:40 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8700 block of Santa Monica.

Sept. 9

At 12:27 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7300 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1300 block of N. Crescent Heights at 12:45 p.m.

At 4:25 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a locker in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 500 block of N. La Cienega at 6:10 p.m.

Sept. 10

At 1:23 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8600 block of Melrose.

Sept. 11

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Sunset.

At 1:45 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Curson.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of N. La Cienega at 2:45 a.m.

At 10:45 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1000 block of Fuller.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8500 block of Sunset at 4 p.m.

Sept. 12

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Fairfax at 3 a.m.

Sept. 13

At 12:20 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Santa Monica.

BHPD encourages use of child safety seats

During Child Passenger Safety Week, the Beverly Hills Police Department encourages parents and caregivers to ensure children are riding safely by using the correct car seats, booster seats and properly fitted seat belts. The annual campaign takes place from Sept. 21-27, raising awareness about the importance of car seat safety and proper installation.

"Every child deserves to travel safely," Beverly Hills Police Department Chief Mark Stainbrook said. "During Child Passenger Safety Week, we urge all parents and caregivers to know for sure that their children are in the right seats and that those seats are installed correctly. Keeping a child in the right seat for their age and size can make all the difference in a crash."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly half of car seats (46%) are misused. Properly installed car seats have been shown to reduce fatal injury crashes by 71% for infants under 1 year old and by 54% for toddlers ages 1 through 4.

California law requires all children under 2 years old to ride in a rear-facing car seat, unless the child is 40 or more pounds or is 40 or more inches tall. Even after a child reaches those milestones, all



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

Parents and caregivers are urged to ensure children are properly fitted in the right safety seat for their size.

children under the age of 8 are required to be secured in a car seat or booster seat, in the back seat of a vehicle. Children 8 and older, or who are at least 4 feet 9 inches tall, can use booster seats and must be secured by a safety belt.

encouraged to keep children in the proper rear or forward-facing seat as long as possible and when ready, ensure a child is tall enough to safely use a seat belt without a booster seat.

For information, visit gosafely-ca.org.

Parents and caregivers are

Investigation continues into victim found in trunk

From page 4

reports stated it was in the 1400 block of Bluebird Avenue, near Doheny Drive. Employees at the impound lot noticed a foul odor coming from the vehicle and notified police.

The case is still a death investigation until the cause is determined, according to the medical examiner's office. The Los Angeles Police Department's Robbery-Homicide Division is also investigating. Authorities have not released any further information about the case pending the release of the medical examiner's report.

Rivas was last seen on April 5, 2024, in Lake Elsinore, a city in western Riverside County. She was 13 at the time of her disappearance, according to a missing person's bulletin from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

Anyone with information is urged to call the LAPD's Robbery-

Homicide Division at (213)486-6890. During weekends and off-

hours, call the LAPD's hotline at (877)LAPD247.

Beverly Hills seeks input on wildfire preparedness survey

The Beverly Hills Fire Department has prepared a survey to gather public input on the city's wildfire preparedness and resilience in the event of a major wildfire. The survey, which consists of 33 questions and can take as little as 12 minutes, will help develop the city's Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The BHPD encourages residents to participate to improve wildfire preparedness.

To access the survey, visit survey123.arcgis.com/share/3b8678b0b65c44038cd4c1aa3d116465.



Survey link

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Run, don't walk, to see 'The Long Walk'

Call it the sleeper hit of the month. "The Long Walk" isn't on most folks' radar but it should be. Brutal, gutting and simple, this dystopian thriller features two incredible rising stars and a menacing Mark Hamill.

Imagine "Hunger Games" with less hope. That's "The Long Walk," a Stephen King adaptation – under his pen name Richard Bachman – depicting teenage boys chosen by

lottery to walk as long as they can until only one remains. But before anyone calls this dystopian tale a rip-off, it predates all those adventures in Panem by nearly four decades.

Then again, director Francis Lawrence ("Constantine," "I Am Legend") did helm four of those Suzanne Collins adaptations, so he clearly has some preferences. Or he finally hoped to explore a dystopian hellscape in more visceral ways –

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

no need to soften each death. This is no PG-13 blockbuster trying to appease the masses.

For participants in the Long Walk, the rules are simple. Walk on the road at a pace of at least 3 miles per hour. If you drop below that, you have three warnings to get going. If you veer off the road or confront the military escort, no warnings. Walk until you drop and your ticket gets punched by an executioner in that escort.

Why does this even happen? According to the totalitarian Major (Hamill), a great war diminished the United States' global standing, but the annual Long Walk boosts the American workforce's productivity.

At least the winner earns some cash and a single wish. Ray (Cooper Hoffman) can't ignore the appeal, especially since his father can no longer support his family. Others join for their own reasons. Hank (Tut Nyuot) wants the fame, while Peter (David Jonsson) wants to do some good with his wish.

"The Long Walk" hangs its success on the dynamic between Ray and Peter. At points, their commentary on the state of things feels too heavy handed, but during more tense sequences – like an uphill section of road – their dynamic grounds the story, while spectators must wonder how things will play out, since only one can win.



photo by Murray Close/courtesy of Lionsgate

Joshua Odjick as Parker, Jordan Gonzalez as Harkness, David Jonsson as McVries, Cooper Hoffman as Garraty and Charlie Plummer as Barkovitch must rise to the challenge in "The Long Walk."



photo by Murray Close/courtesy of Lionsgate

Mark Hamill stars as The Major in "The Long Walk."

Disney's 'Coco' returns to the El Capitan Theatre

Disney and Pixar's "Coco" makes a vibrant return to the El Capitan Theatre on Sept. 26. Visitors can see the fiesta of lights featuring music from the movie before each screening. Plus, visitors can see the Mariachi Divas and Ballet Folklórico de Los Angeles live on stage as they enter the theater. Tickets are currently on sale.

The fan event screening will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 26, with two different ticket packages. The fiesta pack for \$75 includes a reserved ticket, priority entry, Dante sipper with fountain drink, popcorn and event credential. General tick-

ets for \$25 include a reserved ticket and event credential. A special familia pack is available for \$64 and includes four tickets.

A Spanish dubbed screening will be held on Saturday, Sept. 28, at 4 p.m.

Daily showtimes for "Coco" from Sept. 26 through Oct. 2 are 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for all ages. All seats are reserved.

Tickets are on sale at elcapitantheatre.com and fandango.com/el-capitan-theatre-aacon/theater-page.

The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd.

Hoffman and Jonsson are something to behold. They already enjoyed some stellar breakout performances – Hoffman in "Licorice Pizza" and Jonsson in "Alien: Romulus" – but this film confirms that we should all watch them in anything. Hey film execs, give them a role in anything.

"The Long Walk" isn't as bleak as the 1979 novel, but it's still a tough watch. Back then, critics saw it as a Vietnam War commentary. Now, it's difficult to ignore how this dystopian country is willing to sacrifice young people for the sake of a specific, archaic definition of the great good – one that can only be maintained with violence.

Beyond social issues, "The Long Walk" is a reminder that less is more. We can talk all day about blockbusters and their bloated budgets, but this is the type of project

that we need to see more investment in. For \$20 million, which is modest compared to so many summer flops, you can get something heartfelt, emotionally devastating and thrilling. The entire story occurs on desolate roads save a couple brief flashbacks.

And where else can you see Mark Hamill play a fascist leader? That alone is worth the price of admission. If you know anything about the actor, he is delightful. Here (and when voicing nefarious villains), we see something unsettling: a sexist book-burning militant who savors the death toll that supports his idea of America.

"The Long Walk" will likely turn a modest profit, ignored by most. Pity. For those who can stomach the violence, it's a gripping thriller that mostly stays focused on a singular outcome.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

Vice President Mondale delivers federal support for senior housing



Vice President Walter Mondale announced an \$8 million federal grant to construct the Fairfax Tower senior housing building in this photograph in the Sept. 18, 1980, issue of the Park Labrea News. Mondale was joined by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, left, and representatives of the Young Israel Community Development Corp., which built the 150-unit facility at 1222 N. Fairfax Ave. The vice president praised the project for enabling seniors to stay in the Fairfax District community where they spent a majority of their lives. The 12-story building, completed in 1982 and located in what is now West Hollywood, still offers affordable living options for seniors.

The City of West Hollywood, in partnership with Ascencia, invites you to attend the

Holloway Interim Housing Program COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

**Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025
5:30 – 7:30PM**

8464 Holloway Drive
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Join us for an exclusive first look at West Hollywood's new Holloway Interim Housing Program—a 20-room facility offering stays of up to 90 days, along with supportive services to help community members experiencing homelessness transition into permanent housing.



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Back To School

Diana Thater to receive ArtCenter's 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award

ArtCenter College of Design announced that acclaimed artist, educator, writer, curator and alumna Diana Thater will receive the college's 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2025 ArtCenter Awards ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 27. The Lifetime Achievement Award is given annually to a distinguished graduate who has demonstrated a lifetime of professional and creative achievement. Michael Govan, CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art,

will present the award to Thater.

A 1990 graduate of ArtCenter's MFA program in art, Thater has taught at the college since 1995 and currently serves as the chair of the art department, where she mentors a new generation of artists while maintaining a robust and internationally recognized artistic practice.

"Diana is a trailblazing artist who has challenged conventions and inspired generations of creators and students. She embodies the ArtCenter spirit which celebrates creativity, fosters innovation and

encourages work that positively impacts our world," ArtCenter President Karen Hofmann said. "With this award, it is an honor and a privilege to recognize her extraordinary career and lifelong achievements."

One of the most important art figures to emerge in the 1990s, the Los Angeles-based artist has been a pioneer in the use of film, video, light and sound. Drawing from a range of sources, including literature, animals, mathematics, chess and sociology, her work challenges the boundaries of time-based media and installation art.

As part of a prolific four-decade career, Thater's work has been featured in more than 90 solo exhibitions, including "Diana Thater: The Sympathetic Imagination," a landmark survey show at LACMA in 2015, and more than 200 group exhibitions. Her work is represented in major museum collections around the globe, including LACMA; the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C.; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York; the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa; the Pinault Collection in Paris; and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Thater has received numerous awards throughout her distinguished career, including an Art+Technology Lab Grant from LACMA (2018), the James D. Phelan Award in Film and Video (2006), as well as fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation (2005) and the National Endowment for the Arts (1993). In July 2025, she received a Milestone Grant from the Trellis Art Fund and was honored with a 2025 Art Award from the Museum of Contemporary Art, Santa Barbara.

Thater is currently working on a

highly anticipated permanent public artwork for the new LACMA galleries opening to the public in April 2026. Her large-scale video projection work, shot this summer in Claude Monet's gardens at Giverny, will be seen by thousands daily as they drive along Wilshire Boulevard and pass under LACMA's David Geffen Galleries.

The ArtCenter Awards will be

held on Sept. 27 from 6-9 p.m. at the Mullin Transportation Design Center at 950 South Raymond Ave., Pasadena.

For information and to purchase tickets, visit host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=9d14d0b9-0c9d-4045-a699-6b4e270c945d&envId=p-UUgWgWJ5E0iS5GKQpW2kCg&zone=usa.



photo © Victor&Simon - Clément Vayssières

Artist Diana Thater will be honored in the ArtCenter's awards ceremony on Sept. 27.

L.A. Train Festival rolls into Union Station

Los Angeles Union Station, with presenting partners Metro, Amtrak and Metrolink, will once again welcome train enthusiasts from Southern California and beyond to learn, explore and celebrate all things rail at the much-anticipated "Train Festival 2025: LA's Spirit in Motion."

The free community event is set for Saturday, Sept. 20, and Sunday, Sept. 21, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and will offer visitors a

dynamic lineup of railroad equipment tours and displays, model train exhibits, interactive information booths, live entertainment, giveaways and family-friendly activities.

The event is suitable for all ages. Tickets are not required. For information, visit Eventbrite or follow @unionstationla on Instagram and Facebook.

Los Angeles Union Station is located at 800 N. Alameda St.



photo courtesy of Los Angeles Union Station

The family-friendly event will be held on Sept. 20 and 21.

LAUSD schools recognized for positive behavioral support

The Los Angeles Unified School District announced that 255 schools across the district have been recognized by California PBIS for excellence in implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.

"This recognition is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our educators, staff, students and families to foster safe, supportive and inclusive school communities," LAUSD Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho said. "Positive school culture is the foundation for academic success, and I am deeply proud that Los Angeles Unified is being recognized for leading the way in this critical work."

Schools in the local area that received Platinum Recognition include John Burroughs Middle School and West Hollywood Elementary School. Rosewood STEM Magnet Urban Planning and Urban Design was awarded Gold Recognition and Melrose Elementary received Silver Recognition.

"We are so proud of all the schools being honored," LAUSD Board President Scott M. Schmerelson said. "This is an important recognition for the hard work of students, staff and community, and it also serves as a powerful inspiration for all our schools."

The California PBIS promotes

evidence-based, culturally relevant social, emotional and behavioral practices that create thriving school


environments.


For information, visit www.lausd.org.

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\$10 million gift expands work of Wallis Annenberg Legacy Foundation

The Wallis Annenberg Legacy Foundation announced a \$10 million gift supporting four signature initiatives that reflect the vision and legacy projects of its late founder, Wallis Annenberg, who dedicated her life to creating spaces, access and opportunities that enrich communities, foster civic partnerships and protect the world. The gift is the Legacy Foundation's first major philanthropic initiative since Annenberg's death in late July and builds on nearly 15 years of the Legacy Foundation's work under her hands-on direction to ensure that support for projects and initiatives would endure and expand beyond her lifetime.

The \$10 million will be distributed across the Annenberg Community Beach House in Santa

Monica; student internships at Wallis Annenberg Hall at the University of Southern California; free and low-cost performances for underserved audiences at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills; and the Wildlife Crossing Fund in Agoura Hills.

At Wallis Annenberg's direction, the Legacy Foundation will also continue to support two of the Foundation's flagship projects – the Wallis Annenberg GenSpace, which provides community and resources for older adults, and the Wallis Annenberg PetSpace, a cutting-edge animal adoption center with educational and community programming.

"As we continue to mourn the loss of Wallis Annenberg, we are

also celebrating her life by ensuring the places and causes she loved most remain strong and vibrant," a statement from the Legacy Foundation's board of directors read. "Since the Legacy Foundation's founding in 2011, we have worked alongside Wallis to bring her philanthropic vision to life. With this first major gift since her passing, the board is honored to carry forward the work we began together by expanding the Legacy Foundation's work and investing in the initiatives she held closest to her heart."

Together, the gifts and ongoing commitments demonstrate the breadth of Wallis's philanthropic passions and the Legacy Foundation's resolve to follow her directions and ensure her vision continues to thrive for generations to come.



rendering courtesy of Rock Design Associates/National Wildlife Federation

The gift will be distributed across initiatives including the Wildlife Crossing Fund in Agoura Hills.

"The Wallis Annenberg Legacy Foundation exists to carry Wallis' values into the future, ensuring that her signature projects remain strong and dynamic in Los Angeles and beyond," said Aradhna Oliphant, chief operations and strategy officer for the Legacy Foundation. "As we look ahead, we will build on the

mission she set forth by advancing the initiatives she championed and expanding the Legacy Foundation's impact in line with the vision she left us. Wallis believed that philanthropy should be bold, generous, and inclusive, and it is in that spirit that we will continue her work." For information, visit walf.org.

Take in 'The Great Outdoors at Greystone'

The Beverly Hills Community Services Department invites the public to "The Great Outdoors at Greystone" on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Greystone Mansion and Gardens, 905 Loma Vista Drive.

As September marks the anniversary of Greystone's designation as a public park, the event celebrates

nature in the estate gardens above Sunset Boulevard with a full day of activities for visitors of all ages.

Greystone was dedicated as a city of Beverly Hills park in September of 1971. September also marks the month the Doheny family moved into Greystone Mansion in 1928. Since the city acquired the estate, it has offered a tranquil 18 acres of green

space minutes from the city's bustle.

To celebrate Greystone's 54th anniversary as a public park, "The Great Outdoors at Greystone" will highlight healthy living – physically, mentally, soulfully and creatively – through a wide range of activities, including live music, custom poetry, Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) demonstrations, art projects and sustainability information.

Fifteen poems will be displayed along Cypress Lane, culminating with a poetry reading at 3:15 p.m. An open call yielded over 50 poem submissions this year.

Limited onsite parking is available; carpooling is encouraged. A shuttle will operate from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. to transport people between activities and entrances. Admission is free and advance reservations are not required.

For information, visit beverlyhills.org/csevents.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The free event invites the community to participate in outdoor activities at Greystone Mansion and Gardens.

Nazarian spotlights local businesses



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Beverly Hills Mayor Sharon Nazarian held her "Spotlight with Sharon" event on Sept. 10 on South Beverly Drive. Nazarian recognized several local businesses including Pompadour, Le Reve Beauty Lounge, Castanea Sicilian Café, Beverly Hills Cookies and Urth Caffé. Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce CEO Todd Johnson, Nazarian and Le Reve founder and owner Samantha J. celebrated the business.

Tierra del Sol celebrates artists at Plummer Park

Los Angeles non-profit organization Tierra del Sol Foundation is placing artists with developmental disabilities center stage in their inaugural fashion show on Sept. 27 in West Hollywood at Fiesta Hall at Plummer Park.

Featuring designs from eight developmentally disabled artists from Tierra del Sol's studios in Sunland and Upland, the show will highlight the artist's talent and one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted creations both on the runway during the live fashion show on Sept. 27 and on display at Tierra del Sol's Gallery, located at 7414 Santa Monica Blvd., during a six-week exhibition from Sept. 27-Nov. 1 following the show. The show allows developmentally disabled artists with a passion for apparel design the opportunity to showcase their talent and works to a broader audience and experience what it would be like to participate in a fashion show, an event that traditionally doesn't include those with disabilities.

"Walking on Sunshine is a celebration of creativity, inclusion and innovation," said Rebecca Lienhard, CEO of the Tierra del Sol Foundation. "Our artists are getting a platform to showcase their talent and celebrate their creativity, and we

couldn't be prouder to share their incredible work with the world."

Plummer Park is located at 1166 N. Vista St. For information, visit tierradelsolgallery.org.

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Ahn Jung-Geun,
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Sep 24th
6:30 PM

A performing arts screening celebrating the 80th Anniversary of Korean National Liberation, beginning with a short 'Ballet' talk.

- Venue: KCCLA Ari Hall
- Tickets: Website RSVP (Walk-In)



K-Cinema Touring

Director Kim Tae Yong

The 2025 K-Cinema Touring, featuring Director Kim Tae Yong, will present 3 of his representative works at different locations in LA!

- Venue: Gardena Cinema, Chapman University, USC
- Tickets: Website RSVP by Sep 26th



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Family-friendly haunts and happenings come to NHM this fall

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in Exposition Park is launching a variety of seasonal frightful and delightful offerings for all age groups.

NHM's annual Spider Pavilion will bring hundreds of arachnids out to play for fall. The pavilion offers an unrivaled opportunity to get up close and personal with the orb weavers and other web developers that help provide the best natural pest control on the planet. Plus, visitors will be able to peer into the habitats of some eight-legged legends like tarantulas, wolf spiders and jumping spiders.

Due to Spider Pavilion's popularity, timed tickets are required. Tickets are free for members and are on sale for non-members. For information, visit nhm.org/spiders.

NHM will host the annual mem-

bers-only Halloween costume party known as Haunted Museum. The premium family-friendly event is sticking to an insect theme this year and will feature an elaborate scavenger hunt, dance floor and food trucks. Help the always-dedicated citizens of Autumn Valley solve a spooky mystery and meet some of NHM's top researchers and scientists at the one-of-a-kind annual event.

The event is exclusive for members and free for discoverer, naturalist, explorer and fellow level members. Reservations are mandatory. For information, visit nhm.org/hauntedmuseum.

This fall, NHM will also have the second half of the Fierce! Catio Lounge, the popular play and adoption events for members and guests in conjunction with "Fierce! The

Story of Cats." The timed ticketed events give members and guests the "purrfect" opportunity to interact, play and adopt a "forever" friend. NHM has partnered with local rescue organizations such as Annenberg PetSpace, Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control, Los Angeles Animal Services and Stray Cat Alliance to make all cats at the museum adoptable without fees.

Tickets for a 15-minute session are only available onsite at NHM on a first-come, first-served basis, and adoption is not required to participate. For information, visit nhm.org/calendar/cat-lounge.

Also linking with "Fierce!" at NHM this fall is the return of the B Movies and Bad Science series, with a seasonal theme of "Cool Cats and Bad Kitties." The film and discussion series will take place in the new Commons Theater for three nights of quirky and creepy cat movies and the curiously creative science behind them. On three



photo courtesy of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Fall programming at the Natural History Museum includes the annual Spider Pavilion.

Thursday evenings in October, NHM will show classic cat-themed movies "The Shadow of the Cat" (1961), "A Bucket of Blood" (1959) and "The Tomb of Ligeia"

(1964).

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Blvd. For information, visit nhm.org.



photo by Iwan Baan

The museum's free Family Flicks series includes "Kirikou and the Sorceress," "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," "The Phantom Tollbooth" and "The Wiz."

Hammer Museum features fun family films

The Hammer Museum is holding the Family Flicks series with "Kirikou and the Sorceress" on Sunday, Sept. 21, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" on Thursday Oct. 16, "The Phantom Tollbooth" on Sunday, Nov. 16, and "The Wiz" on Sunday, Dec. 7. Showtimes are at 11 a.m. and admission is free.

Based on a popular folktale from West Africa, the animated "Kirikou and the Sorceress" tells the story of heroic toddler Kirikou, who must save his parents' village from a flesh-eating sorceress. He encounters friends and foes on his journey to find and redeem the wicked Karaba, including a skunk, a monster who can drain waterfalls and a wise man on a magic mountain.

The film features a score by musician Youssou N'Dour.

In "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory," a golden ticket found in a chocolate bar leads young Charlie Bucket and four other lucky children on a marvelous adventure through the wondrous world of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. Along with chocolate rivers, Oompa-Loompas and a chance to win a lifetime supply of chocolate comes a few life lessons in the musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's children's classic.

In "The Phantom Tollbooth," a mysterious tollbooth and a toy car transport young Milo to a magical, topsy-turvy world where letters are at war with numbers. Accompanied by the "watchdog" Tock, Milo

embarks on a fantastical adventure to reunite the Kingdom of Wisdom in the live action and animated film based on the children's book by Norton Juster.

"The Wiz" is director Sidney Lumet's inventive adaptation of the hit Broadway musical, transplanting L. Frank Baum's fantastical world from somewhere over the rainbow to somewhere over the Brooklyn Bridge. Diana Ross, as Dorothy, heads up the all-Black cast featuring Michael Jackson as the Scarecrow; Nipsey Russell as the Tin Man, Ted Ross as the Lion and Richard Pryor as the Wiz.

The Hammer Museum is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd. hammer.ucla.edu.

Actor's Gang 2025-26 season brings anarchist clowns and summer fun to Culver City

The Actors' Gang announced the full 2025-26 season, which features seven original plays, two twentieth century theatrical classics and "Late Night Fridays" that will present improvised commedia dell' arte, live music and film screenings. The season begins with the return of The Actors' Gang's most recent hit, "Topsy Turvy (A Musical Greek Vaudeville)," written and directed by Tim Robbins, from Sept. 18-27, prior to going out on tour in the U.S.

"Topsy Turvy (A Musical Greek Vaudeville)," one of the largest hits of recent Actors' Gang history, addresses topics making the headlines every day. Robbins wrote the play in response to the last six years. Set in a humorous and comedic hybrid world of classical Greek theater and a raucous vaudeville show, everyone - Gods and

mortals alike - gets to have their say before the evening is over.

The second show, "Arrest the Clowns - Insolent until proven guilty," directed by Chas Harvey, had a development production at The Actors' Gang last spring. Running from Oct. 30-Nov. 15 and written by Clown Pit Revolution, intelligence sources from F.I.N.C.T.E.R. (Federal

Investigation Network (to) Control Thought (and) Egalitarian RiffRaff) report that an underground criminal organization of anarchist clowns has conspired to lay siege to a theatre in Culver City.

A newly developed family Holiday Show continues the ongoing The Actors' Gang spirit from Dec. 4-20. Directed by Adam Dugas, and written by Mary Eileen O'Donnell and Dugas, the holiday show will conjure up a magical

wintery world with an original tale that features music, puppetry and theatrical wonderment.

The Actors' Gang then presents a new production of Elmer Rice's 1923 "The Adding Machine," directed by Cihan Sahin. The play is a visionary classic that warns of and satirizes the future we find ourselves currently living in.

Next up is "Fractured Fables" from April 25-May 30, a new theatrical adaptation of fairy tales from Aesop to Grimm to Hans Christian Andersen. Directed by Adam J. Jefferis, this original piece draws inspiration from story theater, popular culture and rock and roll and promis-

es to be fun for the entire family.

"The Physicists," a darkly comic morality play about science by Frederich Dürrenmatt and directed by Brent Hinkley, closes the season and runs from May 7-June 20. Season passholders save 30% - and

can see all shows for as little as \$25 per show. Season passes for the seven-show season are on sale at theactorsgang.com or by phone at (310)838-4264. The Actors' Gang Theater is located at 9070 Venice Blvd., Culver City.



photo by Ashley Randle

The Actors' Gang 2025-26 season features the return of "Topsy Turvy," directed by Tim Robbins.



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SB 79 under consideration by governor

From page 1

“Building more homes in our most sustainable locations is the key to tackling the affordability crisis and locking in California’s success for many years to come,” Wiener said. “Decades of overly restrictive policies have driven housing costs to astronomical levels, forcing millions of people away from jobs and transit and into long commutes from the suburbs. Many are being forced out of the state entirely. It has been a long road to tackling these decades-old problems, but [this] vote is a dramatic step forward to undo these decades of harm, reduce our most severe costs and slash traffic congestion and air pollution in our state.”

The legislation would only apply to cities with a population of 35,000 or greater. It would not apply to Beverly Hills, whose population is approximately 31,000, but would apply to West Hollywood, which had a population of 35,757 in the

2020 Census. SB 79 could apply to Beverly Hills if the population increases to more than 35,000.

Some Los Angeles residents believe SB 79 will be harmful to the character of neighborhoods, particularly where single-family homes are prevalent such as Hancock Park and Larchmont Village, and communities with unique architectural heritage such as the Miracle Mile.

“It’s a gross overreach by the state to interfere with local planning control and will destroy neighborhoods as we know them,” said Sam Uretsky, of the Larchmont United Neighborhood Association. “We have begun writing to the governor to request that he do the right thing and veto it or take no action.”

“It will divide our areas in terms of single-family and historic neighborhoods,” said Cindy Chvatal-Keane, president of the Hancock Park Homeowners Association. “The

biggest thing here is the local control. We spent three years working with the city to create a plan – the housing element. What is the point of taking away all local control?”

SB 79 received support from others in the community.

“This bill is trying to make sure that folks can live near the major transit investments that we’ve been building right here in L.A. County,” said Scott Epstein, director of policy and research for Abundant Housing LA. “This is about increasing access to transit. It’s also about increasing access to housing, because we have a major housing shortage in L.A. County and across California. We need homes, and we particularly need climate-friendly homes. We know that folks that live near transit in more walkable neighborhoods with services are driving a lot less and producing a lot less carbon into the atmosphere as a result. This is a

strategy for our climate crisis, a strategy for our housing crisis and it’s also a strategy to support the transit we need so badly.”

The Los Angeles City Council voted in August to oppose SB 79 based on a resolution introduced by Councilman John Lee, 12th District, and Councilwoman Traci Park, 11th District. Park criticized SB 79 for permitting more housing without addressing infrastructure upgrades needed to support new construction. She introduced a new motion on Sept. 16 calling for an assessment of the impacts of SB 79 and asking the city attorney to explore legal options if it is signed into law.

A spokesperson for Mayor Karen Bass said the mayor supported the City Council’s decision to oppose the bill, and pointed to a statement Bass made after signing the resolution on Aug. 20.

“Today I signed a City Council resolution opposing SB79 unless it is amended to exempt cities with a state-approved and compliant housing element,” Bass’ statement read. “While I support the intent to accelerate housing development

statewide, as written, this bill risks unintended consequences for L.A.”

Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) voted no on SB 79, citing the impacts it will have on communities in Los Angeles. Zbur said he supports housing near transit stops but believes a tailored approach is necessary to preserve the character of distinct neighborhoods.

“A misguided solution to a real problem is not a real solution. SB 79 is not the answer to California’s housing crisis,” Zbur said in a Sept. 11 speech on the Assembly Floor prior to the final vote. “This blunt one-size-fits-all bill will not work for a district like mine and will have harmful impacts for the communities that I represent. In addition to having both heavy and light rail in my district, we also have neighborhoods that are truly unique parts of southern California. SB 79 has the potential to fundamentally reshape my district without the benefit of careful land use planning.”

California Sen. Maria Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles) voted yes on SB 79 on Sept. 12. Requests to her office for a comment were not answered.

Flags lowered in WeHo raise concerns

From page 1

activist Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University on Sept. 10. The city’s decision drew ire, particularly for the lowering of the Progress Pride Flag and Transgender Flag at the Matthew Shepard Human Rights Triangle, located at the corner of Crescent Heights and Santa Monica boulevards. Kirk was outspoken in his opposition to same-sex marriage and transgender rights, including gender-affirming care.

A sign was placed by an unknown person on Sept. 14 next to the lowered flags that stated, “Shame on West Hollywood for lowering our flags in honoring a racist, transphobic, homophobic, Nazi-loving monster.”

A statement from the city of West Hollywood said that the decision to lower its flags was in accordance with city and national policy.

“The city’s action should not be interpreted as an expression of alignment with, or endorsement of, Mr. Kirk’s political views or actions,” the statement read. “Rather, the action was undertaken in accordance with the city’s policy for recognitions and memorials, which acknowledges that the city follows the direction of the president in determining when flags in the city are flown at half-staff.”

The city of Beverly Hills also adhered to the proclamation and lowered their flags to half-staff in memory of Kirk and released a statement from Mayor Sharona Nazarian.

“We are devastated by the tragic and senseless assassination of Charlie Kirk,” Nazarian said. “Violence has no place in our country, and hate has no home in America. Regardless of our political beliefs, we must stand united against extremism and reaffirm our commitment to civility, dialogue and the value of every human life. We extend our deepest condolences to Charlie’s family and friends.”

The Beverly Hills Unified School District also flew flags at half-staff for Kirk and Board of Education Member Russell Stuart spoke at a vigil held for Kirk at Beverly Gardens Park on Sept. 14.

However, a memo from Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass’ office instructed fire stations in Los Angeles to continue flying the American flag at full-staff unless

otherwise directed by the mayor. Some stations defied the order and flew the flag at half-staff.

During the Sept. 15 City Council meeting, West Hollywood City Manager David Wilson said the city adhered to national flag code by lowering the LGBTQ+ flags, which mandates that no flag can be flown higher than the United States flag.

At the meeting, multiple members of the public decried the city’s decision.

“Seeing our flags flown at half staff to honor Charlie Kirk, a man whose words and actions have repeatedly harmed transgender people and especially trans kids, was not just disappointing. It was devastating,” said community member Shannon Axe, who is transgender. “To lower them in recognition of someone who has denied our humanity felt like erasing our dignity.”

“Government, will you witness our hurt, pain, anger, sadness?” West Hollywood resident Nik Roybal said. “Why did you lower the flags for a terrorist, for a white, Christian nationalist? Why did you betray the charter and founders of this city?”

Councilwoman Lauren Meister addressed the public’s concerns in a Sept. 14 statement.

“I fully understand that many in our community are angry and disappointed in the city, as well as me and my colleagues, for the lowering of flags for Charlie Kirk, a right-wing conservative, whose rhetoric was the antithesis of the city of West Hollywood’s core values and culture,” she said. “I too am angry and disappointed. However, the city has a flag-lowering policy, and a policy is not something you can change on the fly because you don’t like how it is applied – because then you have to have a much larger conversation about city policies in general – and who or what can make them ‘null and void.’”

Mayor Chelsea Byers stood by the city’s decision but also said she hopes to change the policy in the future.

“While the standing city policy produced an outcome that upset and angered many people in this specific instance, the idea that any government would ignore any standing policy in favor of momentary pref-

erence is a disservice to the public process and to the democracy that we are fighting to maintain,” Byers said. “We see how this directive from the president fell out of the scope of historic trends about who rises to national recognition and it’s important we understand that more of this may be coming now. From here, we will work to amend this policy with the public input we received to create greater flexibility so we are able to act in stronger alignment with our own city values moving forward.”

Vice Mayor John Heilman said that even though the city decided to lower the flags, West Hollywood has taken meaningful action against the Trump administration, including opposing cuts to HIV and AIDS prevention services, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids and

attacks on the LGBTQ+ community.

“We need a new policy,” Heilman said. “We need to make sure our actions are consistent with the values of our community. The people who expressed outrage about lowering the flag are absolutely correct. We are going to revise our flag policy in the next several months and make sure that we comply with the United States flag code while at the same time adhering to the city’s values.”

“I strongly and unequivocally condemn all acts of gun violence – there is no justification, no matter who the shooter or victim may be. The lowering of the flag in West Hollywood was in no way an endorsement of Charlie Kirk or his dangerous rhetoric,” Councilman John Erickson said. “I share the people’s frustration and anger, and look forward to ensuring we update our policies to reflect the unorthodox moment in time we’re in.”

“Charlie Kirk’s values do not rep-

resent the values of West Hollywood,” Councilman Danny Hang said. “West Hollywood has always stood for dignity, inclusion and community empowerment. I share the frustration many residents felt over the lowering of the flag at the request of the president, and that is why I will be working with my colleagues to review and update our flag policy to ensure it reflects the values of West Hollywood and the people we serve.”

Wilson added that the decision to lower the flags could have been better communicated by the city.

“In this context, clearer communication was warranted related to following the flag lowering policy and thoughtful consideration should be taken to update this policy,” he said. “I acknowledge that this decision has caused frustration and pain for many people in the community.”

The City Council will consider updates to the city’s flag policy and how it reflects the values of West Hollywood at an Oct. 20 meeting.

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Beverly Hills plans holiday celebration

From page 1

Performers at this year's event include DJ Lady Sha, a ballet couple, Chinese zither artist Bei Bei, a bell choir duo, several holiday vocalists and a New Orleans-style second-line band. Additionally, ice-skating nutcrackers, a caroling barbershop quartet, stilt ballerinas and other performers will roam the festival and entertain the crowds of visitors. The main event, however, will be a special appearance by Santa Claus who will ring in the holidays with a fireworks show.

"At the end of the day our whole philosophy is to have an exceptional event that meets the standards of what Rodeo Drive and its mer-

chants stand for," Gohari said.

Vice Mayor John Mirisch brought up safety concerns for the event, and asked Beverly Hills Police Department Capt. Max Subin about the city's preparedness.

In 2024, Beverly Hills Unified School District Board Member Russell Stuart was critically injured in a collision as he was walking home from the event. In August, Stuart filed a lawsuit against the city for negligence.

Subin said police deployment will be increased for this year's event, and added that the department is looking at installing additional K-rails or similar barricades

around the perimeter. He said the department will be prepared for any potential safety threat if one were to occur.

Following a discussion about the specifics of the event, the City Council unanimously approved the budget.

"This is a beautiful community event and it's also an event that's really important for Rodeo Drive," Mayor Sharona Nazarian said. "We wanted to be able to do an event that was worthy and had the magnitude of what we've celebrated, but also to be mindful of the budget... With everything, we're trying to cut budget issues that are happening."



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The lighting ceremony on Nov. 13 will feature a variety of holiday-themed performances.

WeHo council approves Fountain Ave. redesign

From page 1

measure for city staff to review and report back on immediate traffic calming measures on Fountain Avenue, and authorized city staff to initiate Phase 2 of the project, which includes gathering proposals from design firms as well as an expansion of the steering community for Phase 2. The council approved an exemption for the project from the California Environmental Quality Act in a 3-2 vote with Meister and Heilman again dissenting.

The streetscape project will redesign Fountain Avenue from La Brea Avenue to La Cienega Boulevard. Phase 1 will convert traffic lanes to one lane in each direction and add protected bike lanes, remove 210 on-street parking spaces, add high-visibility crosswalks and curb extensions, and resurface and restripe Fountain Avenue. Phase 2 will involve further street upgrades, including upgrading curb ramps, adding street lighting, modifying traffic signals, reducing sidewalk obstructions and widening.

The project is meant to improve safety on the street, which saw 35 severe injury collisions and five fatalities on the West Hollywood segment from 2013-24, according to the staff report. The report also said that Fountain Avenue sees approximately 35,000 vehicles daily, where 64% of trips are cut-through with no destination in West Hollywood. City Council discussions about safety improvements on Fountain Avenue date back to 2003.

Phase 1 of the project would remove 210 total parking spaces from the street. The proposal included a parking analysis and suggested potential solutions such as replacing on-street parking with angled parking spots, or allowing residents who lost parking spaces to park overnight in lots at Plummer Park or the intersection

of Crescent Heights and Santa Monica boulevards. The proposal stated that the redesign would reduce overall traffic volume by an estimated 40%. The council also directed staff to report back on more immediate traffic calming measures, which include additional time for pedestrians to cross intersections, changing traffic patterns for red lights to appear more frequently and to evaluate the impact of allowing peak hour parking.

The approval comes after years of heated discussion in the city, especially since a July hit-and-run on Fountain Avenue claimed the life of 27-year-old cyclist Blake Ackerman. Douglas Morton Adams, 73, who was later arrested for the hit-and-run, has yet to be charged by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office. The case remains under investigation and the charges are pending, said Detective Jacob Mele of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, who added that Adams will likely be charged with felony hit-and-run.

During the meeting, representatives from both the L.A. County Fire Department and Athens Services, the city's contracted waste hauler, said their work would be impacted by the street being reduced to one traffic lane in each direction, but they would still be able to adequately carry out operations.

"I looked at it from the operations side of what we currently have compared to what is proposed and I didn't see any impacts that would jeopardize our operational efficiency," said L.A. County Fire Department assistant chief Drew Smith. "There's pros and cons to both right now. In totality for West Hollywood, it's a very challenging city when you have fire apparatus of our size for the nature of our business for what we have to do."

During public comment, supporters cited desperate needs for increased motorist, pedestrian and cyclist safety on the street. Opponents of the project decried the loss of parking, increased traffic congestion and claimed the process that led to the streetscape project did not consider the needs of residents who live on Fountain Avenue.

Meister said she supports a more thorough streetscape project for Fountain Avenue to holistically evaluate safety measures for the

street rather than one that just proposes a bike lane. Meister also said Fountain Avenue east of La Brea Avenue, which is in the city of Los Angeles, does not have a protected bike lane and experiences less vehicle collisions.

"It's not about the bike lane. It's about the width of Fountain and how it changes. It's about the left turn lanes," she said. "It's about all of these other factors but none of these factors are being studied because we're not doing a streetscape project until after the fact."

She added that she believes a protected bike lane may give cyclists a false sense of security since the lane itself will not change the speed of drivers without additional traffic calming measures. She also criticized the proposal's plan to replace on-street parking with parking in nearby lots due to the distance residents would have to walk from the lots to their homes, especially at night.

"Two public parking spots that are not near people's homes - are you also proposing a shuttle to get them from Santa Monica and Crescent Heights to Fountain?" she said. "That's not enhancing livability. That's creating a public safety problem."

Vice Mayor John Heilman also expressed several concerns about the project, including staff report inaccuracies.

"On several occasions, the report suggests that the primary goal of the project was to make the street safer and that the report was prepared in response to street safety. That is not accurate," he said. "This entire endeavor was triggered and started to put bike lanes on Fountain."

Heilman said the staff report misleads the public by comparing Fountain Avenue's traffic patterns with other sections of the street outside West Hollywood, rather than comparing it to other main thoroughfares in the city like Santa Monica and Sunset boulevards. He also said that the reality that more than 60% of drivers on Fountain Avenue are using the street to commute outside of West Hollywood can't be ignored.

"Fountain carries 35,000 commuters everyday. That, to me, is a justification that proves too much," he said. "Staff has no explanation for where those vehicles are going to go if the proposal is implemented."

Heilman also said that he would

support an east to west bike lane on Willoughby Avenue instead of Fountain Avenue because the traffic impact would be significantly less.

"Most of our residents commute by car," he said. "That is not going to change even if we put in bike lanes on Fountain, Santa Monica, and Willoughby and Beverly - most of our residents are going distances where commuting by bike just isn't feasible for them."

Mayor Chelsea Byers said she supports the project for the main goal of reducing the city's carbon footprint and creating a better future for children in the city. She added that the city should do everything it can to allow more residents to travel by bicycle.

"It's our responsibility to create options for a diverse community," she said. "That is something that's really important to me especially in this extremely dense area of our community. Kids, especially, have been locked inside of their homes... it is because cars and collisions and the violence they experience interacting with them is the No. 1 contributor to kids' deaths. And that is a horrific reality that we can transform without having to send families to suburbs."

Councilman John Erickson, who originally proposed implementing a bike lane on Fountain Avenue in 2021, said that after going door to door, residents emphasized the need to reduce vehicle collisions on the street. Erickson also said that members of the public spread misinformation regarding the proposal from city staff and called for more respect.

"This is my backyard and the sheer fact that I walk by Blake Ackerman's ghost bike every single day to walk my dog is truly one of the most haunting experiences I have ever had to experience," he said. "This process that we have been going through for five years is killing people. It's just that simple."

Councilman Danny Hang said that the redesign will help lower income residents who travel without cars and help the city meet climate goals by reducing emissions. Hang added that the redesign is personal to him because his partner was the victim of a vehicle collision on Fountain Avenue and was hospitalized as a result.

"Fountain Avenue has long been one of the most dangerous corridors in our city," he said. "Just over a decade we have seen dozens of severe crashes and five lives lost. Those aren't just numbers. Those are our neighbors and friends and family members and for me, the most important mea-

sure of success is simple - fewer people getting hurt and more people getting home safely."

Following the approval, Phase 1 construction will begin immediately with a 16-18 month timeline and an expected completion in spring 2027. Phase 2 of the project will also begin immediately, starting with an expansion of the project steering committee, followed by a funding agreement with Metro and a request for proposals to select a consultant team, with construction several years away.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Effective January 1, 2025

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

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

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

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

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

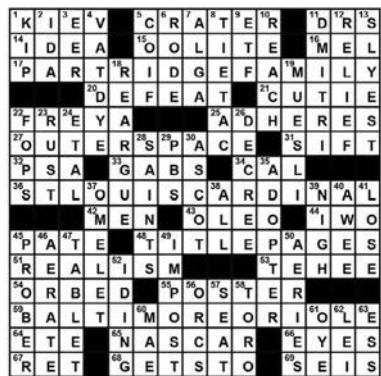
Further information regarding the Hospital's temporary closure may be obtained by contacting the facility or its owner:

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6000 San Vicente Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Tel. (323) 930-1040

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DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC
8436 W. Third St. Suite 900
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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

- Ukraine city
- Depression
- A.M.A. members
- Brainchild
- Eggstone
- Actor Gibson
- Keith, Danny, Laurie et al.
- Overpower
- Good-looker
- Norse goddess of love
- Doesn't question
- Astronaut's milieu
- Sort carefully
- Good works ad
- Mouths off
- Dealer, Worthington
- Red bird on a cap
- Guys
- Dairy case item
- 1945 battle site, for short
- Chopped liver
- Book starters
- Painting style
- Snicker
- Spherical
- Billboard item
- Maryland team member
- Berlioz's "Les nuits d'___"
- Org. based in Daytona Beach
- Peepers
- Inactive mil. status

- Bugs
- Tres y tres

Down

- Sleep (slang)
- Actress Lupino
- Ballad's ending
- Textile fiber colorer
- Hairdo
- Went by bike
- Flowerless plant
- Haberdashery item
- Spider is one, abbr.
- Boxer's stat
- Elders of the Brothers Karamazov
- Alleviation of pain
- Most wily
- Fight again
- Cereal
- Fancy dressers
- Pipe problem
- List-ending abbr.
- Order by a head of state
- Agnes, Francis, etc.
- Network for Ken Burns documentaries
- Fancy necktie
- Madonna or Angelina
- Ham and egg dish
- Detergent brand
- Approaching

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- A little while, to Burns
- Mislay
- Investigator
- Treat with carbon dioxide
- Gelcap alternative
- Duty
- Eagle nests
- Verifying who the customer is
- Middle earth creatures
- Lawn chair
- Bull in a ring

- Ginnie ___
- Listen in Spanish
- Bouquet
- Tricky curve

answers on page 22



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