



Warm, with highs in the upper 70s

BEVERLY PRESS

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County's battle against hepatitis A continues

BY MAURA TURCOTTE

While the hepatitis A outbreak in California has officially been declared a state of emergency, government and nonprofit organizations in Los Angeles County are actively working together to stop the epidemic in its tracks.

Eighteen people in the state have already died from hepatitis A. Following outbreaks in San Diego, where 491 people have hepatitis A

and Santa Cruz, where 71 people have contracted the virus, Los Angeles County declared an outbreak on Sept. 19, after 10 cases had been confirmed in the region, according to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Hepatitis A is a liver disease contracted through fecal-oral transmission. To be infected, a person must physically ingest contaminated fecal matter. Those most at risk for hepati-

See Hepatitis page 30



photo by Edwin Folven

The rising homeless population has exacerbated the spread of hepatitis A in San Deigo and Los Angeles.

Beverly Hills police seeking new digs

■ City officials consider renovations or fixes to the current facility

BY LUKE HAROLD

Beverly Hills City Council members agreed at an Oct. 17 study session that they want to see a wider range of options before moving ahead with plans to revamp the police department's facility, including the possibility of moving police to another location.

Beverly Hills police Chief Sandra Spagnoli presented to the council a \$71 million plan to renovate the current facility. But "several deficiencies would still not be resolved," according to a report by Spagnoli.

The design of the current structure, completed in 1990, makes it difficult to make certain upgrades, Spagnoli said. The new ground floor accessible from Rexford Drive, for example, would not have easy access from the parking structure. And underground parking cannot be expanded, forcing the department to leave police vehicles in different locations



photo by Luke Harold

Beverly Hills police's current facility is 92,000 square feet, and houses amenities such as the emergency operations center and crime lab.

around Civic Center Drive.

"We have a modern, contemporary police department working in an outdated facility," Spagnoli said.

The Beverly Hills Police Department's 92,000-square-foot building houses the emergency

operations center, dispatch, crime lab, administrative offices, shooting range, traffic and records divisions, lieutenants' offices, lockers and two subterranean parking levels, among other police ameni-

See Police page 30

Miracle Mile residents consider security patrol

■ Crime stats in the area show slight decreases, but residents want to improve safety

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

After a prowler was caught on security camera lurking in her yard in late August, Miracle Mile resident Kari Garcia started thinking about new ways to better protect her family and residence, and those of her neighbors.

The suspect was unable to gain entry to her residence, and was later arrested by police and charged with trespassing. But the incident scared Garcia and prompted her to unite her neighborhood against crime. That effort has culminated in a plan by the Miracle Mile Residential Association to hire a private security patrol for the neighborhoods between La Brea and Fairfax avenues, and Wilshire and San Vicente boulevards.

The idea for a private patrol in the Miracle Mile comes on the heels of the Melrose Action Neighborhood Watch also announcing that it is considering a private patrol in the neighborhoods around the Melrose



photo by Rebecca Villalpando

Some houses in the Miracle Mile have already taken additional safety measure by installing their own home security systems.

Avenue Shopping District.

Many people in the Miracle Mile area already individually contract

with private security companies to monitor their residences. If enough

See Patrol page 30

Moving on up in WeHo's eastside

■ A priorities plan seeks to improve safety among other initiatives on the city's eastside

BY LUKE HAROLD

West Hollywood is synonymous with the Sunset Strip, Boystown and other destinations on its westside. But the city's less-heralded eastside is attracting more attention lately from residents bringing their public safety concerns to City Hall.

The City Council adopted an Eastside Community Priorities Plan aimed at addressing those concerns and other ways to improve the eastside neighborhood at its Oct. 16 meeting.

"I am in hopes that many things in this plan can be fast-tracked, but particularly any and all public safety issues," said Stephanie Harker, who has lived on West Hollywood's eastside for 34 years.

West Hollywood's eastside extends from a few blocks west of Fairfax Avenue to La Brea Avenue. Its northern border is Fountain Avenue and its southern border is drawn along Willoughby Avenue

and Poinsettia Park.

The council appointed 15 eastside stakeholders to an Eastside Working Group in 2014. They formed policy recommendations for urban design, economic development, housing, mobility, arts and events, sustainability and public spaces, and public safety in the neighborhood.

Residents' public safety concerns have had an increased sense of urgency after a 41-year-old homeless man with a criminal history was arrested last month for using a hatchet to attack a man at a West Hollywood 7-Eleven. The alleged attack took place in the 7900 block of Santa Monica Boulevard, on the western border of West Hollywood's eastside. Residents living farther east, closer to Hollywood, have complained about being accosted by homeless people at night.

In four out of five years from

See WeHo page 31

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Cancer Institute Luncheon

John Wayne Cancer Institute Auxiliary's annual "Membership Luncheon & Boutique" will be held on **Thursday, Oct. 19** at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Beverly Hills. The luncheon honors Dr. Sheryl A. Ross with the Angel Award, and Paige More with the Public Service Award. A boutique opens at 10 a.m., followed by the luncheon and awards at noon. Tickets are \$150. 9500 Wilshire Blvd. jwciauxiliary.com.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Gala

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles is hosting its "Big Bash! Celebration" on **Friday, Oct. 20** at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Cindy Holland, vice president of original content for Netflix, will receive the Sherry Lansing Award. A cocktail reception and silent auction begin at 6, dinner and the awards presentation start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$500. 9876 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills. (213)213-2420, gobigla.org.

WeHo WHAP! lecture Series

The CalArts West Hollywood Aesthetics and Politics lecture series, also known as WHAP!, will hold "in/ibid./form" on **Friday, Oct. 20** from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room. Held by the Aesthetics and Politics program at the California Institute of the Arts, the event features the past year's master's students presenting work on their theses, as well as ongoing research and endeavors. Admission is free. 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. criticalstudies.calarts.edu.

Book Readings

West Hollywood resident Joe Praml will read from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" and Oscar Wilde's "The Ballad of Reading Gaol" on **Saturday, Oct. 21** from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library,



photo by Ed Kreiger

Zilah Mendoza stars in the world premiere of Josefina Lopez's "An Enemy of the Pueblo" running from **Friday, Oct. 20** through **Sunday, Nov. 12** at the Casa 0101 Theatre Main Stage. The play is a modern adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's "An Enemy of the People." The central protagonist is a Mexican woman of Apache descent who discovers the water in the town has been contaminated. The production is set in the present and deals with immigrant issues. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 5 p.m., Sunday. General admission is \$20. 2102 E. First St. (323)263-7684, casa0101.org.

2920 Overland Ave. (310)840-2142, lapl.org/branches/palms-rancho-park.

Our Environmental Impact

The West Hollywood Library is holding "Our Environmental Impact," a discussion exploring the human effect on the planet, on **Saturday, Oct. 21** from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the West Hollywood Library. Topics will include environmental degradation, pollution, urbanization and sustainability. The event is free and open to attendees 15 or older; RSVPs are requested. 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. (310)652-5340, or email mmozer@library.lacounty.gov.

Art Discussion

Join author and cultural historian Eva J. Friedberg, and dancer, author and

educator Daria Halprin for a discussion with gallerist Edward Cella on **Saturday, Oct. 21** at 1:30 p.m. at Edward Cella Art and Architecture. The discussion will focus on the first major survey of Halprin's drawings, which is on display at the gallery. Admission is free. 2754 S. La Cienega Blvd. RSVP requested by emailing sarah@edwardcella.com.

Frances Taylor Davis

West Hollywood welcomes artist Frances Taylor Davis for a conversation with fellow West Hollywood resident Tripp Mahan, senior vice president of global experiences for Beautycon Media, on **Saturday, Oct. 21** from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the West Hollywood City Council Chambers. Davis will share stories from her career, including her time as hostess at Le Dome, Chasen's and the Sunset Strip Hamburger Hamlet. Admission is free. 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. (323)848-6883, weho.org.

Family Festival

Enjoy a fun-filled, creativity-themed family festival on **Sunday, Oct. 22** from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena. Create costumes inspired by artwork from the museum's collections, join interactive tours, create a storybook, engage with musicians in the galleries and enjoy story time. Admission is free for children. 411 W. Colorado Blvd. nortonsimon.org.

Drag Queen Bingo Benefit

Play "Drag Queen Bingo" benefiting Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles on **Sunday, Oct. 22** beginning at 8 p.m. at Hamburger Mary's in West Hollywood. Bingo Boy hosts the event with a roster of Drag Queen Bingo Hostesses. Players can win prizes valued from \$200 to \$300. Participants will receive bingo cards for 10 games for a \$20 donation; proceeds benefit Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles' "Walk4ALZ." 8288 Santa Monica Blvd. (323)654-8275, or email ktawagon@alzgl.org.

Beverly Hills Chamber Mixer

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce is holding "FLAIR Networking Mixer" on **Tuesday, Oct. 24** from 6 to 8 p.m. at Ocean Prime Beverly Hills. The mixer is specifically geared toward finance, law, accounting, insurance and real estate professionals. Admission is \$25 for chamber members; \$35 for nonmembers and guests. 9595 Wilshire Blvd. members.beverlyhillschamber.com.

Back to the Future

Take a trip to the 1980s with a screening of "Back to the Future" on **Wednesday, Oct. 25** at the Petersen Automotive Museum. A DeLorean DMC-12 from the film will be on display. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; movie will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Mullin Grand Family Salon. Tickets are \$5. 6060 Wilshire Blvd. (323)930-2277, petersen.org.



Chico's Angels

Chico's Angels return for an encore two-week performance of "Chicas are 4Ever" from **Thursday, Oct. 26** through **Sunday, Nov. 5** at the Cavern Club Theater in Casita Del Campo Restaurant. Tickets start at \$35. 1920 Hyperion Ave., Silverlake. chicosangels.com.



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(Last Entry into Mansion is 2:30pm)
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TICKETS: Friends of Greystone Members \$15, Non-Members \$20

- Self-Guided Tour Of The Mansion's Interior
 - Free Parking Upper Level Parking Lot
 - Friends of Greystone Gift Shop Will Be Open
 - Self-Guided Tour Of The Gardens is Free
- Tickets will be held at the door and are non-refundable
 Children 13 years and older are welcome

ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED
 Information 310.286.0119 | online at: friends@greystonemansion.org

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WeHo learns homeless demographics

BY LUKE HAROLD

West Hollywood City Council members are ready to put the results of a homeless needs assessment and demographic survey results to use, following an Oct. 16 meeting in which they received and filed the information.

The city received 44 surveys from different homeless people living in West Hollywood. By comparison, there were 92 homeless individuals in the city counted during January's 2017 homeless count. Outreach workers from a few of West Hollywood's social service providers, trained by Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority workers, administered the survey.

"We know that this is not a large number of respondents, but it does provide us with additional information that will help us as we develop services," West Hollywood Mayor John Heilman said. "It also helps our providers as they try to serve the population who are homeless in West Hollywood."

Results were compared to the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, comprising all of Los Angeles County except Glendale, Pasadena and Long Beach, which each have their own Continuums of Care.

"We have to be proactive about it and act appropriately," Councilwoman Lauren Meister said of putting the data to use.

A few of the key findings were that West Hollywood's homeless population, at an average age of 40.6 years old, tends to be younger than the the average homeless person throughout most of the rest of the county. Approximately 47.7 percent the city's homeless are white, and homeless in West Hollywood were more likely to identify as transgender male to female. Approximately 31 percent identified as a member of the

LGBT community, compared with 6.3 percent throughout the rest of the county.

More alarming, results showed that West Hollywood's homeless were more likely to have been involved in domestic violence or intimate partner abuse, and they were more likely to have encountered the legal system in their lives. Approximately 18.2 percent, for example, said they had been in foster care, compared to 12 percent in the rest of the county. More than twice as many said they had been in juvenile detention or camp, and 63.6 percent reported a history of incarceration, compared to 54.8 percent countywide.

The city's homeless are also more likely to suffer from HIV-related illness than the homeless population throughout the county. They're also more likely to suffer from a physical disability, traumatic brain injury, physical illness, post-traumatic stress disorder or a developmental disability. West Hollywood's homeless are not as likely to suffer from a serious mental illness, severe depression, or problematic alcohol or drug use as the county's homeless population.

Proposition 47, approved in the November 2014 election, reclassi-

fied certain types of crimes as misdemeanors instead of felonies, leading to resentencing of the state's eligible prisoners and a subsequent decrease of the prison population. Meister wondered whether the proposition has contributed to some of the homelessness

"[Maybe] it's kind of like a chicken and an egg situation," she said. "We don't know which came first, homelessness and then incar-

ceration or incarceration and then homelessness. So that would be something to pursue when we study this further."

The results also showed that more than half of West Hollywood's homeless met the definition of chronically homeless, defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as having a disabling condition and either living homeless continuously for at least one year or having at least four episodes of homelessness in the previous three years.

Councilwoman Lindsey Horvath said the city should be able to use the information to alleviate some of the problems caused by homelessness in West Hollywood.

"It's a lot of information for me to understand, and I think we get who our homeless people are a little bit better," Horvath said. "But what are we going to do with it to make that difference?"

West Hollywood will participate in the next Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority count in January 2018.

"We know that this is not a large number of respondents, but it does provide us with additional information that will help us as we develop services."

-John Heilman
West Hollywood mayor

State Sen. Kevin de Leon announces U.S. Senate run

■ Feinstein announced her re-election campaign earlier this month

State Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de Leon (D-Los Angeles) announced in a video on Sunday that he will challenge Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) in the 2018 race for one of California's two seats in the U.S. Senate.

"They want a job, they want a sense of security so they can provide for themselves and their family," de Leon said in the video, describing the issues important to many voters and his motivation for running.

Feinstein earlier this month announced that she will seek re-election, ending months of speculation. She has served California in the Senate since 1992, when she won a special election to replace Pete Wilson, who resigned to become governor.

A former member of the Assembly before his 2010 election to the Senate, de Leon is the son of an immigrant mother who supported her family in the San Diego barrio of Logan Heights with housekeeping and other pick-up jobs. He was the first in his family to graduate high school.

He attended UC Santa Barbara



de Leon

and graduated from Pitzer College at the Claremont Colleges with honors.

He is a Rodel Fellow at the Aspen Institute and a guest lecturer at the University of Southern California.

He has one daughter.

Before entering politics, de León served the public as a community organizer, taught English as a Second Language and U.S. Citizenship, and advocated for public schools.

For information, visit sd24.senate.ca.gov.

The Beverly Hills Art Show

Oct 21 & 22 10 am to 5 pm

drop in!

featuring Ghostly...

Helen Allois, Dreamcatchers 2, oil on oxidized steel, 19" x 17"

245 artists | 45 years | 4 blocks of fine art

beverlyhills.org/artshow
310.285.6830



photo by Edwin Folven

Water-dropping helicopters were used to extinguish a blaze that occurred on Oct. 15 in the Hollywood Hills. Authorities are cautioning people about elevated fire danger.

Hillside blaze illustrates danger during fire season

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A brush fire that erupted in Griffith Park on Sunday remains under investigation. With dry and hot weather forecast through the weekend, the Los Angeles Fire Department is reminding the public to remain vigilant about wildfires.

The fire on Oct. 15 was reported at approximately 6:55 p.m. via a 911 call. The flames were spreading on a hillside southwest of the Griffith Observatory, said LAFD spokeswoman Amy Bastman.

Approximately 75 firefighters quickly made their way to the site of the blaze, which was kept from spreading with water dropped from helicopters. Bastman said a lack of wind

helped firefighters contain the blaze to three-quarters of an acre of land in steep hillside terrain. No structures were damaged and no injuries were reported.

"Our ground resources were complemented by precise water drops, which did stop forward progress of the fire," Bastman said.

During the fall fire season, the LAFD is warning the public to not use any devices with open flames in and around natural areas. Smoking is prohibited in city parks.

"With the weather being what it is, there is always a potential for brush fires to expand," Bastman added. "We are asking people to be especially careful with anything that causes heat or sparks."

Man sentenced for pursuit that ended in Hollywood

A Rancho Cucamonga resident was sentenced on Oct. 5 to three years in state prison for leading police on a high-speed pursuit that ended at Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Robert DuFour said Tony Carl Calloway Jr., 24, pleaded no contest to one felony count of fleeing a pursuing peace officer while driving recklessly. On March 9, the defendant stole a car in Colton and was observed by

police driving the stolen vehicle on the Ventura (101) Freeway near Parkway Calabasas, the prosecutor said. An approximately hour-long pursuit ensued and ended in Hollywood with police deploying spike strips.

When the pursuit ended, the defendant lit a cigarette and refused orders to exit the vehicle. He was later arrested at the scene, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by investigators with the LAPD's Hollywood Division.

Settlement reached in lawsuit over service member car loans

The U.S. Justice Department announced recently that two Los Angeles-based consumer finance companies have agreed to pay \$760,788 to resolve allegations that they violated the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act by repossessing 70 vehicles owned by service members without first obtaining the required court orders.

Westlake Services, LLC and its subsidiary, Wilshire Consumer Capital, LLC, agreed to pay the settlement. The agreement resolves the claims made in a civil complaint against Westlake and Wilshire filed in federal court in Los Angeles.

Westlake, which does business as Westlake Financial Services, is an auto financing company that specializes in purchasing and servicing subprime and near-subprime retail installment sales contracts. Wilshire, which does business as Wilshire Consumer Credit, originates and services vehicle title loans. Both companies target junior enlisted service members for loans and products.

The settlement requires Westlake and Wilshire to provide \$10,000 in compensation to the 70 affected service members, plus any lost equity in the vehicles, with interest.

Suspect sought for Hollywood apartment burglary

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department's Hollywood Division hope security camera photographs will help identify a male suspect who burglarized an apartment on Oct. 6 near Alta Vista and Sunset boulevards.

The man entered a subterranean parking garage at the apartment building at approximately 6:30 p.m. and entered the lobby when a delivery man exited. The suspect went to the second floor and pried open a door to an apartment. He found trash bags inside the apartment and placed personal belongings in them before fleeing with the items, said Lt. Richard Gabaldon, with the LAPD's Hollywood Division. No other similar crimes have been reported, he added.

"It seems it was a random incident," Gabaldon said. "There has been no arrest in the case. We haven't had a similar M.O. (method of operation) to that in a while."



photo courtesy of the LAPD

Security cameras captured photographs of the suspect at the apartment building in Hollywood.

The suspect is black, approximately 25 to 30 years old, 5 feet 9 inches tall and 170 to 190 pounds. He was wearing a bright orange hooded sweatshirt, camouflage pants and grey running shoes.

Video of the suspect can be viewed on lapdonline.org. Anyone with information is urged to call Dets. Aluotto or Childs at (213)972-2931, or the LAPD's hotline at (877)LAPD247.

Police seek help in finding Wilshire Division theft suspect

Detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division are asking for the public's assistance in identifying a male grand theft suspect who stole property from two victims on Sunday, Sept. 10 in a grocery store in the 6300 block of West Third Street.

The thefts occurred between 1:05 and 3:25 p.m. The suspect

approached separate female victims from behind while they were shopping.

When the victims turned their backs to their shopping carts to select items from a shelf, the suspect reached into their purses, which were left in the carts, removed wallets and walked away. The suspect is black, 30 to 40 years

old, 5 feet 11 inches tall, 180 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. He was wearing a white shirt, gray pants and black tennis shoes with white soles. To view video of the suspect, visit lapdonline.org. Anyone with information is urged to contact Dets. R. Hernandez or J. Cardenas by calling (213)922-8216.

WALK
WITH THE  **MAYOR**
#BHHealthyCity



Join Mayor Lili Bosse on a series of Weekly #BHHealthyCity walks.

Share your thoughts and discuss issues affecting the community.

Everyone is welcome; all you need is a pair of walking shoes, a water bottle and an enthusiasm for all things Beverly Hills.

Schedule (Walks begin at 8:30am):

- ▶ **Monday, October 23 (No Walk)**
- ▶ **Monday, October 30**
- ▶ **Monday, November 6**

Weekly walks depart from City Hall on Crescent Drive. Some walks may be lengthy; please check the route and plan accordingly.

Access the route by visiting www.beverlyhills.org/mayorwalk

For more information, contact 310-285-1013 or mayorandcitycouncil@beverlyhills.org.

Authorities seek clues about man gone missing

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Police and family members are searching for a 51-year-old man from Budapest, Hungary, who was visiting Los Angeles on vacation and went missing two weeks ago.

Det. Alma Mercado, with the Los Angeles Police Department's Missing Persons Unit, said Enrique Garibay arrived in Los Angeles on Sept. 25 and checked into a hostel in the 600 block of North Western Avenue. Authorities determined Garibay rented a car on Oct. 4 and was last seen leaving the hostel the following day, after he checked out. Garibay, who is originally from Guanajuato, Mexico, spoke to a nephew by phone on Oct. 5, and there was no sign of trouble, Mercado said. That was the last time anyone heard from Garibay.

"We have no leads, no anything," Mercado said. "We know he was

staying at a hostel on Western near Melrose. They guy we talked to at the hostel said he was very chatty, he didn't seem depressed. The whole family is concerned because he has been missing."

Mercado said Garibay attended college in Hungary, met and married his wife there and later permanently moved to Budapest. Family members told investigators that Garibay often travels alone and he was upbeat about his trip to Los Angeles.

Mercado said Garibay also spoke to his wife on Oct. 5 and told her he was on standby for a flight to return to Hungary. His wife filed a police report on Oct. 9 after not hearing from him.

Detectives determined Garibay rented a car near Los Angeles International Airport on Oct. 4 and was supposed to return it by Oct. 6. The vehicle is a gray 2017 Toyota

RAV4 with the license plate number 7VGJ780. The car is not equipped with a tracking device, and police have been unable to locate the vehicle, Mercado said.

Investigators have checked local hospitals and consulted with officials at the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office. They also checked Garibay's bank accounts and cell phone records, with no results, Mercado added.

"We have notified other agencies, checked his bank accounts. The phone is turned off," Mercado said. "The family believes he may have been in a car accident. He was just on a little vacation and disappeared. My hope is to find him alive. It's kind of strange because there are no leads."

Garibay is of Mexican descent, is 5 feet 9 inches tall and 190 pounds. He has brown eyes and gray hair. Anyone with information about



photo courtesy of LAPD

Police continue their search for Enrique Garibay

Mercado's whereabouts is urged to call Det. Alma Mercado with the LAPD's Missing Person's Unit at (213)996-1800. During weekends and off-hours, call (213)484-6700, or the LAPD's 24-hour hotline at (877)LAPD247.

'Drop, cover and hold' this morning's shakeout

The cities of Beverly Hills and West Hollywood are among the participants of the annual "Great Shakeout" earthquake drill on Oct. 19 at 10:19 a.m.

All participants, including city staff, will stop what they are doing and react as if an earthquake has occurred: drop to the ground, take cover under something sturdy and hold on. Customers visiting city buildings during the drill will be directed to take the same action. The drill will last approximately two minutes.

Additionally, key city staff in Beverly Hills will participate in an exercise that will focus on disaster-time roles and responsibilities. In light of the recent earthquakes that have happened in Mexico and other places across the globe, the importance of preparedness is greater than ever. The city urges all residents and businesses to become better prepared for major earthquakes by participating in the ShakeOut drill.

California is considered a high earthquake risk area and residents are more likely to take the correct precautions if they practice during the drill.

For information, visit shakeout.org.

AHF sends generators and supplies to Puerto Rico

As Puerto Rico continues to call for help to receive food, water, electricity and basic resources for its population of 3.4 million U.S. citizens following hurricanes Irma and Maria, AIDS Healthcare Foundation staff chartered multiple cargo planes from Miami to deliver over 140 power generators and other needed supplies to the island.

Once in Puerto Rico, local AHF staff worked with FEMA first responders to unload the planes and transport generators to the city of San

Juan to help provide power to health department clinics so they could reopen. AHF also sent additional generators, medical supplies, water and other needed items to areas across the island where people are suffering and in dire need of assistance.

The first three planes carried generators and approximately 5,000 pounds of supplies to Puerto Rico. Another plane was scheduled to depart on Sunday.

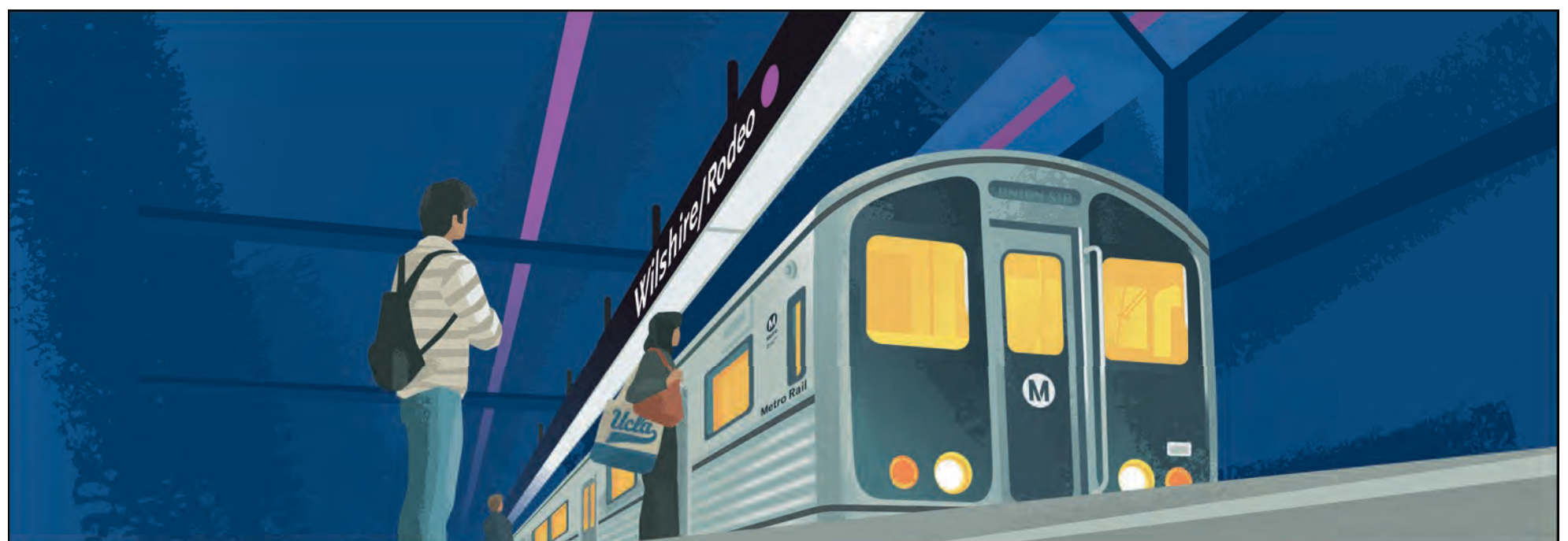
Working in collaboration with the

San Juan Office of the Mayor, several of the donated generators have been given to local health departments to relieve local hospitals that continue to be overwhelmed by patients dealing with chronic diseases and in need of time-sensitive medical attention. Additional generators have been donated to hospitals, clinics, food banks and other organizations across the island to support many of the needs of the people of Puerto Rico.

"Having been in constant, but

challenging communication with our staff in Puerto Rico, as well as continually monitoring the situation since Hurricane Irma initially hit the island, I was very aware of how frustratingly slow the response by relief organizations has been, while the needs of the people continue to rise," said Michael Kahane, AHF southern bureau chief. "It's disheartening to know that weeks have passed since these hurricanes devastated Puerto Rico and basic resources have still not been provided to a community that is in such dire need."

For information, visit aidshealth.org.



NEXT STOP: BEVERLY HILLS

Through Fall 2017, Metro contractors will be relocating utilities on Wilshire Bl from Beverly Dr to Crescent Dr, the future home of the Purple Line Extension's Wilshire/Rodeo Station. The first step in building the station is coordinating with privately owned utility companies such as Southern California Edison to relocate utility lines. Typically, relocation consists of excavating a trench, covering it with metal plates when not working on it, installing new service vaults or manholes to protect underground utilities, placing new pipe or conduit, and restoring the street.

WORK HOURS: Mondays – Fridays from 9am – 4pm
Sundays from 10am – 6pm

No outages are scheduled for this work.

CONTACT US

- 213.922.6934
- purplelineext@metro.net
- metro.net/purple
- @purplelineext
- facebook.com/purplelineext

To get construction notices via email, go to metro.net/purple and sign up to stay connected.



Beverly Hills council OKs Metro permits

■ Geotechnical investigations will take five days of work each at 13 different locations

BY LUKE HAROLD

The Beverly Hills City Council approved permits allowing the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to conduct geotechnical investigations along the alignment of section two of the Purple Line Extension project at its Oct. 17 meeting.

The results of the work, according to a city staff report, will be used by Metro contractor Tutor Perini/O&G JV, to complete the tunnels and subway station in Beverly Hills.

“The work to be authorized by this permit includes the use of the public right-of-way for temporary traffic and noise control; geotech-

nical borings; installation of groundwater monitoring wells and gas probes; and installation of vibration test equipment at specific locations along Wilshire Boulevard,” according to the staff report by Mark Cuneo, city engineer, and Robert Welch, project manager.

The information gathered from the soil will inform decisions related to the design and construction of stations, tunnels and cross passages. To monitor levels of water and concentrations of gas, groundwater monitoring wells and gas probes will be installed.

“We’re going to be continually monitoring it as well,” Councilman John Mirisch said.

The work is expected to take five days each for 13 different locations. Nine out of the 13 locations would have nighttime weekday work hours.

“To minimize the noise impact from this work, low-noise mufflers will be installed on equipment and noise blankets will be

set up around the work area,” according to Cuneo and Welch’s report. “These requirements are included in the permit conditions. The city may restrict work at any location to daytime hours at any time if, in the city’s sole discretion, the work imposes an unreasonable noise impact to the surrounding neighborhood.”

A truck-mounted drill rig will drill borings, eight inches in diameter, approximately 85 to 145 feet into the ground. A steel plate will cover unfinished holes at the end of each workday.

“With all the outreach and with the ability to take measures if there are issues, we’re comfortable,” Mirisch said.

The work is expected to be completed by March 1. The permit doesn’t allow for work to be done on Wilshire Boulevard, between Santa Monica Boulevard and Rexford Drive, from Nov. 23 through Jan. 1, when the holiday season is in full swing.

Metro has been holding meet-



photo courtesy of Metro

ings on the second Wednesday of each month at Beverly Hills City Hall to give residents and other stakeholders progress reports. The next one is scheduled for Nov. 8 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. There is also a meeting scheduled on Oct. 24 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Roxbury Park Community Center to discuss a memorandum of agreement between the city and Metro for advanced utility relocation in Beverly Hills.

“With all the outreach and with the ability to take measures if there are issues, we’re comfortable.”

-John Mirisch
Beverly Hills councilman

Metro provides updates on subway project

Construction is continuing along Wilshire Boulevard for the Purple Line Extension, and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is providing updates about the work.

From Friday, Oct. 13 at 8 p.m. through Monday, Oct. 16 at 6 a.m., there will be a full closure of the Wilshire/La Cienega intersection for decking and jet grouting prep. Sidewalk access will be maintained on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard, with intermittent sidewalk closures and pedestrian detours on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard.

Utility relocation work is ongoing near Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue, and instrumentation work continues near Wilshire and Arden boulevards. Excavation and hauling is ongoing near Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue, and geotechnical work associated with jet grouting continues near Wilshire Boulevard and Cloverdale Avenue. Additionally, work is ongoing in the Metro staging yard at Wilshire Boulevard near Fairfax Avenue.

Starting in late October or early November, pile installation will occur on Wilshire Boulevard between Western Avenue and Manhattan Place, and within the staging yard located at Wilshire/Manhattan Place. Full weekend closures of Wilshire Boulevard between Manhattan Place and Western Avenue will be required for the work.

Metro is also holding a special meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 24 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. about the proposed memorandum of agreement for advanced utility relocation in Beverly Hills. Members of the public can provide input on work hours, equipment restrictions, the notification process, community meetings and mitigations of issues caused by dust, noise, lighting and parking. The meeting will be held at the Roxbury Park Community Center, 471 S. Roxbury Drive, Beverly Hills.

For information, visit metro.net. Members of the public with questions or concerns about Purple Line Extension construction activity can also call the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6934, and email the project team at purplelineext@metro.net.



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Santa Monica Blvd. Construction Moves to Final Segment

■ Last section of reconstruction project started on Oct. 16

Construction on North Santa Monica Boulevard in Beverly Hills is moving eastward to the final segment of the project. Workers began dismantling the south part of the roadway between Alpine and Doheny drives this week.

Construction on the final segment will be completed in phases, similar to the approach used during the two previous segments. Until the end of December, four lanes of traffic will be open, two in each direction. During this time curbs and gutters will be replaced, and bioswales and raised crosswalks will be built. Starting at the end of December and after the holiday season has ended, the road will be demolished and rebuilt, requiring lane closures and detours. A detour plan similar to the two-lane phase of Segments 1 and 2 will be implemented at that time.

The work and road closures have been scheduled in order to shorten the overall duration of construction, which is now scheduled to be finished in the spring of 2018. The previous schedule was for a completion date in July 2018.

Bus Stops: Buses will continue to travel westbound on North Santa Monica Boulevard with stops at Cañon and Camden drives, and Wilshire Boulevard. Buses travelling eastbound will be diverted onto S. Santa Monica Boulevard in Century City. Buses will stop just west of Charleville Blvd and continue on S. Santa Monica Boulevard with stops west of Camden Drive and west of Crescent Drive. The eastbound

buses will return to North Santa Monica Boulevard by way of Doheny Drive.

Turn Restrictions: Left turns are restricted during the construction of this segment. In order to limit vehicles diverting into residential neighborhoods, traffic will be monitored and right turns restrictions could be implemented if necessary.

Intersection Work: Reconstruction of the intersections and construction of raised crosswalks. While this work is underway, intersections will be closed intermittently to both north and south traffic. Notice will be provided ahead of time.

Raised Crosswalks: Raised crosswalks will be built at unlighted intersections on the north side of North Santa Monica Boulevard (Linden, Alpine, Foothill, Elm, Maple, Hillcrest, Arden, Alto and Sierra drives). These striped, high-visibility crosswalks will connect the Beverly Gardens Park jogging/walking path where it pauses at the intersections.

The crosswalks will be constructed at the same level as the curbs, allowing for a safe transition for pedestrians.

An extensive outreach program is underway to inform the community of the North Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction progress and how to navigate streets during construction. Watch for mailers, social media messages, newspapers ads and signage.

For information, visit beverlyhills.org/smbldv.

Congressional leaders call for laws to hold gun manufacturers liable

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Los Angeles) and U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut) have reintroduced the Equal Access to Justice for Victims of Gun Violence Act, legislation to ensure that the gun industry – manufacturers, sellers and interest groups – are not shielded from liability when it acts with negligence and disregard for public safety. The bill would repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.

In 2005, Congress passed PLCAA, which provides immunity from civil liability in state and federal court for firearm manufacturers, distributors and dealers, as well as their trade associations, in most negligence and products liability actions. The immunity from liability is unique to the gun industry. As most gun companies are responsible businesses, the immunity protects only the worst actors in the industry, according to the legislation's authors.

"Our nation is plagued by an epidemic of mass shootings and everyday gun violence. While not every murderous act can be prevented by any single measure, we should use a comprehensive approach that includes holding the gun industry accountable when it acts negligently, just as we do with other industries," Schiff said.

"When 10 Sandy Hook families courageously took the manufacturer and distributor of the AR-15 used in that horrific tragedy to court, the

deceptively named Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act was used as a complete barrier to their pursuit of justice. That's because under current law – and unlike virtually every other manufacturer of consumer products – the gun industry cannot be sued by consumers who are harmed by their products," Blumenthal said.

When Congress passed PLCAA, its supporters argued that it was necessary to protect the gun industry from frivolous lawsuits, but that victims of gun violence would not be shut out of the courts. Senator Larry Craig, the sponsor of the legislation and at the time a member of the NRA's board, stated during debate on the Senate floor, "This bill will not prevent a single victim from obtaining relief for wrongs done to them by anyone in the gun industry."

In reality, numerous cases have been dismissed on the basis of PLCAA, even when gun dealers and manufacturers acted in a fashion that would qualify as negligent if it involved any other product, the new legislation's authors said.

The Equal Access to Justice for Victims of Gun Violence Act allows civil cases to move forward against irresponsible firearm manufacturers, distributors, dealers and trade associations. Letting courts hear these cases would provide justice to victims while creating incentives for responsible business practices that would reduce injuries and deaths, Schiff said.

LAMOTH to host 2017 gala on Nov. 5

The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust will host its annual gala dinner on Nov. 5 at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

The event this year will honor CNN lead political anchor Wolf Blitzer, the son of Holocaust survivors. There will also be a special preview of the museum's Virtual Reality Project, featuring the testimonies of Holocaust survivors.

Melissa Rivers will emcee the gala.

The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust is located at 100 The Grove Drive. For information, visit lamoth.org.



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust

The event this year will honor Wolf Blitzer

Brown expands placement options for foster children

Gov. Brown today signed into law a plan to speed up placements for children in foster care by repealing and streamlining redundant criminal-history restrictions for prospective care givers.

"The Continuum Care Reform of 2015 restructures foster-care placements," Sen. Holly J. Mitchell, D-Los Angeles. "We believe Senate Bill 213 is part of a larger reform of the foster care system. It is in everyone's interest to place a foster child with family members when it is at all possible.

"We will now have better tools to make sure we don't continue our sad history of multiple placements for foster-care children."

SB 213 makes changes to the criminal record background check

exemption process for foster and adoptive parents to remove unnecessary delays in placement.

Mitchell added that California's current laws relating to the criminal history of a prospective foster or kinship caregiver are overly complex, unduly restrictive and overlap with the 2008 enactment of the federal Adam Walsh Act. This burdensome maze of regulations leaves foster youth to linger in shelters or foster homes awaiting placement. Meanwhile, there are would-be foster parents who are disqualified due to a crime such as petty theft that happened decades ago.

"It is in everyone's interest to place a foster child with family members when it is at all possible," she added. "When we know better

we do better."

Susan Abrams, Policy Director for the Children's Law Center of California, praised Mitchell's efforts.

"SB 213 can fix this problem and ensure that children in foster care are placed with relatives or family friends whenever possible," Abrams said. "With changes that do not compromise child safety, SB 213 will streamline the complex exemption process and will simplify the law by aligning the list of non-exemptible crimes with those required by federal law."

For more information and a Fact Sheet that provides additional details please click on the attachment at the bottom of the press release online.



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RECONSTRUCTION



WEEKLY UPDATE (Subject to schedule changes)

Traffic Alert – Two lanes open each direction with occasional lane closures. Expect delays.

Construction Activity – Removal and replacement of curbs and gutters between Alpine and Doheny drives.

Hours: Mon.-Sat. from 7am-9pm.

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photo courtesy of the Second District Council Office

Councilman Paul Krekorian outlined the intricacies of the campaign aimed at stopping texting while driving.

City launches campaign against texting and driving

To kick off National Teen Driver Safety Week, Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Krekorian, 2nd District, joined representatives of the Ad Council, the Los Angeles Police Department and parents of distracted driving crash victims to launch a citywide public awareness campaign outlining the dangers of texting while driving.

More than 300 Los Angeles Department of Transportation DASH and Commuter Express buses will feature large educational advertisements stating, "Make Sure You Arrive. Just Drive: Stop Texts, Stop Wrecks."

In 2015, 3,477 people were killed and 391,000 were injured nationwide in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers. A recent California Traffic Survey reported texting while driving as "the most serious distraction on roadways today."

The city of Los Angeles' new campaign targets young adults ages 16-34 – at least 25 percent of whom respond to a text message once or more every time they drive. The

goal is to remind drivers that it is never safe to text and drive.

"I'm so proud to partner with these organizations to remind Angelenos not to text and drive," Krekorian said. "California law prohibits people from holding and operating a smartphone while driving, and this public awareness campaign will help reinforce that lifesaving message across the city. There are far too many avoidable collisions that happen each year when people engage in distracted driving, especially texting. We are aiming to reduce the likelihood of traffic deaths and injuries by getting drivers, young and old, to obey the law and pay attention to the road, not their phones while behind the wheel."

"This year, 174 people have died in traffic crashes on Los Angeles streets," said LADOT Assistant General Manager and Chief Engineer Dan Mitchell. "In response, LADOT has begun implementing common sense safety solutions like safer crosswalks and better signals where we have known safety issues. But we also look to our fellow Angelenos to stay alert, to stop texting and driving, and to help us keep our streets safe."

For information, visit stoptextsstopwrecks.org.

Metro to acquire new zero emission and compressed natural gas buses

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority on Oct. 10 signed a contract with New Flyer of America for 35, 60-foot zero emission articulated buses and 65, 60-foot compressed natural gas buses.

The purchases are part of Metro's commitment to sustainable transportation. Metro is working toward a 100 percent zero emission fleet by 2030.

"Metro is fully committed to improving the health of people across the region, and these new electric buses will help improve air quality and reduce noise pollution," said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, chair of the Metro board. "As the largest transit agency in the country to commit to a fully electric fleet by 2030, Metro continues to serve as a global leader for sustain-

"As we move into the future, Metro is exploring how technology can help us keep improving our service."

-Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington

able policies, all while creating good-paying local jobs."

The New Flyer 60-foot zero emission articulated buses will be assigned to the Metro Orange Line. Both the electric and the compressed natural gas buses will replace other vehicles currently in

operation.

Metro operates a fleet of 100 percent compressed natural gas buses. In 2016, the board directed Metro staff to implement a plan that would implement electric buses on the Metro Orange Line by 2020, with buses on the Silver Line to follow.

"As we move into the future, Metro is exploring how technology can help us keep improving our service," said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. "We believe our purchase of low and zero emission buses will be good for the agency, as well as the people of our region. And we hope to inspire other transit agencies to consider this as a possibility and investigate how they can transition toward greener fleets for the benefit of patrons, as well as the cities and towns they serve."

Mayor plans to build on 'Save the Drop' program

Mayor Eric Garcetti has announced that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will offer higher rebates to residents who want to conserve water by removing turf from their yards.

Taking advantage of the fall planting season, the turf removal rebate will increase for the next three months from \$1.75 to \$2 per square foot, up to 1,500 square feet, or as much as \$375 more per customer. The program expansion is part of Garcetti's effort to broaden his "Save the Drop" campaign and reaffirm his commitment to water conservation.

"Last year may have brought plenty of rain to Los Angeles, but make no mistake, saving water is as important as ever," Garcetti said. "Angelenos have already shown that they can step up and conserve. Now, it's time to double down by removing thirsty grass from our yards and finding new ways to 'Save the Drop.'"

Earlier this year, residents met Garcetti's goal of reducing citywide water consumption by 20 percent. The new phase of the "Save the

Drop" campaign builds on that success by reminding people that sustainable landscaping should be the new normal, not a passing fad. It also helps Angelenos save on water bills, reduces urban runoff and protects wildlife habitats.

Conservation is an important part of the Sustainable City pLAN goal to cut purchases of imported water in half by 2025. Other components of the plan include major projects to clean the San Fernando Valley aquifer and to increase water recycling, stormwater capture and groundwater recharge.

"We are pleased to continue offering our turf replacement rebate,

the most popular of all our water conservation programs," said LADWP General Manager David H. Wright. "Since 2009, Angelenos have removed nearly 50 million square feet of grass, yielding about 2 billion gallons in annual water savings. Saying goodbye to grass continues to be a great way to ensure that we continue saving water and [to] enhance our local water supply for years to come."

The campaign also reminds residents that trees are an important part of a sustainable landscape. City Plants partners with LADWP to provide free shade trees. For information, visit savethedrop.la.org.

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AHF opens new wellness center in Hollywood



photo courtesy of AHF

On Tuesday, Oct. 17, AIDS Healthcare Foundation held a grand opening ceremony for its newest Wellness Center in Los Angeles. The center will offer free, confidential screenings for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases from its location at 1811 N. Western Ave.

The Wellness Center will be open for appointments on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12 to 9 p.m., although AHF plans to expand hours as the number of patients grows.

"We are so excited to open our newest Wellness Center in our facility on N. Western Avenue in Hollywood and expand our capacity to offer STD and HIV screenings for sexually active adults in a convenient, confidential environment," said Albert Ruiz, director of AHF'S Wellness Center Programs. "With our new location being less than one block from the Hollywood/Western metro stop, we want to make it as easy as possible for Angelenos – especially young adults – to make routine STD screenings a key component of their plans for healthy living."

For information about Wellness Center services and locations, visit freestdcheck.org.

County takes new approach to mental health treatment

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion on Oct. 17 by Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District, to adopt county Department of Mental Health recommendations to improve treatment for disabled people who are incapable of seeking or accepting mental health treatment and care.

"Within the county's chronically homeless population, there is a significant segment of individuals who refuse treatment but are clearly in need of care," Barger said. "I strongly believe that if someone's mental disorder prevents them from providing for their own basic needs then they are in fact gravely disabled and in need of treatment and care."

As part of the process ordered in the motion, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health convened stakeholders to thoroughly examine current methods of engagement, delivery of services and related laws that empower the county to care for the gravely disabled. As a result, 13 recommendations were presented to the board on ways to improve the process by which individuals receive care.

One recommendation calls for the expansion of psychiatric mobile response teams to increase response capacity and widen the range of activities delivered by each team. Additional recommendations include the development of new partnership models, increased capacity at licensed facilities, and the exploration of furthering court-ordered evaluation and treatment.

"The county has a moral obligation to ensure that those who are suffering from grave mental illness – who are living in deplorable conditions and unable to provide for their own basic human needs – receive the treatment and care that would drastically improve their quality of life," Barger added.

WeHo honors standouts at Disability Service Awards

West Hollywood and its Disabilities Advisory Board are hosting the 19th annual Disability Service Awards on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 6 p.m. in the West Hollywood City Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. A reception will take place prior to the meeting at 5 p.m. The Disability Service Awards event recognizes individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations for work with people living with disabilities, including accessibility issues, attention to Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and advocacy. This year's Disability Service Award recipients are Maria Shriver, MV Transportation, Gold Pictures and the Braille Institute.

Admission is free. For information, call (323)848-6510, or visit weho.org.

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

LOCATIONS:	1201-1207 N. DETROIT STREET, West Hollywood, California
REQUEST:	Applicant is requesting to demolish three dwelling units and a community garden on two adjacent parcels, to construct a new, four-story, ten-unit condominium building with exemplary design over on-grade parking. The project will not incorporate any affordable units and requests a 10% modification to reduce the front setback.
PERMIT(S):	Demolition Permit, Development Permit, Modification Permit, Subdivision Permit, and any other required permits.
APPLICANT(S):	Andrea Keller
TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:	Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
ZONES:	R3C (Residential, Multi-Family Medium Density)
ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:	Categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section §15332 (In-Fill Development Project)

The staff report will be available on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, the W.H. Library, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, and on-line at www.weho.org

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

To comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) will be available for check-out at the meeting. If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call, or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6409 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City TDD line for the hearing impaired is (323) 848-6496.

Special meeting related accommodations (e.g., transportation) may be provided upon written request to the Office of the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For information on public transportation, call 1-323-GO-METRO (323/466-3876) or go to www.metro.net

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

For further information contact Laurie Yelton, Associate Planner, in the Community Development Department at (323) 848-6475; or via email at: lyelton@weho.org

Yvonne Quarker, City Clerk

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

AIDS Healthcare Foundation marks 30th anniversary

AIDS Healthcare Foundation is marking its 30th anniversary with "Keeping the Promise-AHF 30 years," a film screening reception tonight, Oct. 19 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Arclight Theatre Hollywood.

Since its beginning 30 years ago, AHF has grown to provide HIV/AIDS prevention, care and services, including lifesaving anti-retroviral treatment to more than 821,000 people in 38 countries. As part of its 30th anniversary, AHF will hosts a series of global events and activities through the end of the year including screenings of the new documentary, "Keeping the Promise-AHF 30 Years." Through interviews with AHF stakeholders and archival video footage, the documentary tells the compelling story of AHF's history while offering a glimpse of the future.

Public screenings of the film will continue through the end of the year, and will coincide with observances of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, when AHF will also host concerts and community events around the world.

Founded in 1987 first as the AIDS Hospice Committee and later the AIDS Hospice Foundation, AHF's earliest days involved a grassroots community effort to provide end-of-life hospice care to people with AIDS in Los Angeles. The organization formed at a time in the mid-1980s before lifesaving drug treatment was available for people with HIV/AIDS. Thirty years later, AHF has now grown to become the

largest global AIDS organization.

"On this occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of AHF, I want to thank our board of directors, our staff of 5,600, our 821,000 patients and the community of supporters we have around the country and the world. Everything we have accomplished is because of your dedication," said AHF president and founder Michael Weinstein. "AHF stands as living proof that the world can be changed for the better if you are willing to work hard and dedicate yourself to a mission. I really wish that Chris Brownlie, my dear friend and co-founder of AHF, could be alive today to see what his voice inspired. While we celebrate this milestone, we recognize that there is still so much more work to be done before we defeat AIDS once and for all time."

AHF provides medical care and services at over 435 global clinics in 37 countries outside the United States.

"Congratulations to all of the AHF staff, board members, volunteers, partners and our patients for contributing your best to help AHF meet this remarkable thirty-year milestone," said Cynthia Davis, Chair of AHF's board of directors and assistant professor in the College of Medicine at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

The Arclight Theaters Hollywood is located at 6360 W. Sunset Blvd. For information, visit aidshealth.org.

Authorities urge harassment victims to come forward

In the wake of sexual harassment and assault allegations against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, authorities are encouraging victims to contact police.

However, Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer said sexual harassment is not confined to the entertainment industry in Hollywood, and people should not hide that they have been victimized.

"The Weinstein allegations have placed a bright spotlight on sexual harassment and sexual abuse, especially in the workplace. As brave victims come forward, others have been encouraged to do the same. And our nation must now confront these significant issues in a profound way," Feuer said. "From our prosecutions in this area, I know it takes tremendous courage for women and men to share often intimate details of sexual harassment or abuse. We know this is not just a Hollywood thing, it's a workplace thing, arising all too often in virtually every industry."

"While most people don't work in the entertainment industry, victims of sexual harassment and abuse share many of the very same concerns we've heard about in recent days, will my job be on the line if I say something, will I be publicly humiliated, will anyone believe me and will anyone stand up for me? I am here to say we will," Feuer added. "We take allegations like these very seriously, and where the facts support conviction, we will prosecute. I'm very pleased that LAPD recently issued a call for alleged victims to come forward so [they] can investigate. Please come forward so that your cases – and justice – can be pursued."

The Los Angeles Police Department does not currently have any open investigations regarding allegations about sexual harassment against Weinstein. Anyone who believes they are a victim of sexual harassment and abuse should call their local police station or the LAPD at (877)LAPD247.

Prosecutors oppose law allowing more use of silencers

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. and 27 additional members of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence have announced their opposition to provisions in the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act that would remove existing gun silencer safety regulations from federal law.

"As prosecutors, we are sworn to uphold public safety in our communities. The SHARE Act would threaten that safety by removing gun silencers from regulation under the National Firearms Act, which for decades has prevented felons, domestic abusers and other people with dangerous histories from obtaining silencers," wrote Prosecutors Against Gun Violence co-chairs Feuer and Vance in a letter regarding the legislation. "Given the challenges of protecting public safety in our communities – including from horrific mass shootings like the one we experienced in Las Vegas – and the increased risks to law enforcement, now is exactly the wrong time for Congress to make it easy for people with dangerous histories to buy silencers."

The SHARE Act would jeopardize not only the safety of the public, but also the safety of law enforcement officers. The loud and distinctive noise that a gunshot makes allows those who hear gunfire to assess the threat and take steps to protect themselves and those around them. Moreover, current federal law requires all buyers of silencers to pass a background check and comply with other common-sense safety provisions. Through regulations, silencers have been rarely used in connection with criminal activity, Feuer and Vance said.

Prosecutors Against Gun Violence is a nonpartisan coalition of prosecutors founded by Feuer and Vance in 2014 that is committed to advancing prosecutorial and policy solutions to gun violence. For information, visit prosecutors-AGV.org.

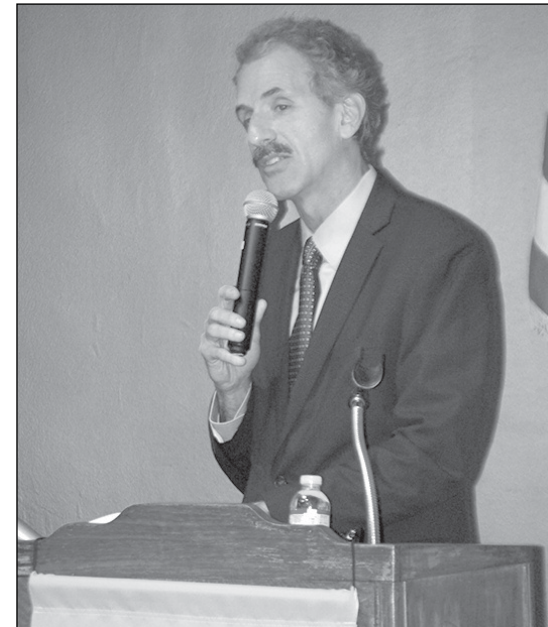


photo by Edwin Folven

City Attorney Mike Feuer has fought for tougher firearms restrictions, both locally as a top prosecutor in Los Angeles and nationally as co-founder of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence.

Man convicted of keeping gun accessible to children

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer recently announced that his Gun Violence Prevention Unit has filed one criminal count against a man for allegedly keeping a loaded, unsecured shotgun in his closet, easily accessible to a 10-year-old child.

"Locking up guns saves lives. It also prevents crime," Feuer said. "Lost or stolen guns are the major source of crime guns in Los Angeles. We have to hold adults accountable for safely storing their firearms."

Angelo Rocca, 43, a San Fernando Valley resident, was charged with one count of not properly storing a gun. The maximum penalty is six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Arraignment is scheduled on Oct. 24.

In July, a 10-year-old child in Rocca's home allegedly showed a friend the shotgun in a closet. The friend later reported the gun to school officials after allegedly overhearing remarks about his friend using the gun. School police went to

the defendant's home and recovered a loaded, unsecured 12-gauge shotgun in the closet.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy City Attorney Margie Barron, who was recently assigned to prosecute gun cases originating in a new Crime Gun Intelligence Center in the LAPD's 77th Division. In the new position, Barron will also be responsible for identifying gun violence hot-spots throughout the city and prosecuting high-risk firearm cases. Working with law

enforcement partners, Barron will also be responsible for gun trafficking-related crimes, including attempted illegal purchases by prohibited persons, and unlawful transfers.

Within the past month, Barron has successfully secured convictions in four firearm cases involving loaded guns being transported in vehicles. She also has 17 pending gun cases.

Since January 2016, the LAPD reports that there have been 852 criminal incidents involving one or multiple stolen guns, including 141 incidents of burglary committed since January.

Former South Korean seismological institute head sentenced for bribery

A former director of South Korea's Earthquake Research Center at the Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources has been sentenced to 14 months in federal prison for using a Southern California bank account to launder bribes he received from two seismological companies.

Heon-Cheol Chi, 59, of South Korea, was sentenced on Oct. 2 by United States District Judge John F. Walter for one count of engaging in financial transactions with criminally derived property. Walter said the sentence, "should send a clear message that this will not be tolerated by the law."

Chi was convicted of the money laundering charge in July following a four-day jury trial in United States District Court. According to evidence presented at trial, Chi laundered the proceeds of bribes he had accepted, in violation of South Korea law. In addition to the prison term, Chi was ordered to pay \$15,000 and to serve one year of supervised release following the completion of his term in federal custody.

According to trial testimony, from at least 2009 through 2015, Chi received over \$1 million in bribes from two seismological companies in exchange for provid-

ing them with business advantages in the South Korean seismological market. The trial evidence showed that Chi advocated the purchase and use of equipment from the two companies. He also provided the companies with market intelligence and inside information, including confidential information about their competitors and the Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources bidding process.

Chi directed that bribes be paid in cash or wired to his personal account at a Bank of America branch. Chi transferred approximately half of the bribe payments sent to the account to an investment account he held in New York City. He spent approximately 70 percent of the remaining funds in South Korea, where he resided and worked.

In addition to his use of cash payments and the U.S. banking system, trial evidence showed that Chi took a number of steps to conceal his bribery scheme, including instructing representatives of the companies to delete or not respond to his emails, and requesting that the company representatives not inform his colleagues of his illegal arrangements. He also sent invoices listing a false address in New Jersey.

Five charged with violating endangered species act

A federal grand jury has returned three indictments charging three individuals and two companies with engaging in the unlawful trade of live corals that are protected by an international treaty known as the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

The indictments allege the defendants violated federal statutes including smuggling laws, the Endangered Species Act and a conservation statute known as The Lacey Act.

"The mountains, plains and oceans of this planet are under constant assault from those who would harvest these resources without end," said Acting United States Attorney Sandra R. Brown. "The corals in these cases were being trafficked for the sole purpose of decorating fish tanks. We will enforce federal laws that control the trafficking of wildlife to ensure the ongoing survival of plants and animals that all serve an important role in the environment."

The three indictments outlined below were returned by a grand jury on Sept. 20. They charge Renaissance Aquatics, Lim Aqua-Nautic Specialist and Chet

Bryant, 37, with unlawfully importing live corals from Vietnam and submitting false records to conceal their unlawful activity on seven occasions over a five-month period. According to court documents, the corals were hidden in shipments containing other wildlife. The indictment also charges Renaissance and Bryant with conspiracy and attempting to unlawfully export live coral.

Also charged were Jose Torres, 42, who is accused of unlawfully attempting to export to Mexico 20 varieties of live protected corals. The indictment also alleges that Torres submitted false records to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that omitted the corals and understated the size of the shipment.

Jorge Vazquez, 39, was charged with unlawfully attempting to export live protected corals. Transportation Security Administration officers found the corals hidden in Pringles potato chip cans during a baggage inspection at Los Angeles International Airport. Vazquez later admitted that he packed the corals into the Pringles cans and placed the cans in his mother's luggage for transport to Mexico.

Whom Should I Name As My Executor or Trustee?

The executor of your will and the trustee of your revocable (aka living trust) serve almost identical functions after your death, in the short run. Although your executor is generally subject to direct court supervision, both the executor and the trustee have similar fiduciary responsibilities. The trustee may assume responsibilities under your trust while you are living. Although you may act as initial trustee if you become incapacitated, the designated successor trustee may then step in to manage your assets for your benefit.

An executor or trustee may be a spouse or other relative, family friend, business associate or a professional fiduciary such as a bank. There are a number of issues to consider in determining who to name as an executor or trustee.

While both are responsible for ensuring that your wishes are implemented, when your will or trust establishes provisions for the long term management of funds, your choice for executor or trustee should also be based on a similarity, or at a minimum, an understanding of your lifestyle choices as there may be many "discretionary" decisions that your executor or trustee will make. Other issues to be considered would be whether or not the appointment of one of your adult children could cause undue stress in his or her relations with siblings. What conflicts of interest are created if a business associate or partner is named as your executor or trustee? Will the person named as executor or successor trustee have the time, organizational ability and experience to do the job effectively?

You should discuss your choice with your estate planning lawyer, your accountant and other financial advisors.

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Controller cautions city against dipping into reserves

■ Budget needs to be based on 'actual revenues' that build reserves, he said

Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin released a report summarizing the city's finances for the fiscal year that ended on June 30.

The Preliminary Financial Report, which provides a snapshot of the recently concluded fiscal year, showed that the city's revenues increased by 4 percent over the prior fiscal year as expenses ticked up 5.2 percent. The city balanced its books, in part, by dipping into reserves – with the city's reserve funds totaling \$450 million as of July 1, just under 8 percent of the 2017-18 General Fund budget. While that percentage exceeds the city's own minimal guidelines for reserves, it represents a decline from the more robust peak of 10 percent in 2015.

"This is a time for the city to take stock and make sure to not overextend itself," Galperin said in a news release. "The city needs a budget that is based on actual revenues and that builds rather than depletes hard-earned reserves. Otherwise, we risk being unable to weather an economic downturn without cuts in services."

The General Fund component of overall revenues grew by 6 percent over the prior year, totaling \$5.6 billion. General Fund spending grew by 6.4 percent. In contrast, Special Fund revenues totaling \$2.5 billion were up just 3.6 percent, while spending from these accounts increased by 2.8 percent over the prior year.

The controller's financial review showed that many categories of tax revenue, including property, business, sales and hotel taxes, along with building permit fees, reached all-time highs. However, liability claims payouts exceeded \$200 million, driven by the settlement of a large class-action lawsuit and a number of sizable liability cases.

Along with the financial report, the controller's office created and posted an online interactive tool at pfr.controlpanel.la for exploring revenues and expenditures with ten years of data including exhibits and schedules.



Galperin

Padilla approves new vote-by-mail systems

Secretary of State Alex Padilla has certified two new remote accessible vote-by-mail systems for use in California elections. California is the first state to certify these types of systems, which provide an accessible option for citizens with disabilities

"I'm proud that California is on the forefront of making elections more accessible for voters with disabilities," Padilla said. "Voters have a fundamental right to cast a secret ballot. Unfortunately, this can be difficult for some voters with disabilities. These new systems will allow voters with disabilities to receive their ballots at home

and mark them independently and privately before sending them back to elections officials."

Voters with disabilities have unique challenges accessing the convenience of vote-by-mail. Voters with visual or physical impairments often rely on others to assist them in reading and marking their ballot. Remote accessible vote-by-mail systems allow voters with disabilities to mark an electronic vote-by-mail ballot by themselves while they're at home. Their ballot would then need to be printed and mailed to a county elections official, or returned to a polling place.

"Both of the remote accessible vote-by-mail systems will allow voters with disabilities to vote by mail as privately and independently as possible," said Fred Nisen, attorney for voting rights at Disability Rights California.

Democracy Live and Five Cedars received certification for their remote accessible vote-by-mail systems to be used in California on Wednesday.

California has one of the most strenuous testing and certification programs in the country. New voting systems applying for certification in California go through months of testing, including func-

"I'm proud that California is on the forefront of making elections more accessible for voters with disabilities."

-Alex Padilla
Secretary of State

tional testing, source code review, red team security testing that involves experts trying to "break into" the voting system, and accessibility and volume testing as well.

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photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Gardening workshops for children at Greystone Mansion

The city of Beverly Hills Community Service Department is offering two unique gardening workshops for kids 8-12 years old on Oct. 22 and on Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to noon at Greystone Mansion Demonstration Garden in Beverly Hills.

Children can enroll in one or both of the workshops. Registration costs \$15 for Beverly Hills residents and \$19 for non-residents.

As more and more people grow their own herbs, and produce their own fruits and vegetables in raised garden beds in their backyards or on their apartment patios, it makes

sense to teach youth about the lost art of gardening. The gardening workshops offered will give children an opportunity to engage their natural curiosity and wonder about what it takes to grow fruits and vegetables, and design their own little garden. Children will learn tool safety, soil types, preparation and maintenance, introduction to seeds, plant selection, transplanting seedlings, plant nutrition and fertilizer, irrigation, mulching, seed tape and more.

For information and to register, visit beverlyhills.org/BHRegOnline or call (310)285-6850.



photo courtesy of the 5th Council District Office

Council welcomes Tommy Lasorda

Los Angeles City Council honored Hall of Fame Manager Tommy Lasorda following his 90th birthday on Sept. 22.

The celebration took place at the beginning of the council's Oct. 13 meeting.

For more than three decades, Lasorda has been the face of the Los Angeles Dodgers. He managed the team from 1976-1996, and was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997 by the Veterans Committee following a career in which he won 1,599 games, two World Series and two more National League pennants –

all with the Dodgers.

"We are delighted to recognize Tommy Lasorda for his significant contributions and wish him the happiest of birthdays," said Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th District. "Tommy Lasorda has been a champion with the Dodgers and for the city of Los Angeles. He is regarded by many as baseball's most popular ambassador not only in the U.S. but around the world. As a lifelong Dodgers fan it is my honor to invite him to Los Angeles City Hall and allow us to share in his 90th birthday celebration."

LGBTQ youth conference celebrates anniversary

More than 1,400 LGBTQ and their allies from 10 dozen cities and more than 200 schools nationwide are expected to attend the Los Angeles LGBT Center's 25th annual Models of Pride conference at the USC campus on Oct. 29. This year's theme is "Together We Rise."

As the world's largest free conference of its kind, Models of Pride offers a full day of life-enriching programming designed to help young people build confidence and self-esteem and develop valuable life skills. Organized through the center's LifeWorks youth development and mentoring program, the day also includes more than 100 workshops and presentations, lunch and dinner, resource/college/career fairs, and live entertainment for all youth ages 24 and under.

Los Angeles City Controller Ron

Galperin – the city's first openly LGBT person elected to a citywide position – will present a proclamation commemorating the conference's 25th anniversary. YouTube personalities (and real-life couple) Mark Miller and Ethan Hethcote, will host the conference's popular Entertainment Hour.

"For the past 25 years, Models of Pride has empowered and transformed the lives of tens of thousands of youth who envisioned a better world where LGBT people are healthy, equal, and complete members of society," said Kevin McCloskey, the center's associate director of education and youth development. "Now more than ever is the time for us to unite and rise in celebration of our diversity—in defiance of the forces that seek to divide and weaken us."

In addition to the youth portion of the conference, more than 400

parents, educators, social service providers and other youth-serving professionals will attend workshops tailored to their concerns and interests involving LGBTQ youth. Known as the Parent & Professional Institute, this full-day program for adults is free and will feature keynote speaker David Windsor, co-creator and executive producer of ABC network's "The Real O'Neals." Windsor brings a unique perspective to the conference, having had two incredibly loving and supportive gay dads. He is honored to be able to share stories of the LGBTQ community and foster a dialogue for those who want to be allies. California Sen. Anthony Portantino (D-La Canada Flintridge) will greet PPI participants with a welcome speech.

For information, visit modelsofpride.org.

Medalists revealed at 2017 Student Academy Awards

Winners announced at Beverly Hills ceremony included two USC students

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recently honored 17 student winners from colleges and universities around the world at the 44th Student Academy Awards ceremony, held at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills.

The Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal awards were announced and presented by actors Amber Tamblyn and Andy Serkis, pro-

ducer DeVon Franklin and director Jennifer Yuh Nelson.

Local winners included USC's Devon Manney, winning silver for "Cradle" in the animation category, and Ariel Heller, winning silver for "Mammoth" in the narrative category.

New this year, the competition was expanded to allow two options for students at international film schools to submit their

films. In addition to members of the International Association of Film and Television Schools submitting one student film per international film school category, international students may now enter films that qualify through film festivals recognized by the Student Academy Awards Executive Committee.

For information, visit oscars.org.

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Earl Carroll Theatre to be protected and restored

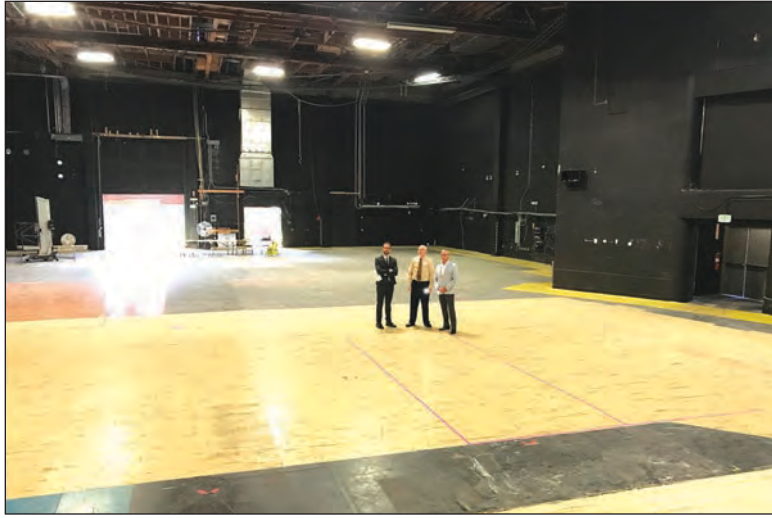


photo courtesy of the 13th Council District Office

Escott Norton of the Los Angeles Historic Theatre Foundation, Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District, and Council District 13 Hollywood Field Deputy Dan Halden took a tour of the historic Earl Carroll Theatre, located at 6230 Sunset Blvd.

One of the last remaining examples of modern entertainment venues constructed during the height of the Golden Age, the theater will be protected and restored by an agreement O'Farrell orchestrated between property owner Essex Property Trust, Hollywood Heritage and the Los Angeles Conservancy.

#EquityAndJustice bills signed by governor

Gov. Jerry Brown last week signed the five remaining bills in the #EquityAndJustice package, continuing bipartisan reform of California's juvenile and adult justice systems.

Along with Senate Bill 355, which Brown signed in July, the new laws comprise a #EquityAndJustice package authored jointly by Los Angeles-area state Sens. Ricardo Lara and Holly Mitchell, and introduced last march to promote crime prevention, rehabilitation and maintaining family cohesion.

The actions cap months of activity by young people who testified in Sacramento and a free concert for 25,000 at the state Capitol by the artist and musician Common in support of long-overdue criminal justice reforms.

"Sadly, too many poor kids and kids of color today are more likely to end up as victims of the juvenile justice system," Mitchell said. "If one believes that our children will be tomorrow's leaders then we must look through a child-development lens. These bills help provide the appropriate resources and policies to get them there."

Lara issued a statement expressing his support.

"The Equity and Justice laws Gov. Brown signed take a greatly needed step toward restoring the value of rehabilitation in our justice system," Lara said. "Science is clear, young people are different, and as such have the capacity to change and become productive members of society.

These Equity and Justice laws will give them that opportunity."

For facts sheets on each of the bills, visit senate.ca.gov/mitchell.

"Sadly, too many poor kids and kids of color today are more likely to end up as victims of the juvenile justice system."

State Sen. Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles)

Special Needs Network to host annual gala

The Special Needs Network, Inc., California's leading autism advocacy organization, will host its 12th annual Evening Under the Stars Award Show and Gala on Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. The star-studded charity event will be held at the California African American Museum located at 600 State Drive.

The Evening Under the Stars Award Show and Gala is a Special Needs Network's annual flagship fundraiser. This black tie event will bring together over 500 of Los Angeles' top corporate executives, political and community leaders, entertainers and stakeholders.

"I am thrilled at the outpouring of support for families and kids with special needs and am super excited about this year's honorees and special guests. With one in 64 children diagnosed with autism every year, and African American and Latino kids in California lagging behind in services, grassroots organizations are needed more than ever," said Areva Martin, Special Needs Network founder and president. "It has been an incredible year. Martin, but kids and families in underserved communities need so much more, particularly given the uncertainty with Medicaid and other services that our families rely upon to survive."

The evening will include a red carpet, reception, entertainment and award ceremony honoring Special Needs Network's Golden



photo courtesy of Diamond Dust photography
Areva Martin and Edyta Swilinska attended last year's event.

Heroes. Hosted by Beverly White (NBC4, Southern California), this year's honorees include Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson (Man of the Year Award), Emmy-nominated actress Anna Maria Horsford (Vanguard Award), Drs. Ludlow and Ruth Creary (Lifetime Achievement Award and Walsh Shea (Corporate Citizen Award).

Special appearances will be made by Kym Whitley (ABC's "Young and Hungry"), the cast of A&E's Emmy Award-winning show "Born This Way," Donnell Turner ("General Hospital") and more.

For information, visit snnla.org.

NEXT STOP: MORE RAIL

TRAFFIC ALERT: Full weekend closure of Wilshire Bl/ La Cienega Bl intersection continues.

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PHASE 2 EAST/WEST TRAFFIC DETOUR



PHASE 2 NORTH/SOUTH TRAFFIC DETOUR



O'Farrell spotlights healthy living with Fitness Challenge



photo courtesy of the 13th Council District Office

Olympic Gold medalist Nastia Liukin recently joined Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District, to kick off the fourth annual Fitness Challenge, an event that promotes healthy and active lifestyles in the council district. O'Farrell brought together many organizations for the event, including the city's Department of Recreation and Parks, The Klub Gymnastics, YogaWorks and Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Additionally, The Good Greek Grill provided a nutritious lunch for participating students, highlighting O'Farrell's work with the Department of Recreation and Parks' citywide Good Food Policy. For information, visit cd13.org.

Brown approves law on offering locally grown foods to students

Senate Bill 730, which will establish steps for the California Department of Education to comply with the federal "Buy American" provision in school lunch and breakfast programs, was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown.

"Our farmers and ranchers meet some of the highest worker protection and environmental standards in the world and produce high-quality and healthful food," said Sen. Richard Pan (D-Sacramento). "Our students deserve to benefit from the quality of American agriculture and California schools should support our farmers."

The "Buy American" federal provision requires schools that participate in the school lunch and breakfast programs to purchase domestically grown and processed foods to the maximum extent possible. The food must be produced and processed in the United States, with the final processed product consist-

ing of over 51 percent domestic agricultural commodities.

Unfortunately, there is limited enforcement of the provision, which has led to schools purchasing imported food products to serve to students. In July, a California State Audit revealed that California has not ensured that schools comply with the "Buy American" requirement for school food purchases.

SB 730 was sponsored by the Agricultural Council of California. It will require the CDE to monitor compliance and inform school districts about the "Buy American" provisions of the law.

"SB 730 helps ensure school children consume safe, high quality food, reinforces locally grown efforts, benefits our economy and supports California farmers who achieve the most ambitious environmental, labor and food safety standards in the nation," said Ag Council president Emily Rooney.

Cities can use tax funding for affordable housing

AB 1568, legislation authored by Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica), will enable local jurisdictions to finance infrastructure and affordable housing using new sales and use tax increments.

"Over the past several years, we have borne witness to a housing crisis that has pushed Californians into homelessness, forced low-income individuals out of their communities and increased poverty on an unprecedented scale," Bloom said. "AB 1568 is an important piece of addressing and reversing the loss of affordable housing that has exacerbated this crisis."

AB 1568 creates the Neighborhood Infill Finance and Transit Improvement Act of 2017 and authorizes local communities to use their local share of tax dol-

"Increasing the supply of housing is critical to solving California's housing crisis, but it is also important that we make sure that the affordability of housing is prioritized."

-Assemblyman Richard Bloom

lars to address housing and infrastructure needs in their communities. NIFTI districts must be located in qualified infill locations, and 20

percent of revenue is required to be spent on affordable housing.

Since the dissolution of redevelopment agencies in 2011, local governments have struggled to find reliable financing mechanisms for new construction and infrastructure improvements, Bloom said. Many neighborhoods lack sufficient resources to spur private investment, economic development and affordable housing. NIFTI will create new opportunities for local governments and the private sector to work together to revitalize communities, create good jobs and build affordable homes, Bloom added.

"Increasing the supply of housing is critical to solving California's housing crisis, but it is also important that we make sure that the affordability of housing is prioritized," Bloom said.

New law combats prescription drug abuse

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed AB 40, a measure authored by Assemblyman Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles) that allows California's Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System, also known as CURES, to integrate with health information technology systems throughout the state.

"By all accounts, California and the nation are in the middle of a staggering opioid crisis," said Santiago, a member of the Assembly Health Committee. "I'm

proud to have worked on this important bill to ensure that all care providers are on the same page when it comes to a patient's prescription information. I'm glad the governor agrees that it's time to move forward technologically in this arena."

CURES was established in 2009 for electronic monitoring of Schedule II, III and IV controlled substance prescriptions for law enforcement purposes and has been used to prosecute doctors and crack down on people who "doctor

shop" for prescriptions.

Over the past decade, the overuse of prescription opioids has become a significant national public health problem with many California communities facing rising rates of opioid related deaths, Santiago said. CURES will continue to be a critical tool to help combat prescription drug abuse, he added.

The measure requires health information technology systems to integrate with CURES no later than next October.



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Armenia joins coalition fighting climate change



photo courtesy of Gov. Jerry Brown's Office

Governor Jerry Brown recently welcomed Armenia to the Under2 Coalition, a global pact of cities, states and countries committed to limiting the increase in global average temperature to below 2-degrees Celsius, the level of potentially catastrophic consequences.

"This is a worldwide movement that can't be stopped," Brown said. "California welcomes Armenia to this growing coalition and together, we will continue to drive the change that will get us to the climate goals we have to reach."

The Under2 Coalition includes 188 jurisdictions on six continents that collectively represent more than 1.2 billion people and \$28.9 trillion in gross domestic product. The coalition, formed in 2015 by the states of California and Baden-Württemberg, Germany, pledges to limit greenhouse gas emissions to two tons per capita, or 80 to 95 percent below 1990 levels, by 2050.

"Armenia is pleased to endorse and express support to sovereign nations and regional governments of the world united by the Under2 Coalition," said Armenia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Economic Integration and Reforms Vache Gabrielyan (right). "We commend the efforts by our partner – the state of California and the Gov. Brown – in building this remarkable coalition of governments and peoples concerned about our planet's future."

Armenia signed on to the Under2 Coalition during a Oct. 16 meeting between Brown and Gabrielyan. It is the 18th nation to join the coalition.

Assessor's report outlines strong economic growth

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang recently released his office's 2017 Annual Report.

The report indicates strong economic growth and a record-setting increase in the assessed value of all taxable real property and business personal property in Los Angeles County. It includes an updated ranking of the county's 88 cities, including the highest valued cities and those with the highest percentage change from the prior year.

"The 2017 Annual Report helps the public easily access information about the Office of the Assessor, including how property values in each area of the county changed during the last year," Prang said. "The diligent work of assessor staff serves as the foundation of the property tax system which generates over \$13.5 billion in revenues relied upon by the 35 departments of the county, 88 cities, 81 school districts and numerous special districts."

The 2017 Assessment Roll provides a comprehensive view of the state of the Los Angeles County real estate market. During the last year, every city in Los Angeles County recorded an increase in assessed valuation compared to 2016.

"I am pleased to report that the

6.04 percent increase in assessed property values in Los Angeles County represents the seventh consecutive year of growth," Prang said. The net assessed value, (excluding nonprofit, homeowner and disabled veteran exemptions, and other state exemptions) is \$1.416 trillion, \$80.6 billion greater than in 2016.

The top five highest valued cities for 2017 are the city of Los Angeles, with an assessed valuation of \$568 billion (a 6.6 percent increase), Long Beach (\$54.0 billion, a 5 percent increase), Santa Monica (\$34.4 billion, a 3.8 percent increase), Beverly Hills (\$31.9 billion, a 9.1 percent increase), and Santa Clarita (\$30.7 billion, a 7.1 percent increase).

The increases are attributed to a strong real estate market and increasing demand for new multi-family residential properties.

The Annual Report provides information to the public, including the role of the Assessor's Office in the property tax system, tax savings for property owners and important dates. It also contains an update on progress with modernizing technology systems to enhance efficiency.

For information, visit assessor.lacounty.gov.

Law allows cities to use stormwater as resource

Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) has announced that Gov. Jerry Brown has signed his legislation to help cities capture and manage storm water.

SB 231 is part of Hertzberg's strategy to modernize California's water resources as they are strained by climate change, continuing cycles of drought and a steadily growing population.

"We can't keep sticking a straw in the north, a straw in the Colorado River and hoping that the Sierra snowpack will keep reservoirs full throughout the year," Hertzberg said. "We need local agencies to develop local supplies. California communities need clarity on how to collect free rainwater and put it to good use rather than letting it go to waste."

Hertzberg's legislation provides legal clarity under Proposition 218

while maintaining the proposition's transparency, accountability and requirements for public input. The 1996 voter-approved initiative defines which government fees and taxes require voter approval. However, Proposition 218 specifically exempts some services such as water, trash and sewer from the vote requirement.

SB 231 stipulates that the definition of sewer water includes storm water, which was long considered to be the case in California law. In 2002, a single court decision cast doubt on that interpretation, creating a chilling effect in which cities refused to fund storm water projects, Hertzberg said. With the clarity restored by SB 231, local governments can finance and build projects to capture and manage rainwater for local reliability and flood safety.

"With the governor's signature,

California's cities and counties are on their way toward a safer, more resilient future," said Wade Crowfoot, CEO of the Water Foundation. "We are grateful to Governor Brown, Senator Hertzberg and members of the Legislature for their support of SB 231, which enables local infrastructure investment that captures storm water. These investments will protect homes from local flooding, reduce water pollution in our streams and beaches, and increase local groundwater supplies. It is a common sense step that will create jobs and spur local investment in these important improvements."

The legislation takes effect on Jan. 1. Hertzberg hosted a webinar on Oct. 17 to discuss the legislation and changes to be implemented. For information, visit senate.ca.gov/hertzberg.

Bill provides for more substance abuse treatment

A plan to help community clinics more easily provide services for people with mental health and drug use disorders was recently signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown.

SB 32, authored by state Sen. Holly J. Mitchell (D-Los Angeles), will allow federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics to receive reimbursement for providing substance use disorder treatment and specialty mental health services.

"This bill will make it easier for health centers and counties to work

together to improve mental health and drug use disorder treatments," Mitchell said.

Carmela Castellano-Garcia, president and CEO of California Health+ Advocates, co-sponsor of SB 323, praised Mitchell's work on the legislation.

"SB 323 will increase timely access to behavioral healthcare needs across California and ultimately lower the cost of care as patients address their needs before they end up in more expensive and less effective avenues such as an

emergency room," Castellano-Garcia said.

Mitchell said community clinics are crucial to providing care, but too often it is difficult for counties to contract with health centers. The new bill will create a process by which clinics can become MediCal providers. Mitchell's measure was also co-sponsored by the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County, and supporters included the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals, and NAMI California.

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RESTAURANT NEWS

By Jill Weinlein

Front Porch Cinema

Movie lovers are invited to free outdoor Friday night films through Friday, Oct. 27 at the Santa Monica Pier. The films are presented by Squarespace and produced by Eat!Seel!Hear. "Beauty and the Beast" will be shown on Oct. 20, and audience members can take photos with costumed characters.

The Cinema Lounge invites guests 21 and older to arrive early for movie-themed cocktails and small bites. Front Porch Cinema's food menu includes "Belly & Snout," with chef-owner Warren Almeda serving pork adobo grilled cheese sandwiches. Other options include offerings from the Japanese curry food truck LuckDish, and the authentic French eatery Crêpe De

Ville. Doors open at 6; films begin at 7:30 p.m. 200 Santa Monica Pier A. frontporchcinema.com.

Burbank Beer Festival

On Saturday, Oct. 21, the Burbank Beer Festival will feature 85 craft beer tastings spread over a five-block area. Session 1 is from noon to 3 p.m. and tickets are \$40, followed by Session 2 from 4 to 7 p.m. with tickets priced at \$45.

Admission includes a tasting glass and three-ounce craft beer samples from Island Brewing Company, Poseidon Brewing Company, Golden Road Brewing, Lagunitas Brewing Company, Firestone Walker Brewing Company, House Beer, Chaucer's, The Dudes' Brewing Company, Angel City Brewery, Enegren Brewing Company, Karl Strauss Brewing Company, MadeWest Brewing Company, St. Killian Importing, Figueroa Mountain Brewing Company, Riley's Brewing Company, Inland Empire Brewing Company, Elysian Brewing

Company, Guinness and Shock Top. Also participating are Mt. Lowe Brewing Company, Breweryard Beer Company, Stella Artois, Goose Island Beer Company, Baja Brewing Company, Verdugo West Brewing Company and Lincoln Beer Company. A free street fair runs from noon to 7:30 p.m. with vendors, DJs and musical performers. The main stage will be located at San Fernando Boulevard and Olive Avenue. Performers include Rey Fresco, Adelaide and DJ Cue. Dine at The Boiling Crab, Chronic Tacos See Restaurant News page 17



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360 views and sushi at Sora

When the Wilshire Grand Center opened in June, it was lauded as the tallest building west of the Mississippi River. Rising to 73 stories and 1,100 feet, the Wilshire Grand is the newest addition to the Los Angeles skyline.

Christopher Martin, the architect and development manager, designed the multi-use high-rise which is home to the 889-room InterContinental Hotel occupying floors 31 through 68.

On the 69th floor are two dining venues - an elegant Japanese restaurant, Sora, and Dekkadance a market-to-table buffet dining area with views of the Pacific Ocean and Catalina Island.

For a fine dining steakhouse option, La Boucherie is on the 71st floor. On the top floor is the popular rooftop Spire 73 lounge, featuring 360-degree views of the city.

Most visitors park in the subterranean garage, and are welcomed by staff and security, before entering the ground floor lobby. Additional staff and security guide guests to an elevator up to the hotel's 70th floor lobby reception area.

I met a friend recently for lunch at Sora, an elevated omakase dining experience with three seating areas. Stools sit along windows looking out to Griffith Park Observatory, the Hollywood Hills and beyond. What makes this dining experience unique is the rolling conveyor belt parading plates of sushi covered in clear glass domes. Guests lift appealing plates right off the moving belt to enjoy.

Another option is to sit at the sushi bar watching itamae (sushi chefs) precisely slice fish, prepare



By Jill Weinlein

the perfect sushi rice, grate ginger and cut scallions to prepare hand rolls, nigiri and maki rolls.

A narrow dining room with high back booths alongside windows is a popular spot in the evening for couples seeking a romantic dinner, and a place to gaze out at the twinkling nighttime views. We opted to sit in a booth looking towards Dodgers Stadium and neighboring skyscrapers.

The menu offers a good selection of beers, domestic and international wines and champagne, plus a variety of Japanese whiskey. Cocktails range from a passionfruit Bellini to a Seoul margarita made with ginger syrup and Korean pear juice.

After our order was taken, we received a customary warm oshibori (hot towel) to wipe our hands before lunch. We started with an appetizer of Soba Inari that arrived with two aburaage (fried tofu pouches) filled with thin boiled buckwheat noodles, scallion spirals, a dollop of spicy Japanese horseradish wasabi and little orange micro flowers. A pipette filled with ponzu sauce made the dish interactive as I could control how much sauce I wanted to enhance this dish.

Two other stunning dishes arrived adorned with flowers - a mini vegetable bowl was filled with

sticky sushi rice and a variety of chopped steamed vegetables and a mini Chirashi bowl, which I thoroughly enjoyed. In Japanese, Chirashi means scattered. On the bottom of the bowl is seasoned rice topped with raw fish, fish roe and tamagoyaki (a spongy egg garnish). Sesame seeds were sprinkled on top for textural diversity.

My sushi-loving friend Michelle ordered a sushi plate with 25 pieces of rolls and nigiri for \$40. Diners can select two rolls (eight pieces each) from California, spicy tuna and salmon avocado rolls. For nigiri, select from market fresh tuna, salmon, yellow tail, tamago, albacore, scallop, white fish or snow crab. A smaller plate is available for \$30.

Before leaving we each had a small mochi for dessert with a pot of green tea. I enjoyed the delicious black sesame mochi confection made from pounded sticky rice and filled with a pleasing sesame ice cream. It's spherical in shape and dusted with a powdery starch to keep it from sticking.

For the ultimate Japanese dining experience with million dollar views, Sora won't disappoint.

\$\$ Sora is open daily from noon to 8 p.m. On Saturdays and Sundays, the restaurant is open from 2 to 10 p.m. 900 Wilshire Blvd, 69th floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017, (213)688-7777.



photo by Jill Weinlein

The omakase sushi plate has 16 pieces of sushi rolls and 7 pieces of nigiri.

Restaurant News

From page 16

and Yard House. Tickets for designated drivers are \$10 and include entry to the beer zones and a bottle of water. A complimentary shuttle will be provided to and from hotels, and attendees who book a hotel through visiturbank.com will receive two free tickets to the festival. (866)899-6635, dtbur.com.

Bakers Will Bake benefit at Hollywood Farmers Market

On Sunday, Oct 22 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Roxana Jullapat of Friends & Family is hosting her annual fundraising bake sale at the Hollywood Farmers Market. This year's Bakers Will Bake benefit supports The Farm to Face Environmental STEAM Magnet at Thomas Starr

See Restaurant News page 17

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Restaurant News

from page 17

King Middle School. Jullapat and her fellow bakers have raised over \$25,000 for local, garden-based school programs over the past five years. The Hollywood Farmers Market is held at Ivar and Selma avenues, between Hollywood and Sunset boulevards. facebook.com/bakerswillbake.

Newport Beach Wine & Food Festival

Celebrity Chef Richard Blais will participate in the Newport Beach Wine & Food Festival at Waterline at the Balboa Bay Resort. Blais will be joined by Executive Chef Rachel Haggstrom for a special five-course dinner on Friday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. The intimate dining experience includes a menu of dungeness crab cakes, butternut squash soup, cavatelli pasta bolognese with sage and walnut, 72-hour short ribs and candy apples made with white chocolate and melted caramel over green apples with classic pan d'epice. For reservations, visit newportwineandfood.com. 221 Coast Highway, (949)645-5000.

New flavors at Astro Doughnuts & Fried Chicken

Celebrate National Pumpkin Month at Astro Doughnuts & Fried Chicken with square Pumpkin Pie doughnuts with pumpkin pastry cream, pumpkin spice glaze, orange sugar and vanilla buttercream. During fall, the downtown eatery is offering "candy

bars" made with a rich chocolate cake doughnuts with salted caramel glaze, crushed peanuts, crushed pretzels and caramel drizzle. The "candied apple" is a pillow doughnut with apple compote filling and apple cider glaze, dusted with sugar and torched. The circular coconut dream doughnut has a coconut cream glaze, toasted almond slivers and chocolate drizzle. 516 W. Sixth St., (213)622-7876.

Mr. Holmes Bakehouse

CEO Aaron Caddel of Mr. Holmes Bakehouse now has two Los Angeles locations, including a new shop on Larchmont Boulevard. Caddel created the sweet "oatcruffin" and California "sushi" croissant. A fall menu is debuting at the newly-opened Larchmont Village shop. 248 N. Larchmont Blvd., (213)712-6308; 101 N. Ave. 59, (323)739-0473.

Pre-theatre dining before Hamilton

Katsuya Hollywood offers a pre-show, prix fixe dinner menu for groups of eight or more. Menu highlights include edamame, crispy rice with spicy tuna, chicken teriyaki and assorted classic rolls such as baked crab and vegetable, tuna and salmon nigiri. Prices start at \$45 per person. Show theater tickets and receive a 15 percent discount on meals. 6300 Hollywood Blvd., (323)515-8782.

And Cleo post-show

Located steps from the Pantages Theater, Chef Danny Elmaleh's Cleo offers contemporary Mediterranean cuisine including sharable plates and flat-

bread to enjoy with a cocktail. The decor is a playful marriage of old Hollywood glamour and relaxed Mediterranean charm. Visit Cleo after seeing "Hamilton" at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre and receive 15 percent off the bill. 1717 Vine St., (323)962-1711.

Flower Child welcomes autumn

Flower Child, a healthy, fast-casual bohemian restaurant by Sam Fox, is celebrating fall with new dishes such as hearty vegetarian "Brussels and squash" salads made with arugula, roasted Brussels sprouts, butternut squash, organic apple, clementines, ancient grains, cranberries, goat cheese, sprouted almonds and chia seed vinaigrette. The vegan yuzu Brussels sprouts are prepared with golden miso and Thai basil. Fall bowls include wild mushroom pho and heirloom bean burrito bowls with quinoa chile beans, street corn, brown rice, tomato, avocado and guajillo salsa. 1332 Second St., (310)382-2901.

Support victims of Sonoma County wildfires

The residents of Sonoma County are awed and humbled by the emergency responders who answered the call during the area's recent wildfires, according to Tim Zahner, interim CEO of Sonoma County Tourism.

The fires, which are in the process of being contained, are burning along Sonoma County's eastern border near the communities of Sonoma Valley, Santa Rosa and Geyserville. Western and southern Sonoma County, as well as the Pacific coastline, have not been impacted.

"While the fires impacted a portion of Sonoma County, the vast majority of our scenic beauty, rolling vineyards, amazing wine and locally grown food remains intact," Zahner said.

Sonoma County Tourism has been flooded with well wishes and requests about how to help Sonoma County recover. While it's early in the process, Sonoma County Tourism is recommending ways to support recovery efforts.

People can donate to local nonprofits like North Bay Fire Relief by visiting redwoodcu.org/northbayfirerelief, and the Sonoma County Resilience Fund by visiting sonomacf.org/sonoma-county-resilience-fund. The organizations are collecting funds for people displaced or affected by the fires.

The public is also asked to continue support for Sonoma County wineries, breweries, cheese makers, farmers and local artisans. Purchasing products from Sonoma County help local families recover economically.

"If everyone who bought a bottle of Sonoma County wine last year donated the equivalent amount to relief efforts, it would go a long way to helping," Zahner said. "When the time is right, we're going to need you more than ever to visit and help Sonoma County's hospitality community get back to work. Our 20,000-plus tourism jobs are among small, locally owned businesses. We want to see you and welcome you to the Sonoma County we all love."

Zahner also urged visitors to contact hotels, restaurants and wineries before visiting. For information, visit sonomacounty.com/openforbiz.



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Submissions open for Art Directors Guild awards

Television and feature film submissions for the Art Directors Guild 22nd Annual Excellence in Production Design Awards have opened, with submissions set to close Nov. 9.

“Production Design in Animation: Celebrating 100 Years of Imagination” will be this year’s theme as the guild debuts its new award category, Excellence in Production Design for an Animated Feature Film.

The awards also honor production design in theatrical motion pictures, television, commercials and music videos.

The awards gala will take place on Jan. 27 at the Ray Dolby Ballroom at Hollywood & Highland.

For more information, visit artdirectors.org.



Highly anticipated ‘Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors’ opens at The Broad

The Broad has announced a schedule of performances and film screenings inspired by its upcoming special exhibition, “Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors,” the first institutional survey to explore the evolution of the celebrated Japanese artist’s immersive “Infinity Mirror Rooms.”

The exhibition will provide visitors with a unique opportunity to experience six of Kusama’s infinity rooms – the artist’s most iconic kaleidoscopic environments – alongside large-scale installations, paintings, sculptures and works on paper from the early 1950s to the present. The artworks contextualize the profound role the concept of self-obliteration, connectivity and infinity have played in the artist’s work. “Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors” will be on view from Saturday, Oct. 21 through Jan. 1.

“Through our Kusama exhibition-related programming, The Broad intends to expand our visitors’ understanding of the context in which Kusama’s ‘Infinity Mirror Rooms’ came about,” said Ed Patuto, director of audience engagement for The Broad. “Throughout Kusama’s career, her

political, spiritual and aesthetic interests have manifested in diverse forms. The Broad’s programming will provide opportunities to experience the breadth of Kusama’s creative practice through films of her performances, as well as through performances by artists like the Joshua Light Show, Ron Athey and Sean Griffin, who engage similar concerns of self-obliteration, repetition and radical connection.”

In conjunction with the exhibition, The Broad will present “Joshua Light Show” with live musical performances by Lesley Flanigan, Miho Hitori’s New Optimism and Noveller. An immersive environment of light and sound will be created in the spirit of Kusama’s self-obliteration performances. The performances will be held in Oculus Hall at The Broad, 221 S. Grand Ave., downtown.

Tickets will also include timed-admission to the “Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors” exhibition.

The Broad will also present looped screenings of short



© Yayoi Kusama, Courtesy of David Zwirner, N.Y.

Yayoi Kusama, Infinity Mirrored Room - The Souls of Millions of Light Years Away, 2013.

films capturing many of Kusama’s iconic 1960s performances, as well as more recent short films of Kusama singing, performing and reciting poems, on select Thursdays and Saturdays throughout the run of the exhibition. The films provide insight into the role performance has played in Kusama’s practice throughout her career.

Following the conclusion of the exhibition, The Broad will continue its exploration of Kusama’s work through the premiere of Ron Athey and Sean Griffin’s “Gifts of The Spirit: Prophecy, Automatism and Discernment.”

For information and tickets to all “Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors” exhibition programs, visit thebroad.org/programs.



photo courtesy of Antonio's on Melrose

Antonio's on Melrose celebrates Dia de los Muertos

Antonio’s on Melrose is celebrating the Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) festival from Saturday, Oct. 28 through Thursday, Nov. 2, offering special dishes, breads and treats in observance of the holiday, which originated in Mexico.

Dia de los Muertos honors loved ones who have passed away, and the holiday is traditionally celebrated with dishes such as chicken or enchiladas with molé sauce, and chicken pipian. The festive holiday is marked by colorful decorations, flowers and costumes, as well as skeletons and skulls, said Irma Rodriguez, whose father Antonio Gutierrez founded Antonio’s on Melrose in 1970.

Dia de los Muertos has started early at Antonio’s on Melrose with an altar created by Rodriguez. Guests are invited to add photographs of loved ones who have passed away to the altar.

Antonio’s on Melrose is located at 7470 Melrose Ave. For information, call (323)658-9060, or visit antoniosonmelrose.com.

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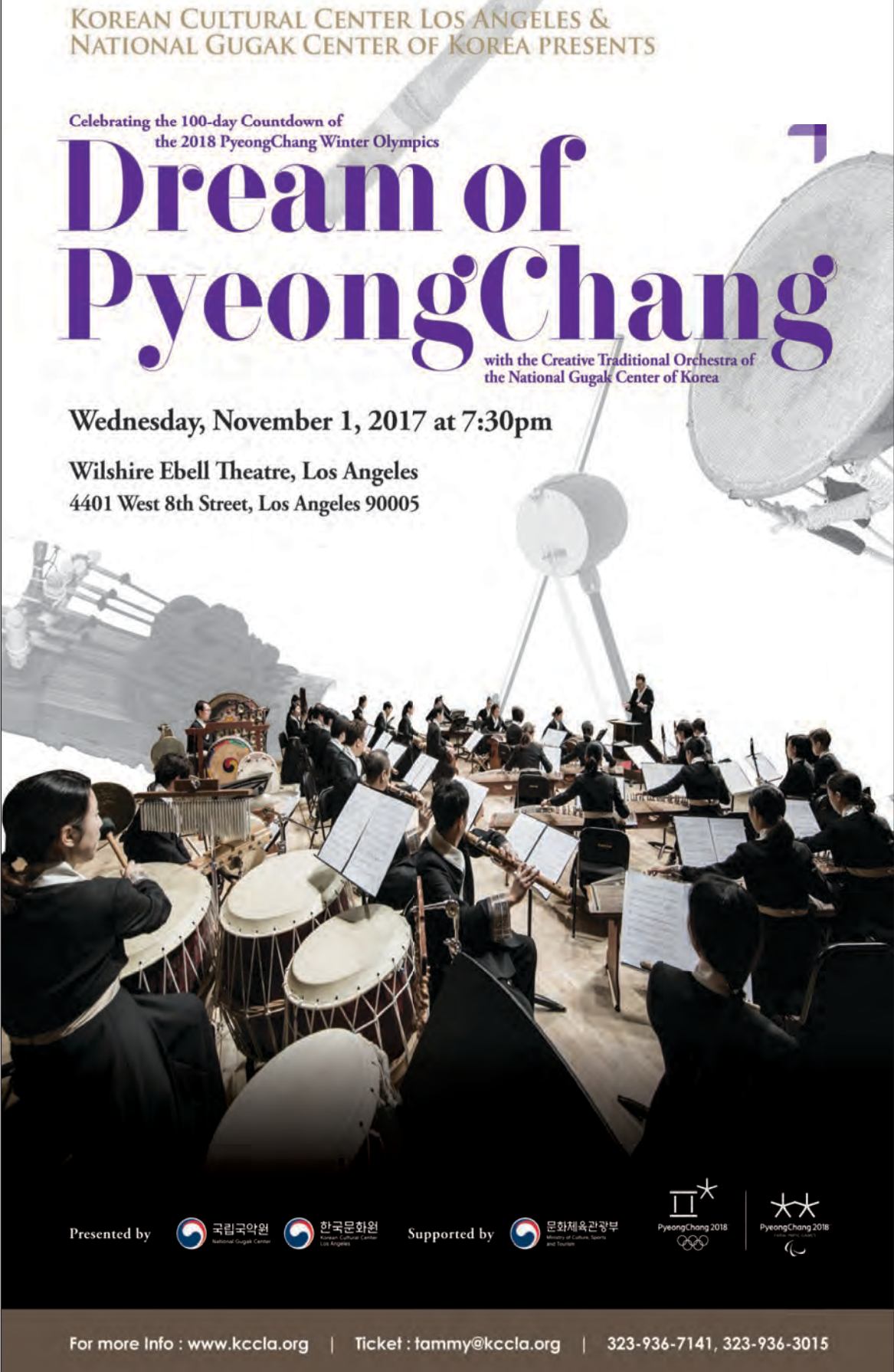
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Halloween horror flicks 'The Babysitter' and 'Gerald's Game' now on Netflix

"Gerald's Game"

Having marriage troubles? Don't watch this film with your spouse. The third Stephen King film adaptation this year, "Gerald's Game" approaches horror from a different point of view. Take a break from ghosts, boogymen and billionaires trying to purge the marginalized. This one's all about the slow burn, a horror-drama that's all too timely right now.

The Burlingame's marriage is on the outs. Their fix: a weekend getaway involving handcuffs and husband Gerald's (Bruce Greenwood) warped sex fantasy. Things quickly get to be too much for wife Jessie (Carla Gugino), but that's not the only problem at hand when hubs falls over dead from a heart attack, leaving his betrothed cuffed to a very sturdy bed.

The nearest neighbor is miles away, and the front door – wide open – is primed to welcome unwanted company, including a stray dog that Jessie previously tried to befriend. Dehydrated and weak, Jessie's mind wanders, causing to her question if she's truly alone in the house or if perhaps an unwanted quest lingers.

This isn't a traditional horror film. In place of jump scares and sadism – though be warned, one particular moment might make you dry-heave or at least turn your head – the torment on screen occurs mostly in Jessie's head. Restricted to a bed, she confronts her past and interacts with versions of herself and Gerald in her mind.

The effect is potent. Frankly, it's shocking no one has tried to adapt this one into a stage play before.

Gerald's name might be in the title, but this is Jessie's show. We watch as Gugino plays herself and an idealized, more confident apparition calmly explaining how best to survive and break free. Gugino is an unsung heroine of the

acting community, a constant success story in any film or television role she takes on. It's a delight to see her depict multiple characters, who work their way through past and now present trauma.

For a second time, director Mike Flanagan ("Hush," "Ouija: Origin of Evil") creates a masterful piece of horror cinema for Netflix. Like "Hush," which only featured four characters in a home-invasion story, he enjoys a small cast; only a small handful of actors have speaking parts in "Gerald's Game."

This trend will likely end soon, however, come Flanagan's next project with Netflix, 2018's "The Haunting of a Hill House," a television series based on the 1959 novel which will also star Gugino and Flanagan's wife Kate Siegel, who stars in "Hush" and "Gerald's Game."

As far as Stephen King adaptations go, "Gerald's Theme" is more drama than edge-of-the-seat thrills. But that shouldn't discount the film as a worthy horror film contribution. It serves as a splendid reminder that monsters don't need fangs or a butcher's knife. Sometimes, the worst enemy dwells within, untouchable by even an exorcist's holy water.

"The Babysitter"

Ever wonder what the babysitter did while you cozily slept upstairs? She had a few friends over for a round of spin-the-bottle and then a ritual murder, according to "The Babysitter," a horror-comedy that's just as campy as it is violent.

Cole (Judah Lewis) is the only 12-year-old he knows who still has a babysitter. That's not shocking since he has a lot of maturing to do. Overwhelmed by anxiety and fear of everyday occurrences, he feels most safe around his parents and sitter, Bee (Samara Weaving), the love of his life. When his parents go

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

away for an evening, he wonders what happens downstairs while he slumbers.

He chose the wrong night to check things out. Learning that Bee is not a kindhearted caregiver, young Cole must find a way to survive encounters with high school personalities like star quarterback Max (Robbie Amel), cheerleader Allison (Bella Thorne), comic-relief artist John (Andrew Bachelor) and Sonya (Hana Mae Lee), who makes killer cookies to complement the hunting knife she wields when chasing preteens.

Director McG throws his name behind TV series "Supernatural," "Chuck," and "Lethal Weapon," most of which turn out well. But his directing career, including both "Charlie's Angels," drowns in mediocrity. So when I say "The



photo courtesy of Netflix

Samara Weaving portrays Bee in the new horror film, "The Babysitter."

"Babysitter" is one of his best films to date, that's both a compliment and a bit damning.

In better hands, this material would be funnier and have the charm of horror-comedy legends like "Shaun of the Dead," and "The Cabin in the Woods." Helmed by McG, it's watchable with easy punchlines and stereotypes about

millennials.

Still, there's something to be said about a film easily enjoyed with the right company and the right drink. From the opening scene, it includes a fair share of wit (or at least attempts at wit), and things go south for our protagonist. It's a laughably bloody mess in a mostly good way.

City seeks input on 2020 General Plan update

For the first time in nearly 50 years, the city of Los Angeles is undertaking a comprehensive update to its General Plan and is seeking input from residents and stakeholders.

The initiative, OurLA2040, will result in a new 20-year citywide plan to be adopted in 2020 that will implement policies for a more prosperous, livable and sustainable city.

To launch OurLA2040, a series of community meetings are being held throughout the city. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

A meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to noon at the West Angeles Senior Villas, Community Room, 6030 Crenshaw Blvd.; and on Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Emerson College, Assembly Room, 5960 Sunset Blvd.

For information, visit ourla2040.org.

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Guest speakers:
Phil Ansell, Director of the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative
Alisa Orduña, Homelessness Policy Director, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
Kerry Morrison, Prop HHH Oversight Committee
Tommy Newman, United Way of Greater LA, Home for Good
Veronica Arteaga, Vice President Housing Programs, St. Anne's
 Moderator: **Jill Bauman**, CEO, Imagine LA

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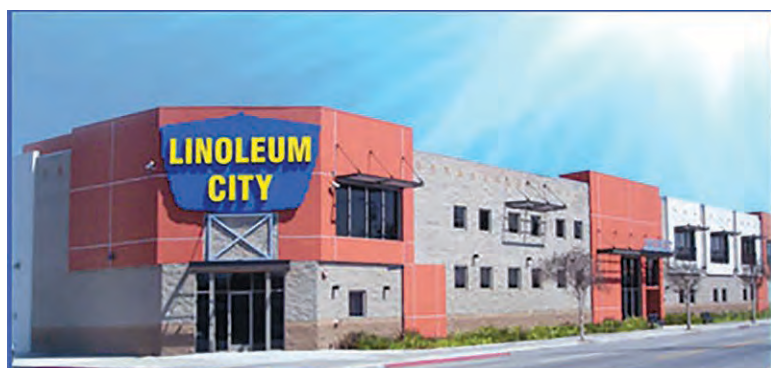
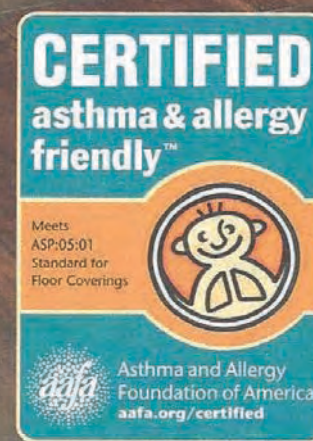
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Mr. Biden goes to Beverly Hills

Former Vice President Joe Biden is coming to Beverly Hills as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Saban Theatre.

“Vice President Joe Biden’s appearance could not have come at a more relevant time,” said Distinguished Speaker Series Co-Founder Kathy Winterhalder.

“Over the years, we have made it a point to bring world renowned and sought-after speakers to our stages. We have brought to Southern California some of the greatest leaders of our time including Margaret Thatcher, Bill Clinton, Mikhail Gorbachev, Tony Blair, F.W. DeKlerk and the Dalai Lama, to name a few.”

Biden served as 47th vice president of the United States with President Obama from 2009 to 2017. Before that, he was a U.S. senator representing Delaware from 1973 until assuming the vice presidency.

In his time as a senator, Biden served on the Judiciary Committee as chairman presiding over U.S. Supreme Court confirmations, and on the Foreign Relations Committee working on issues such as arms control.

He made a bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1987 and 2007, before joining the Democratic ticket as vice president. Under the Obama administration, Biden oversaw infrastructure spending to help offset the Great Recession, as well as U.S. policy in Iraq that ended with the exit of U.S. troops in 2011.

He also took on issues such as gun violence, equality in the judicial system and improved foreign policy. He fought for a stronger middle class, violence against



Former Vice President Joe Biden

women and fighting cancer. Before leaving office, Obama presented Biden with the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction – the country’s highest civilian honor.

The Distinguished Speaker Series will be held at the Saban Theatre, 8440 Wilshire Blvd., in Beverly Hills. Each program begins at 7 p.m.

Biden is the first of six speakers offered as part of the series. He will be followed by Bill Nye on Nov. 26, Ted Koppel on Jan. 21, former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard on Feb. 18, travel expert Rick Steves on March 11 and basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar on May 6. Abdul-Jabbar’s evening will conclude with a half-hour candid question and answer session.

The series is only available in subscription packages ranging from \$260 to \$475. For information and to purchase tickets, call (310)546-6222 or visit speakersla.com.

Acclaimed Korean opera makes U.S. premiere

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles and Los Angeles Korean-American Musicians Association will present a special performance of “Opera Yun Dong-ju” on Friday, Oct. 20, at 7:30 p.m. on the third floor of the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles in the Ari Hall.

“Opera Yun Dong-ju” is an original Korean opera that is based on the life story of Korean poet Yun Dong-ju. His life is vividly depicted through his poems, which are set to music by Korean composer Gon Hwang.

Under Japanese rule of Korea in 1943, Yun was arrested as a thought criminal by the Japanese police and was imprisoned in Japan until he died, six months before Korea gained independence in 1945.

Three collections of his handwritten manuscripts were published posthumously in 1948 as “The Sky and the Wind and the Stars and Poetry.” Consequently, Yun came into the spotlight as a resistance poet of the late occupation period.

After the show premiered in



Illustration courtesy of KCCLA

Japan in 2014, LAKMA introduced the opera’s music to the American audience by performing highlights of the opera at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in 2015. The profound messages and artistic presentations of the opera were highly praised by the audience.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Yun, the

full production of this opera will premiere in the U.S. at the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles.

English subtitles and program notes in English will be provided for the non-Korean-speaking audience. For information, contact Tammy Chung at tammy@kccla.org, or call (323)936-3015. To make reservations, visit kccla.org.

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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. 29 and Oct. 15. The information was compiled from www.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. 29

At 3:15 p.m., an identity theft was reported in the 9200 block of Beverly Drive.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of S. Wetherly Drive at 3:30 p.m. The loss was estimated at \$25.

Oct. 1

An identity theft was reported in the 200 block of S. Swall Drive at 12:01 a.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of Daniels Drive. The loss was estimated at \$200.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of S. Wetherly Drive at 9:30 p.m. The loss was estimated at \$200.

Oct. 2

At 7 a.m., an identity theft was reported in the 9900 block of Robbins Drive. The loss was estimated at \$100.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. Willaman Drive at 11:17 p.m. The loss was estimated at \$31,200.

At 3:36 p.m., an identity theft was reported in the 1400 block of Clara Ridge Road.

Oct. 3

At 11:16 a.m., two unknown female unknown male suspect committed a grand theft in the 9900 block of S. Santa Monica. The suspects were approximately 5 feet 4 inches to 5 feet 6 inches tall and 120 to 180 pounds.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9700 block of Santa Monica at 7:10 p.m. The suspect was approximately 5 feet 8 inches tall and 170 pounds.

At 8:51 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9200 block of Olympic.

Oct. 4

An identity theft was reported in the 600 block of N. Beverly Drive at 8:56 a.m.

At 9:45 p.m., an unknown male suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Wilshire. The suspect was approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall and 140 pounds.

An unknown male suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of S. Beverly Drive at 10:05 a.m. The suspect was approximately 5 feet 8 inches tall. The loss was estimated at \$3,000.

Oct. 5

An unknown male suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Beverly Drive at 10:25 a.m. The loss was estimated at \$6,400.

At noon, an unknown suspect

committed a burglary in the 500 block of Usher Place. The loss was estimated at \$1,790.

An unknown male suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo Drive at 3:45 p.m. The suspect was approximately 5 feet 2 inches tall and 120 pounds. The loss was estimated at \$3,650.

Oct. 6

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of S. Oakhurst Drive at 8:40 a.m. The loss was estimated at \$20.

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of S. Almont Drive. The loss was estimated at \$35,100.

An unknown female suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of N. Canon Drive at 3:30 p.m. The suspect was approximately 5 feet 5 inches tall and 175 pounds.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. Gale Drive. The loss was estimated at \$200.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. La Cienega at 7:20 p.m. The loss was estimated at \$4,040.

Oct. 7

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1500 block of Loma Vista Drive. The loss was estimated at \$1,600.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of Maple Drive at 6:30 p.m. The loss was estimated at \$6,100.

Oct. 8

At 6:42 a.m., an unknown male suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of Oakhurst Drive. The suspect was approximately 24 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall and 165 pounds.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 9100 block of Olympic at 4 p.m. The loss was estimated at \$50.

At 5:48 p.m., three unknown male suspects committed a grand theft in the 9600 block of Wilshire. The loss was estimated at \$4,775.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary near the corner of S. Wetherly Drive and Olympic at 5:50 p.m. The loss was estimated at \$100.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

Oct. 9

At 2:36 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Hilldale and Santa Monica.

Oct. 10

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Hayworth.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in

the 1000 block of La Cienega at 3:50 a.m.

At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7700 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8200 block of Sunset at 8 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8600 block of Santa Monica.

Oct. 11

At 1:52 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1300 block of N. Laurel.

Oct. 12

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 12:45 a.m.

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a bicycle near the corner of San Vicente and Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8400 block of Santa Monica at 5:30 p.m.

At 8:10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Harper and Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 700 block of N. La Cienega at 10:46 p.m.

Oct. 13

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7600 block of Santa Monica at 2:05 a.m.

At 10:10 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8500 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8700 block of Shoreham at 1 p.m.

At 8:35 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Greenacre and Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8400 block of Holloway at 8:55 p.m.

Oct. 14

At 6:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of N. Sweetzer.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of Kings at 9 a.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 7:54 p.m.

Oct. 15

At 2:20 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Spaulding and Santa Monica.

Los Angeles Police Department

Oct. 7

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 500 block of Alandale at noon.

At 11:15 p.m., an unknown suspect snatched a purse from a victim near the corner of Fourth and Cloverdale.

Oct. 8

At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of

Poinsettia and Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of De Longpre and Mansfield at 11:40 a.m.

At 11:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. Cloverdale.

Oct. 9

At 12:50 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 6300 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 900 block of N. Las Palmas at 9 a.m.

At 10:20 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1600 block of N. Highland.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of S. Western at 11 a.m.

At 11:30 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of La Cienega and Third.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Sycamore at 7:30 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of S. Orange.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6300 block of Hollywood at 8 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of Seward.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7000 block of Lanewood at 10 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Selma and Schrader.

Oct. 10

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Wilshire and Crenshaw.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 400 block of S. Cochran at 6:45 a.m.

At 6:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 4600 block of W. Olympic.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 500 block of S. Fairfax at 5 p.m.

At 8:10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of June.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6800 block of Waring at 8:45 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 600 block of S. Wilton.

An attempted robbery was reported near the corner of Vine and Willoughby at 11:35 p.m.

Oct. 11

At 12:05 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Hollywood and Las Palmas.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of N. Ridgewood Place at 8 a.m.

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Bronson and Hollywood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of De Longpre and Wilcox at 10:30 a.m.

At 11:40 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of N. Lucerne.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1600 block of Schrader at 1:30 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of S. La Brea.

Oct. 12

At 12:50 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 7600 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6700 block of Hollywood at 12:30 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7700 block of Rosewood.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Third and Arden at 3:35 p.m.

At 7:25 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of N. Sierra Bonita.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of N. McCadden Place at 8:30 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of La Brea and Sixth.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 700 block of N. Alfred at 9 p.m.

At 9:15 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 5600 block of Wilshire.

Oct. 13

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Gower and Harold.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Hollywood and Vine at 1 a.m.

At 3 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of El Centro and Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Sunset and Highland at 5:30 p.m.

At 11:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 6300 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Romaine and Martel at 11:45 p.m.

Oct. 14

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Hawthorn and Orange at 2:45 a.m.

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7900 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 6300 block of Drexel at 1 p.m.

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 800 block of S. Cochran.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7400 block of Melrose at 7:45 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Waring and Fuller.

Oct. 15

At 12:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Vine and Yucca.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of S. Ogden at 12:30 a.m.

VINTAGE
PARKLABREA NEWS

Brush fire erupts in Griffith Park



Smoke billowed above Griffith Park and the Hollywood Hills in this photograph from the May 10, 2007, issue of the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press. The blaze burned more than 800 acres and it took firefighters more than two days to extinguish the flames. The fire threatened landmarks such as the Griffith Observatory and The Greek Theatre, both of which were spared from the inferno. A brush fire burned approximately three-quarters of an acre of land on a hillside southwest of the observatory on Oct. 15, and other wildfires have recently caused widespread damage throughout the state. The Los Angeles Fire Department is warning the public to be cognizant of the potential for wildfires during the current dry and warm conditions. For information, see page 4.

Learn about the fight to end homelessness at The Ebell

Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) will address "Ending Homelessness in Los Angeles" as the keynote speaker at the Ebell of Los Angeles on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

Bloom's keynote speech is at 8:30 a.m. and will focus on homeless programs at the state level. The discussion runs through 10 a.m. and will feature a panel of five experts who will explore the state of homelessness in the county and city of Los Angeles. Attendees will receive information on how to take action.

Jill Bauman, CEO of Imagine LA, will moderate the discussion with Phil Ansell, director of the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative; Alisa Orduna, homeless-

ness policy director in the Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Kerry Morrison, of the Proposition HHH Oversight Committee; Tommy Newman, director of public affairs for the United Way Greater LA/Home for Good; and Veronica Arteaga, of St. Anne's Housing Programs. The meeting will also focus on the impact of Propositions H and HHH, which guarantee funds for housing and programs helping homeless individuals. The Ebell of Los Angeles is located at 743 S. Lucerne Blvd. Tickets are free and include breakfast. Doors open at 8 a.m. RSVP requested by calling (323)931-1277, ext. 131, or emailing tickets@ebelloflosangeles.com.

Music Center festival showcases students with disabilities

More than 100 schools from all over Los Angeles County will take part in The Music Center's 39th annual Very Special Arts Festival on Friday, Oct. 20. The free festival gives students of all abilities the opportunity to celebrate their artistic achievements, explore the arts and connect with one another along with their mainstream peers.

The festival will feature on-stage performances by 40 student groups throughout the morning in front of The Music Center's Walt Disney Concert Hall. For many, this is their first performance in a public setting.

Additionally, the event will

include visual and performing arts workshops – including workshops led by students from local high schools and a display of hundreds of pieces of student artwork based on the festival's theme, "Connecting Our Stories."

Students will also enjoy performances by Filipino Cultural Group Kayamanan Ng Lahi, magician Allen Oshiro, dance lessons, face painting, stilt walkers, mimes and more.

The event runs from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Music Center's Walt Disney Concert Hall is located at 111 S. Grand Ave. For information, visit musiccenter.org.

The Petersen offers a look at Italian design

The Petersen Automotive Museum has teamed with Maserati for an interactive new exhibit that will provide guests with an opportunity to examine how an elite Italian automobile is manufactured. "Made in Italy," which opened earlier in October, details the process of bringing the Maserati Levante luxury SUV to market.

The exhibit will include five rooms, each representing a different stage in the production line: raw materials, bare body shell, drivetrain, trims and finishes, and the final product.

With interactive tools in each room, visitors will find themselves immersed in an educational experience. Cutaways located throughout the exhibit will offer mechanical details, and describe the undertaking of research, manufacturing and logistics required to develop the vehicle.

Founded in 1914 in Bologna, Maserati is internationally acclaimed for designing and manufacturing sports and luxury cars that exude Italian style. The Petersen's new "Made in Italy" exhibit will follow the success of the extremely popular "Design the Line" display in 2015, which featured the 2016 Quattroporte S Q4.

Named after the Mediterranean wind, Levante marks the luxury sports car manufacturer's entrée into the SUV sector. Available in North America since September 2016, the mid-size SUV has already surpassed segment standards with the usage of lightweight materials, 50:50 weight distribution and the lowest center of gravity among competitors.

"Our 'Made in Italy' experience is intended to be both compelling and informative," said Petersen Executive Director Terry L. Karges. "We are inspired by Maserati's commitment to creating



photo courtesy of Maserati

The exhibit explores how the Maserati Levante luxury SUV was manufactured and marketed.

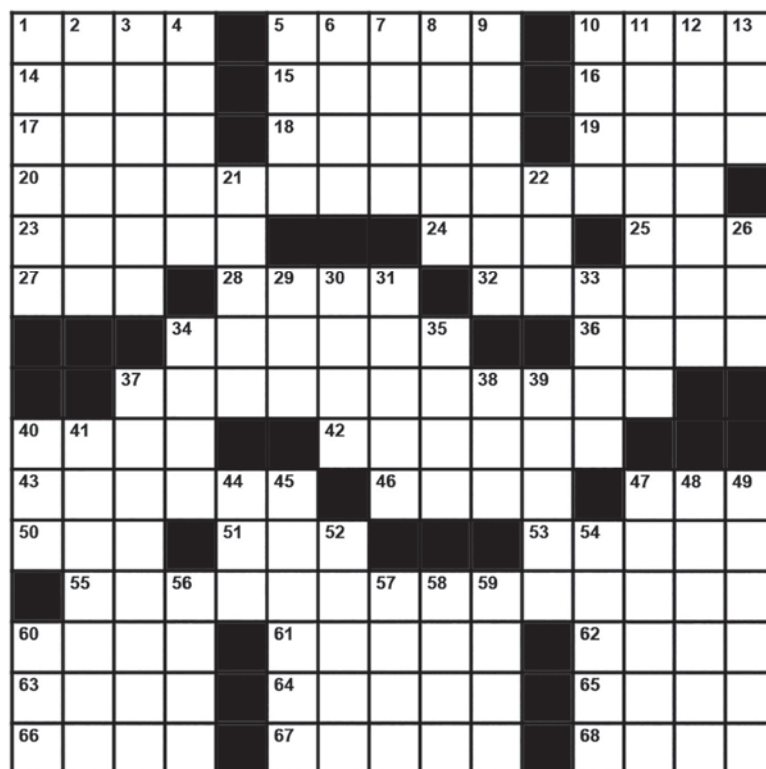
dream cars and want our guests to see the brand's process of turning dreams into reality."

To learn more about the Petersen

Automotive Museum, visit petersen.org. For more information about Maserati, visit

maseratiusa.com.

Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor



Across

- 1. Lance
- 5. Refuse
- 10. Recipe amt.
- 14. It's often hard to live up to
- 15. Sound
- 16. Sea World attraction
- 17. Middle Eastern ruler
- 18. Boiled breakfast dish
- 19. Cultivate
- 20. Marinara, for one
- 23. Anklebones
- 24. Mont Blanc part
- 25. Fraternity party staple
- 27. None's opposite
- 28. Be skittish
- 32. Veneer
- 34. Garam ___ (Indian spice mixture)
- 36. Old Soviet Union
- 37. Middle Eastern appetizer, with many spellings
- 40. Wrapped garment
- 42. Organized protests
- 43. Coral islands
- 46. Kosher-style store
- 47. In the style of
- 50. Jabber
- 51. Body part
- 53. Gun, of a kind
- 55. Lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, cucumbers and peppers, perhaps
- 60. Maths term
- 61. Letter-perfect
- 62. Drift
- 63. ___ of Man
- 64. On and off items
- 65. Willing to consider new ideas
- 66. Ophthalmologic concern
- 67. Eliminate
- 68. Snug retreat

Down

- 1. Mount in the Cascades
- 2. Percussion instrument
- 3. Bee colony
- 4. Frozen floaters
- 5. Zoo structure
- 6. Distress
- 7. Underground passage
- 8. Naturally belong
- 9. Paleontologist's find
- 10. Vegetarian staple
- 11. Neither freshwater nor marine
- 12. Shields
- 13. Nonstick spray brand
- 21. Muslim woman's veil
- 22. Court group
- 26. Needlefish
- 29. Red-white-and-blue inits.
- 30. Periodical publications
- 31. Checkered
- 33. Disorder
- 34. Armor
- 35. ___ chamber
- 37. Not in a flowing manner
- 38. Olive or castor
- 39. Individual items
- 40. Articulate
- 41. Throwback
- 44. Florida county
- 45. Lampoon
- 47. Not even
- 48. Goes off
- 49. Passionate
- 52. Cockpit device
- 54. Sorkin of "The West Wing"
- 56. Clarified butter of India
- 57. Rabbi's rostrum
- 58. Pool exercise
- 59. Ultimatum ender
- 60. Your mother's daughter

LA Phil showcases global talent



photo by Shai Skiff

The Los Angeles Philharmonic's 2017-18 season will feature visiting orchestras from around the world, performing at the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall.

These concerts begin with the anticipated venue debut of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, led by Riccardo Muti in an all-Brahms program, on Oct. 22. Zubin Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra come to the stage on Oct. 30 with soloist Yefim Bronfman for an evening of Viennese Romanticism and music from the 2011 Israeli film "Footnote."

And on Nov. 1, the Mariinsky Orchestra with Valery Gergiev will play a selection of 20th-century Russian masterworks, including Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto.

For information, visit LAPhil.com.

Join a bewitching, Halloween charity race to fight cancer

Witches, monsters, ghosts and goblins will be haunting the 20th annual L.A. Cancer Challenge on Sunday, Oct. 29, on the UCLA campus to raise awareness for pancreatic cancer research.

The LACC – one of the largest charity races in Southern California – will host upwards of 3,000 runners and walkers dressed in festive Halloween costumes. Participants will walk or run the 5K, 10K or 15K to show unity in finding a cure for a disease that has the highest mortality rate of all major cancers and is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States.

For two decades, the Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research has sponsored and produced the annual Halloween charity race.

The LACC highlights include a hair-raising Fit Family Expo, a Halloween Candyland Kids Zone, a

Kids Can Cure Fun Run, celebrities, live course entertainment, a Children's Halloween Parade and Adult Costume Contest.

Registration includes a 20th anniversary commemorative long sleeve shirt and swag bag, custom finisher's medal, custom runners bib and chip-timed event.

Proceeds from the LACC will benefit the Hirshberg Foundation's philanthropic efforts to advancing pancreatic cancer research and providing information, resources and support to pancreatic cancer patients and their families. To date, the LACC has raised more than \$7.3 million for pancreatic cancer research.

The event starts at 7 a.m. Registration until Oct. 27 costs \$50 for attendees and \$20 for children ages 2 to 7. Late registration starting on Oct. 28 costs \$55 and \$25 for children ages 2 to 7. For information, visit support.pancreatic.org.

Volunteers sought for PrEP study

PrEP might be increasingly popular among gay and bisexual men but has yet to catch on with transgender and gender non-conforming people, according to the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

That's why the center is seeking volunteers for a study to understand why the drug remains less popular among certain groups, particularly among transgender women, a population with a high rate of HIV infection.

This is the first PrEP study focused specifically on transgender and gender non-conforming people. Participants will be monitored during the time they take the HIV prevention pill and compensated for their time.

"It's a population that is at very high risk for HIV infection," said

Risa Flynn, the center's health services senior research manager. "But there's some reluctance to be on PrEP or be part of the study at all. What we've found with studies like this is it takes time for word of mouth to spread."

PrEP involves taking a pill called Truvada that can prevent HIV from infecting healthy cells. The regimen requires taking one pill a day.

Participants, like any patient taking PrEP, will have regular lab tests conducted to make sure their kidneys are healthy and that the pill isn't having any adverse effects on their general health. Survey participants will also be asked about their behavioral health.

The study will also provide routine testing for HIV and sexually transmitted infections and look at

The Wallis debuts 'Feathers of Fire: A Persian Epic'

After sold-out performances at Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and UCLA's Freud Playhouse, the shadow play "Feathers of Fire: A Persian Epic" makes its debut at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, Oct. 20, and runs through Sunday, Oct. 29.

Conceived, designed and directed by Hamid Rahmanian, "Feathers of Fire" was inspired by "Shahnameh," the 10th-century book of epic Persian poetry. Using shadow puppetry to create live animation on a cinema-size screen, the tale follows a pair of star-crossed lovers, Zaul and Rudabeh.

Utilizing eight actors, 160 puppets, and 15 masks and costumes, each performance will be followed by a live 20-minute behind-the-scenes presentation exploring the technique of shadow puppetry.

Also at The Wallis, catch "Turn Me Loose," a play about activist and comic Dick Gregory. The show was extended through



photo courtesy of The Wallis

Hamid Rahmanian is shown with a puppet from "Feathers of Fire," which opens on Oct. 20 at The Wallis.

Sunday, Nov. 19, due to popular demand.

Single tickets for "Feathers of Fire" are now available from \$35 to \$125, and for "Turn Me Loose" tickets are from \$60 to \$75. For more information or to purchase

tickets, visit thewallis.org, call (310)746-4000, or stop by in person at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills. Ticket prices subject to change.

Academy's Tech Council adds seven members

Nafees Bin Zafar, Maryann Brandon, Bill Corso, Andrea Kalas, Ai-Ling Lee, Leon Silverman and Steve Yedlin have accepted invitations to join the Science and Technology Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, bringing the Council's 2017-18 membership roster to 25.

Nafees Bin Zafar, a technology development supervisor at Digital Domain, has worked in live-action visual effects and feature animation for the past 17 years. He received a 2007 Academy Scientific and Engineering Award for his work on the development of Digital Domain's fluid simulation system, and a 2014 Academy Technical Achievement Award for the development of large-scale destruction simulation systems.

Film editor Maryann Brandon earned an Oscar nomination for her work on "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." Her credits include such films as "Star Trek," "Star Trek Into Darkness" and "Passengers," and she is currently working on the feature "The Darkest Minds" for 20th Century Fox.

Bill Corso is an Oscar-winning makeup artist and designer, whose

recent credits include "Deadpool," "Kong: Skull Island," "Bladerunner 2049" and the upcoming "Star Wars: The Last Jedi." His desire to bridge the gap between practical, on-set makeup and digital technology led him to create Digital Makeup Group (DMG), specializing in CG beauty work, age manipulation and makeup effects done from an expert makeup artist's perspective.

Andrea Kalas, vice president of archives at Paramount Pictures, has restored or preserved more than 2,000 films and is a technical innovator in systems for digital preservation and archive-based analytics. She also is a public advocate for preservation and film history through the Association of Moving Image Archivists, where she currently serves as president.

Born in Singapore, sound designer Ai-Ling Lee earned Oscar nominations for Sound Editing and Sound Mixing for "La La Land." Her credits include "Buena Vista Social Club," "Spider-Man 2," "Transformers: Dark of the Moon," "Godzilla," "Wild," "Deadpool" and "Battle of the Sexes." She has been a member of the Academy's Sound Branch since 2014.

As Walt Disney digital studio general manager, Leon Silverman oversees digital studio services, which provide post production on-lot infrastructure, mastering, digital distribution services and workflow expertise. He is a past president and founder of the Hollywood Professional Association, a trade association focused on the professional media content creation industry.

Steve Yedlin is a cinematographer best known for his collaboration with director Rian Johnson on his films "Brick," "The Brothers Bloom," "Looper" and "Star Wars: The Last Jedi." He has made ongoing contributions to industry technical awareness and education with his short film demos, papers and seminars.

Established in 2003 by the Academy's Board of Governors, the Science and Technology Council provides a forum for the exchange of information, promotes cooperation among diverse technological interests within the industry, sponsors publications, fosters educational activities, and preserves the history of the science and technology of motion pictures.

For more information, visit oscars.org/learn/science-technology.

whether Truvada has an impact on hormones.

The only eligibility requirements are that someone be 18 years or older, identify as transgender or gender non-conforming and be sexually active and HIV-negative. Flynn said the study is a "win-win" for those who choose to participate.

Participants will receive daily text messages to remind them to take their PrEP. They will be asked to text back after they take the drug. If they miss three doses, they will get a phone call from a member of the study team to discuss ways to improve adherence.

A separate component of the study will focus on whether participants are having employment, housing or substance use issues and whether they have access to a primary care physician.

Anyone interested in participating in the study can call (323)993-8919 or email copalo@lalgbtcenter.org.

L.A. High School celebrates 100th anniversary

Los Angeles High School will celebrate its 100th anniversary at 4650 W. Olympic Blvd. with "A Roman Renaissance" on Friday, Oct. 20 and Saturday, Oct. 21.

The celebration kicks off on Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. with an L.A. High School football game at the high school's Housh Field. The game will include an all-alumni half-time show.

On Saturday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m., a celebrity gala fundraiser will be held in the Bruce Meyer Family Gallery at the Petersen Automotive Museum, 6060 Wilshire Blvd. The gallery is named after the Petersen's founding chairman, Meyer, a lifelong automobile enthusiast, collector and Los Angeles High School alum. The event will feature access to the muse-

um, surprise performances and a "Roman feast," provided by Drago Ristorante.

The gala will also honor L.A. High alumni including actor and activist George Takei; singer and songwriter Siedah Garrett; magician, entertainer Magic Castle founder Milt Larsen; and Gerry Brown, a Grammy Award-winning recording engineer and producer who is credited on over 47 platinum and gold records.

Tickets for the gala are \$150 and include entrance to the museum, dinner, walk around magicians, a photo booth and the awards show. All proceeds support programs at Los Angeles High School. For information and tickets, visit harrisonlahs.org/trust-event.

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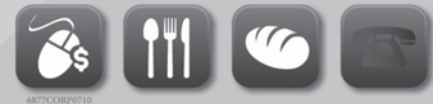
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Hollywood Museum hosts 'Dungeon of Doom'



photo courtesy of the Hollywood Museum

Throughout October, The Hollywood Museum will be showcasing its famous "Dungeon of Doom." The exhibit includes sets, props and costumes from some of Hollywood's scariest and most-memorable film and television programs.

Visitors get a close look at featured cult-classic villains such as Freddy Krueger from "Nightmare on Elm Street," Jason Voorhees from "Friday the 13th" and Chucky from "Child's Play." They can also walk through Hannibal Lecter's jail cell from "Silence of the Lambs" and see movie and TV props from "The Exorcist," "The Birds," "The Mummy" and "The Walking Dead," among many other shows.

The museum is located at 1660 N. Highland Ave., at Hollywood Blvd. For information and tickets, visit thehollywoodmuseum.com.

Metro extends contest to name subway tunnel boring machines

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority has extended a deadline to Nov. 17 for a contest allowing students to name two Tunnel Boring Machines that will dig twin subway tunnels connecting three underground stations in Section 1 of the Purple Line Extension project.

Metro encourages students from kindergarten through 12th grade to participate in the contest, which is divided into two categories. Students from kindergarten through fifth grade will compete in an art contest to illustrate their ideal community with the Purple Line Extension.

Students in the sixth through 12th grades will compete to choose names for each of the tunnel boring machines.

Both categories include a prize bundle valued at over \$350. Included is a special commemorative Metro TAP card personalized with the winning illustration and tunnel boring machine names. The winners will also receive a VIP tour of the project and lunch with the project team.

For information and contests rules, visit metro.net/projects/purple-line-extension-tbm.

El Capitan presents 'Nightmare Before Christmas' screenings



photo © Disney

The El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood presents its annual presentation of Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas" in 3-D running from Friday, Oct. 20 through Tuesday, Oct. 31.

First released in 1993, "The Nightmare Before Christmas" was directed by Henry Selick and based on a story and characters by Burton. The film follows the earnest-but-misguided adventures of Jack Skellington, Halloween Town's beloved Pumpkin King, as he attempts to take over the Christmas holiday.

The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd. For information, call (800)DISNEY6, or visit www.elcapitantickets.com.

Community invited to relighting of Jensen's sign

Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District, will host a block party on Friday, Oct. 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. to celebrate the ceremonial relighting of the sign on top of the historic Jensen's Recreation Center on Sunset Boulevard.

The celebration will include a ceremonial flipping of the switch to illuminate the sign. The event will be held on the north side of Sunset Boulevard at Logan Street, next to

the Lassen's parking lot.

Built in 1924, Jensen's Recreation Center at 1706 Sunset Blvd. is an early 20th century mixed-use property featuring 46 residential units and pedestrian-oriented retail space. The building originally featured a bowling alley and billiards parlor on the ground floor, and recently underwent renovations including rehabilitation of the rooftop sign.

The 17-foot-by-28-foot sign,

which reads "Jensen's Recreation Center," depicts a bowler throwing a strike. The sign contains 1,300 red, green and white light bulbs, and is billed as the last remaining articulated incandescent sign of its type and size in the United States. The sign has been inoperable for most of the past 50 years.

The building was declared a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument in 1998.

For information, visit cd13.org.

Sign up for annual walk4ALZ

Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles is holding its annual walk4ALZ in Century City on Sunday, Oct. 29.

Families, friends, caregivers and people living with the disease will walk side by side with teams from the community to raise awareness and funds. Special guests include ABC7's Sid Garcia,

"Access Hollywood's" Liz Hernandez and sportscaster Bonnie-Jill Laflin. All money raised stays in the Greater Los Angeles area, with 20 percent of proceeds earmarked for local research.

To register and for information, call (844)HELPALZ, or visit alzgla.org/walk4ALZ.

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LAUSD calls on California to fully fund education

L.A. Unified school board members and acting Superintendent Vivian Ekchian announced their support of a Kids First agenda both locally and statewide, with regards to the mobilizations across the district.

“Education interrupts poverty, improves our communities, and provides pathways for college and career success,” said Monica Garcia, school board president. “We are proud of the educators [who] are standing with us in the fight to demand more for the children of Los Angeles. We must do more. We will do more. We will reach 100 percent graduation, together.”

L.A. Unified has been at the forefront of providing Kids First conditions to create the best environments to work and learn.

“As a former L.A. Unified teacher, I saw firsthand that we have some of the best educators in the country,” said board Vice President Nick Melvoin. “I look forward to working with my colleagues, all school employees, and parents to ensure that we attract, retain, support, and develop our talent. I call on the state to fully fund public education so that we can make L.A. Unified the most desirable school district to work in nationwide.”

At the most recent Board of Education meeting, members unanimously voted to submit an amicus brief in support of the University of California and State of California’s lawsuits against the rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

“I remain committed to ensure that the district makes choices that will increase student achievement,” said board member Ref Rodriguez, noting the actions of the board to advocate, support, and defend immigrant youth and families to provide education to all youth regardless of immigration status.

“I will also continue to fight for investments that benefit vulnerable populations like our English Learners and immigrant families.”

California ranks among the lowest states in the nation for per-pupil funding and board members will call on Sacramento for a greater investment toward financial stabilization.

“I call on the state to fully fund public education so that we can make L.A. Unified the most desirable school district to work in nationwide.”

*Nick Melvoin
School Board
Vice President*

“California has lagged behind other states in per-pupil funding for far too long. As a former teacher, I know our schools need more investment to give all of our students a great public education,” said board member Kelly Genez. “I’ll be putting forward a resolution at the next board meeting that calls for the state to dramatically raise our per-pupil funding so L.A. Unified has the highest of any urban district in the country.”

L.A. Unified has had record-breaking graduation rates in partnership with students, families, employees and community stakeholders. Through various strategies and focused investments, the District’s Class of 2017 has a preliminary graduation rate of 80 percent.

“We look forward to working with our partners to find the most creative ways to commit our limited resources to meet the needs of all students,” Ekchian said.

The Board of Education sees student achievement in Los Angeles as the greatest focal point in their Kids First agenda.

New law paves way for one-year free tuition at community colleges

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed Assembly Bill 19, authored by Assemblyman Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles), which will allow community colleges to waive fees for first time, full-time community college students for one year.

The measure was co-authored by Assemblymen David Chiu (D-San Francisco) and Kevin

McCarty (D-Sacramento). It will expand the number of students eligible for a community college fee waiver. Santiago said it will boost enrollment and graduation rates, expand access to financial aid and decrease student debt. The measure will also increase the number of college-educated workers needed to sustain California’s work-

force. “Community college changed my life,” Santiago said. “It gave me choices and opportunities and it opened doors. I know that free community college will change the lives of all Californians. To educate a community is to empower a community.”

Legislator honored for work on affordable child care

Assemblyman Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles) was recently presented with a Child Care Champion Award by Parent Voices and the Child Care Law Center.

The award recognizes leadership in the California Legislature in making affordable child care a priority. Santiago was honored for authoring the Child Care Protections for Working Families Act – AB 60 – which was enacted as part of the 2017-18 state budget. The law sets new guidelines for affordable child care that are

among the best in the country.

“While I am in the Legislature, I want to focus on our youngest children,” Santiago said. “I am a dad, and good child care is an issue for every family.”

Parent Voices is a grassroots organization striving to make quality child care accessible and affordable for all families. The Child Care Law Center is a nonprofit law firm. For information, visit asm.ca.gov.



photo courtesy of Assemblyman Miguel Santiago’s Office

New law allows for more single-gender schools

The Los Angeles Unified School District can move forward with two single-gender schools under a law recently signed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

The new law affects the district’s Girls Academic Leadership Academy, located on the campus of Los Angeles High School, which opened its doors last year, and the Boys Academic Leadership Academy, which welcomed its first class of students at the start of the current semester. GALA, which is in Sen. Holly J. Mitchell’s 30th Senate District, is already proving to be an

impactful leadership-development option for students districtwide, Mitchell said.

“As the chair of the Select Committee on Women and Inequality, I’ve heard countless testimonies and read numerous reports as to the negative effects of implicit bias against women, particularly in science, technology, engineering and mathematics related fields,” said Mitchell, who co-authored AB 23.

“Women and women of color aren’t targeted, steered or directed to technical internships, jobs or oppor-

tunities.” AB 23 aligns California law with federal requirements and will examine the success of the schools for possible future expansion of public, single-gender schools. Mitchell said the schools promote leadership and an interest in technology-related fields.

“These academies provide a space where students have the resources and opportunities they need to thrive, particularly in fields where they can blaze a path for the future,” Mitchell added.

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Denying students lunches for lack of payment no longer allowed

Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) has announced that Gov. Jerry Brown has signed his legislation to stop schools from publicly shaming or embarrassing students by denying them lunch or providing a snack instead because their parents haven't paid lunch fees.

SB 250 ensures that school officials do not delay or deny food to students as punishment for unpaid school meal fees. The new law also directs schools to establish a process for notifying their families about unpaid fees and collecting them.

The legislation received bipartisan support. The state Assembly approved SB 250 on a 77-0 vote and the Senate approved it 40-0.

"When President Truman established the National School Lunch Program, it was based on a fundamental principle that we will feed our kids in school because it helps them learn and respects their human dignity. This isn't partisan," Hertzberg said. "When you're treated differently as a child in school, it's shameful. And in this case, the child is being harmed as a tool to collect their parent's debt. That makes no sense whatsoever."

Students have a harder time focusing and learning when they are hungry, and 23 percent of California children come from families living below the federal poverty line, Hertzberg said. According to a national survey conducted in 2015 by the anti-hunger organization Share Our Strength, 75 percent of teachers said their students came to school hungry, and 59 percent said "a lot or most" of their students depend

on school meals as a primary source of nutrition.

In recent years, the practice of school lunch shaming has gained attention. In some school cafeterias, students who haven't paid lunch fees are directed out of lunch lines and instead given bread and cheese, or their lunches are simply dumped into the garbage. SB 250 forbids that practice and requires schools to make meals available to needy children, even if their fees have not been paid.

Instead, schools must recognize that meal costs are the obligation of the parents, not the children. For families that cannot afford the meal fees, the bill directs schools to find a way to certify students for free or reduced-price meals or to reimburse them for the fees. Additionally, schools must notify guardians when unpaid lunch fees exceed the amount for 10 full-priced lunches.

The legislation was co-sponsored by the Western Center on Law and Poverty, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Children's Defense Fund-California, Food Research and Action Center and SEIU California.

"Our research found that policies which shame children with unpaid school lunch debt are more common in California than we could have ever imagined," said Jessica Bartholow, of the Western Center on Law and Poverty. "We commend districts that have taken action to end these policies voluntarily, and we thank Governor Brown for signing SB 250 to ban these practices throughout the state."

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Your partners in the community



photo courtesy of the 13th District Council Office

East Hollywood median project moves forward

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District, recently introduced a motion to fund the second phase of the Vermont Avenue Medians Project, which calls for the construction of two additional medians on Vermont Avenue, just south of Santa Monica Boulevard. The improvement is helping to bring greenspace to the area and provide a more inviting, pleasant experience for people in East Hollywood.

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Hepatitis A outbreak in L.A. County

From page 1

tis A are homeless individuals, illicit drug users, and people who have traveled to countries where the disease is more prevalent, including all Central and South American countries, and the islands of the Caribbean.

Dr. Jonathan Grein, head epidemiologist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, said, the symptoms can range from “minimal” to “abrupt.” Often those infected experience fever, fatigue, abdominal discomfort and nausea. The disease can also cause a yellowing of the skin, dark urine and pale stools. Typically, the symptoms last for one to two months – but they don’t always show up immediately after someone has come into contact with the virus.

“It’s generally stated that the incubation period – that time from exposure to symptoms – is about 28 days, but it can range anywhere from about two weeks to up to 50 days,” Grein said.

There is no specific treatment other than basic supportive care offered in hospitals. However, the majority of those who come into contact with the virus survive without any complications. But for those with underlying liver issues, including hepatitis B or C, hepatitis A could be deadly, especially without medical assistance.

When L.A. first declared the outbreak in mid-September, the county reported 10 confirmed cases of hepatitis A. A month later, that number has grown to 13. Hoping to prevent the spread of the virus, the county looks to prevention through vaccination as its main course of action, according to the DPH.

“The vaccine for this virus is very effective. Even after one dose it’s estimated that more than 95 percent of people will be protected. The general recommendation is two doses, to make sure that number is as close to 100 percent as possible,” Grein said. “Vaccination clearly is the appropriate approach to this outbreak.”

At Cedars-Sinai, doctors and administrators look to primarily “reinforce the public health recommendations” offering vaccines, as well as raising awareness among clinicians on how to recognize the disease and to report any cases to the DPH.

The DPH has teamed up with Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to vaccinate to as many people as possible.

“Homeless people are disproportionately impacted by the hepatitis A outbreak, so we’ve been working really closely with the Department of Public Health, who is really spearheading all the work around this to try to merge the two systems,” said LAHSA Outreach Coordinator Colleen Murphy. “They have the vaccine, we have the knowledge of who is on the streets, how to best communicate with them, and the boots on the ground to [take action].”

Even before the outbreak was declared in L.A., DPH and LAHSA quickly got to work after seeing the outbreak in San Diego rapidly escalate. As Murphy noted, “we really wanted to get on top of this as early as possible.” She described LAHSA and DPH’s approach as “holistic,” with efforts being made

in shelters and on the streets with outreach coordinators in each region of the county working alongside nurses to vaccinate homeless individuals.

But beyond vaccines, LAHSA is also working with DPH’s Environmental Health unit on improving sanitary conditions for the homeless to limit the spread of hepatitis A. For instance, LAHSA hands out hygiene kits filled with supplies such as soap and hand wipes, as well as information on the virus and how to prevent transmission. The organization is also working with the DPH to determine long-term solutions, such as increasing the hours of public bathrooms and installing more hand-washing facilities.

While currently LAHSA has a weekly call with DPH, the outreach coordinator explained that such collaboration and communication between the two groups, as well as other health service providers in the area, was not always in place.

“Doing this five years ago would have been a very different story,” Murphy said. “It’s a big task – we’re a very big county with over 50,000 people who are homeless, but we have done a lot of work these past few years to coordinate all the various service providers and to be really strategic and work better together.”

With the numbers of hepatitis cases still quite low in L.A. – especially compared to San Diego and Santa Cruz – it appears that the combined approach between LAHSA and DPH is working. However, Murphy could not specifically identify why such a disparity exists between the regions.

“When anything takes hold, it can spread – just like the wildfires up north,” she said. “We are just trying to stop [hepatitis A] in its tracks before it takes hold.”

Los Angeles City Councilmen Mike Bonin, 11th District, and Jose Huizar, 14th District, have introduced a motion to fund emergency portable toilets. Huizar’s district has the most homeless individuals of all 15 districts in Los Angeles, and Bonin’s district ranks fifth in most homeless individuals, according to LAHSA.

The 13th district, which covers parts of Hollywood, Silver Lake, Echo Park and Atwater Village, ranks the third highest in most homeless individuals. In order to fight the hepatitis A outbreak in the area, Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, has teamed up with LAHSA to reach the district’s most vulnerable constituents. He has also set up regular cleanups around encampments, including steam-cleaning the sidewalks. He said he was happy to hear that the county was putting in such a large effort to vaccinate as many homeless individuals as possible.

“I believe a countywide approach to this outbreak is necessary,” O’Farrell said. “And I’m glad our numbers are far below those of San Diego’s, where there have been multiple deaths as well.”

However, the councilman felt in addressing the hepatitis outbreak, it was also important to address another epidemic hitting the U.S. – the opioid crisis.

“There is a direct correlation between access to opioids and homelessness which we really need to address,” O’Farrell said.

Police seeking upgrades in Beverly Hills

From page 1

ties. The current facility, at 464 N. Rexford Drive, across the street from City Hall, was designed to meet the state’s Essential Service Act of 1986, according to a report to the council from police. It states that the current facility would not meet the updated version of the act, but upgrades are not mandatory.

She added that the department has “longstanding employees who have made adjustments over time,” responding to concerns about how the department works around some of the logistical challenges presented by the building. Processing one arrest, for example, requires an officer to visit three to four floors, instead of just one that officers in other departments that have more optimally designed facilities make.

The need to add lactation areas, “maxed out” locker rooms and changes to staffing levels were among the other reasons Spagnoli cited as reason why the department needs an upgrade. Police have also become more reliant on technology. The current facility “may not have the cellular phone coverage required for use,” according to police’s report to the council.

Councilman John Mirisch said the \$71 million estimate to renovate the current facility is an “absurd amount of money” to spend on renovations that would



photo by Luke Harold

The need for expanded parking facilities is part of why city officials are considering options for renovations or a new facility.

not fix certain deficiencies, the prevailing opinion among council members.

“It’s not a question of the need for change,” Councilman Robert Wunderlich said, adding that the issue is “how do we best make use of funds?”

Types of crimes committed have also evolved, requiring space for evidence that was not accounted for when the current facility opened. As a facility open 24 hours per day, items such as doors, frames, hardware, lighting, mechanical systems and carpeting need replacing as well.

“I would also want to explore a different building and what that would look like,” Councilman Julian Gold said.

Spagnoli said a new site “may be the best investment.”

Beverly Hills City Manager Mahdi Aluzri said city staff would have to “explore further” the implications of the police department leaving its current building, including the possible uses for it if it’s vacated by police.

Beverly Hills Mayor Lili Bosse said it would be “impossible for me to justify” moving forward with a costly renovation that could leave deficiencies – future council members might have to contend with the ramifications 20 to 25 years later.

“We need more analysis and I think we need more choice as to what makes the most sense,” she said.

Patrol looks to improve safety on Miracle Mile

From page 1

people express interest, a permanent patrol could be established that would be specifically assigned to the area. Garcia said the home owners association also wants to establish a neighborhood watch and is signing up residents to serve as block captains. The MMRA discussed the patrol and neighborhood watch at a meeting on Oct. 16.

“It all started with [me] having a prowler on my property. That was enough to know there is a problem,” Garcia said. “Our goal is to get a neighborhood watch going and to try to get people to better secure their properties. There is no one answer. A security patrol provides another layer of security.”

MMRA President Jim O’Sullivan said the area has been recently plagued by residential burglaries and auto thefts and break-ins. If a dedicated patrol is established in the Miracle Mile, the security officers would drive around the neighborhood, investigate suspicious activity and notify police when necessary. O’Sullivan added that a patrol would not be a substitute for police, but could deter crime.

“Look, I love the police and I love the firefighters, but they are spread too thin,” O’Sullivan said. “We have to go out and have security because the police can’t cover it. That’s coming from someone who loves the cops. It’s not their fault.”

Capt. Anthony Oddo, commanding

officer of the LAPD’s Wilshire Division, said previously that he does not have an issue with people hiring private patrols as long as residents are aware that they are not replacements for police. Officer Cleon Joseph, with the Wilshire Division, added that it is common for people to hire security companies and guards play a role in preserving public safety.

“People do it all the time. They are not police officers, but if they are extra eyes and ears out there, it’s just a common sense thing,” Joseph said. “I don’t see an issue with having extra eyes and ears. If I owned a business, I would have a security guard.”

Crime statistics provided by the LAPD’s Wilshire Division show that division-wide, burglaries have increased 17.1 percent, and thefts from motor vehicles have increased 2.2 percent in 2017 as of the end of September. However, burglaries have decreased by 1.3 percent in the Miracle Mile area, and auto burglaries are down 2.3 percent, as of September.

Joseph added that regardless of the statistics, if the perception is that crime is increasing, more needs to be done. He said the LAPD devotes resources to different areas based on crime reports, and the department is open to meeting with community groups and residents to develop strategies.

“There are spikes here and there and we are addressing them,” Joseph said. “Sometimes, citizens don’t see it that way. [Crime is] up to them and that’s

their perception of it. That’s why we are building partnerships to quiet their fears and let them know what we are doing. If that’s the perception, we need to reassure them.”

O’Sullivan said members of his group canvassed the neighborhood and saw many residents have signs posted indicating their properties are protected by private security companies. The MMRA is looking into using Bel Air-based ACS Security if the decision is made to hire a private security company for a dedicated patrol.

Logistics and other issues would be considered as the plan moves forward. The security company would be armed and would assume all liability, O’Sullivan stressed.

“What we want to do is have a dedicated patrol,” O’Sullivan added. “The more people who sign up, the more we can move forward. They are really the eyes and ears.”

Garcia added that she is continuing efforts to get people signed up as block captains and for the patrol, which will cost approximately \$50 per residence. The association will have a better idea about how to move forward when it convenes for its next meeting, tentatively scheduled in January. She asked anyone interested in joining the neighborhood watch or seeking more information about the patrol to email her at kari.garcia@miraclemilela.com, or fellow MMRA member Kelly Perkins at kelly.perkins@miraclemilela.com.

“The only way this is going to work is to all work together,” Garcia said.

Bill extend tax checkoffs for food banks

Sen. Bob Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys, announced today that Gov. Jerry Brown has signed his legislation to ensure that Californians can continue to mark boxes on their state tax returns to contribute money to food banks.

SB 61 extends a tax checkoff for

food banks from 2019 through 2026. Brown has also signed Hertzberg’s SB 440, which extends a tax checkoff for cancer research from 2017 through 2024.

“Every day, millions of Californians fight hunger,” Hertzberg said. “This legislation is a simple way

to continue a vital, voluntary funding source to help feed hungry California families.”

The Emergency Food for Families Fund has appeared on tax returns since 1998 as a donation option, but it is scheduled to disappear beginning in 2019, without legislative action.

Legislation will preserve Rim of the Valley Corridor

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) and U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) on Oct. 18 introduced the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act – legislation that will add more than 191,000 acres of the Rim of the Valley Corridor to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

The Rim of the Valley stretches from the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains to the Verdugo Hills and San Gabriel Mountains.

“The Rim of the Valley is the critical bridge between the urban city centers, suburbs in the Los Angeles basin and the spectacular wilderness beyond. Our bill would help protect these lands for generations to come,” Schiff said. “As more of this area is developed and open space diminishes, the wildlife it supports is increasingly at risk. Congress must preserve the Rim of the Valley for generations to come, but we must act quickly on a bipartisan basis, or this once in a century opportunity will be gone.”

Feinstein also outlined the importance of preserving the Rim of the Valley Corridor.

“Preserving access to open spaces is essential for quality of life in the Los Angeles basin,” Feinstein said. “As more and more land is lost to urban areas, saving natural places like the Rim of the Valley Corridor is becoming increasingly important. Working closely with the local communities to develop legislation, our bill enjoys broad public support because it ensures Southern Californians will have continued access to public lands for recreation, and protects critical areas for wildlife habitat while respecting private property and local land use authorities.”

In 2008, Schiff’s Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act was approved. The bill directed the

National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of the Rim of the Valley Corridor.

The study sought to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating all or a portion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of the existing Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area, and how those areas could be better managed and preserved. The National Park Service began the study in 2010 and transmitted its final report to Congress and the public in February 2016. Throughout the process, the National Park Service and Schiff considered thousands of public comments.

The Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act would expand the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area to include many, but not all of the land included in the study. The lands included within the expansion will be known as the Rim of the Valley Unit.

The bill will enable NPS and the local community to better protect natural resources and habitats, and provide members of the community with improved access to nature for recreational and educational purposes.

“National Parks Conservation Association commends Representative Schiff, Senator Feinstein and other members of Congress for working to protect Griffith Park, the Los Angeles River, Santa Clarita Valley, Santa Susana Mountains and other historic sites and wild spaces through the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act,” said Dennis Arguelles, Los Angeles program manager for National Parks Conservation Association. “The legislation would build upon the successful cooperative model that the National Park Service has formed with Los Angeles communities and will bring tremendous benefits to the region’s 17 million residents.”

Law requires drug makers to give notice about price hikes

Under an effort to increase transparency in prescription drug pricing, Gov. Jerry Brown signed SB 17, legislation authored by Sen. Ed Hernandez (D-West Covina) requiring pharmaceutical companies to give notice before increasing prices.

“Californians have a right to know why their medication costs are out of control, especially when pharmaceutical profits are soaring,” Brown said.

SB 17 requires drug manufacturers to provide a 60-day notice if prices are raised more than 16 percent in a two-year period. The bill applies to drugs that have a wholesale price of more than \$40 for a 30-day supply. SB 17 also requires health plans and insurers to file annual reports outlining how drug costs impact health care premiums in California.

“Drug companies abuse their market power by jacking up prices, and the public is looking to their government for help,” Hernandez said. “Requiring drug companies



photo courtesy of Gov. Jerry Brown’s Office

to provide advance notice and some explanation for large price hikes is a step toward a more stable and predictable prescription drug marketplace. Sometimes, even a modest change brings about big

results. Transparency will make drug companies pause and consider whether drastic price increases are appropriate.”

For information, visit leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

New law allows police to seize vehicles used in prostitution

A bill by Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (D-Pacoima) to provide law enforcement in Los Angeles, Oakland and Sacramento with a new tool to curb sex-trafficking has been signed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Assembly Bill 1206 will give law enforcement agencies the authority to conduct two-year studies in which they will be permitted to seize the vehicles of “Johns” and pimps that are used during solicitation of prostitution.

“We must protect our neighborhoods from people who are taking advantage of men and women who are being trafficked and forced into acts beyond their control,” Bocanegra said. “Unfortunately, many parts of my

district have suffered from increasing incidences of prostitution and sex-trafficking, and it is up to the legislature to provide law enforcement with all available tools to end sex trafficking once and for all. This is a message to those involved at every level of human trafficking that we will not tolerate this activity.”

The measure will allow the cities of Los Angeles, Oakland and Sacramento to adopt ordinances permitting the seizure of vehicles used for prostitution. Under existing law, police can only seize a vehicle if the John or pimp has a prior conviction within the last three years. After two years, the measure will require each the city

to issue a report to the Legislature and public about the law’s impact on illegal solicitation and human trafficking.

“For years, I’ve looked for a partner in Sacramento to help push this bill, and finally found one with the leadership of Assemblymember Bocanegra,” said Los Angeles City Councilwoman Nury Martinez, 6th District. “I am so happy that the state has given us one more tool to stop the abuse of young women and men at the hands of pimps, predators and pedophiles. Make no mistake about it, the vehicle is a major piece in the commission of that crime. These Johns will not use that car to perpetrate another violent act.”

Homeless outreach spans county

Calling it “Measure H at work,” Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chairman Mark Ridley-Thomas announced that “street engagement teams” are fanning out across Los Angeles County to have face-to-face interactions with people experiencing homelessness, and to help them access housing, healthcare, and other supportive services.

“All over the County of Los Angeles, you’ll find us working, doing what we need to do, lifting people up and restoring them to their full purpose and capacity,” Board Chairman Ridley-Thomas said at a news conference near where one of the teams was preparing to reach out to a homeless encampment near the 110 freeway in South LA.

Measure H, a voter-approved quarter-cent sales tax, will enable the County to create more street engagement teams as well as fund other efforts to help the homeless population, currently estimated at 58,000. The County began collecting the sales tax on October 1st and is working with nonprofit organizations such as the Homeless Outreach Program

Integrated Care System to build those teams.

“This is one of the most innovative and impactful strategies within L.A. County’s Homeless Initiative because it really allows us time to build rapport and trust with people on the street in order to encourage them to be willing to accept the services and resources that are offered,” HOPICS Division Director Veronica Lewis said.

Immediately following the press conference, street outreach teams walked a few blocks to a homeless encampment and got to work. At least one person accepted their offer of shelter and other supportive services.

The County piloted street engagement teams in Skid Row back in January 2016, with each team consisting of a nurse, a substance use counselor, a mental health clinician, a social worker or outreach worker, and a person who has experienced homelessness. Together, they moved almost 300 people into permanent supportive housing, placed 600 people in interim housing, and matched 400 people to intensive services.

WeHo’s eastside could see improvements

From page 1

2011 to 2015, the east district of West Hollywood ranked second to the city’s west district in the number of homicides, rapes, assaults, robberies, burglaries, thefts and arsons reported, according to city of West Hollywood statistics. In 2013, the east district was third, behind the west district and city center.

As a contract city, West Hollywood’s police and fire services are provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and Fire Department. Volunteer programs designed to increase safety include a neighborhood watch, sheriff’s volunteer program and community emergency response training.

The Eastside Priorities Plan lists the Public Safety Department, West Hollywood sheriff’s personnel and the Block by Block Security Ambassadors as part of the effort to mitigate safety concerns on the eastside. And last year, the council approved strategies such as increased attention to abandoned and neglected properties, and improving lighting in residential neighborhoods.

Councilman John Duran also said the city has “missed the mark” on economic development on the eastside, his biggest concern. The area has traditionally served West Hollywood’s Russian community, a dwindling population in recent years. The councilman also said he agrees with residents who want to improve public safety in the area.

“The eastside of West Hollywood is a border with neighboring Hollywood, and I think a lot of the less desirable parts of Hollywood spillover La Brea into the city of West Hollywood,” Duran said. “A lot of the impacts the eastside is currently experiencing are generated from east of La Brea.”

The top 10 recommendations from the Eastside Working Group included in the plan are a facade improvement program to support retail spaces, pedestrian improvements on Fountain Avenue and incentives for owners of multifamily buildings to upgrade their properties. The council will decide how to allocate city resources to address the recommendations.

“We really have to have regular cleaning of street furniture at the

bus shelters, of the sidewalks and street cleaning and better lighting,” Councilwoman Lauren Meister said.

One of the group’s short-term recommendations is to create one or two parklets along Santa Monica Boulevard on the eastside.

“We need to seize every opportunity for green space and pocket parks that we can,” Meister said.

Councilman John D’Amico said the short-term recommendations could help make an “immediate impact.”

“The eastside deserves additional attention however we can give it,” he said.

Answers From Page 24



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