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 hepatitis A are homeless and those who have had unprotected sexual contact with a hepatitis A-infected person.

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

Miracle Mile residents consider security patrol

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 neighbors.

The suspect has already been arrested for violating their new security patrols in the neighborhood.

Moving on up in WeHo’s eastside

BY LUKE HAROLD

West Hollywood is synonymous with the Sunset Strip, Boytownt 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 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...
**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 Drs. Sheryl A. Ross with the Angel Award, and Pajge 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. jwcauxiliary.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 Beverly Hills Blvd. (310)212-2420, ggbsla.org.

**WeHo WHAP! lecture Series**

The CaAarts 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, 5969 Melrose Ave. • (323)467-7124, wilshire.bibliocommons.com.

**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. criticalstudies.calarts.edu.

**Art Discussion**

Join author and cultural historian Eva J. Friedberg, and dancer, author and educator Daria Halpin for a discussion with gallery artist 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 Halpin’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 Tipp Mahan, senior vice president of global experiences for Beautycon Media. On Saturday, Oct. 22 from 5 to 8:30 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, culturally-themed family festival on Sunday, Oct. 22 from 1 to 5 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 6 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 krowagon@alzgl.org.

**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 $55. 900 Exposition Blvd. (323)930-2277, peterson.org.

**Chico’s Angels**

Chico’s Angels return for an encore two-week performance of “Chicas are Forever!” on Thursday, Oct. 26 through Sunday, Nov. 5 at the Cavern Club Theater in Casita Del Campo Restaurant. Tickets start at $55. 1920 Hyperion Ave., Silverlake, chicosangels.com.
**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 the city 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 average homeless person throughout most of the rest of the county. Approximately 47.7 percent of 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 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, reclassified 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 incarceration 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.

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

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 and graduated from Pitzer College at the Claremont Colleges with honors. He is a Rodol Fellow at the Aspen Institute and a guest lecturer at the University of Southern California.

He has one daughter.

Before entering politics, de Leon 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.

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**The Beverly Hills Art Show**

**Oct 21 & 22 10 am to 5 pm**

**drop in!**

**245 artists | 45 years | 4 blocks of fine art**

beverlyhills.org/artshow

310.285.6830
Suspect sought for Hollywood apartment burglary

Detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department’s Hollywood 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.

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, Oct. 6 near Alta Vista and Sunset boulevards.

The man entered auby a “burglarized an apartment on Oct. 6 near Alta Vista and Sunset boulevards.

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, 22, of Rancho Cucamonga, was sentenced on Oct. 5 to three years in state prison for leading a car in Colton and was observed by peace officer while driving reckless.

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 Thursday that two Los Angeles-based consumer finance companies have agreed to pay $760,788 to settle claims made in a civil complaint against Westlake and Wilshire filed in federal court in Los Angeles.

Westlake, which does business as Westlake 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.
AHF sends generators and supplies to Puerto Rico

As Puerto Rico continues to call for help to move 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 generators, medical supplies, water and other needed items to areas suffering and in dire need of assistance.

Once in Puerto Rico, local AHF staff worked with FEMA first responders to unload the planes and transport supplies to the city of San Juan to help provide power to local health depart- ment 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 three planes carried generators and approximately 5,000 pounds of supplies to Puerto Rico. Another plane was scheduled to depart on Sunday.

AHF’s southern bureau chief. “It’s disheartening to know that works 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.

‘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.

For information, visit shakesout.org.

Addresses seek clues about man gone missing

By Edwin Polven

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 mar- ried his wife there and later perma- nently 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 7VG780. 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 offi- cials 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 agen- cies, 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 disap- peared. 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 Garibay’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.

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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, sever- al of the donated generators have been given to local health depart- ments to relieve local hospitals that continue to be overwhelmed by patients dealing with chronic dis- eases and in need of time-sensitive medical attention. Additional genera- tors have been donated to hospitals, clinics, food banks and other organi- zations 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 contin- ually monitoring the situation since Hurricane Irma initially hit the island, I was very aware of how frus- tratingly 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 works 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.
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 on Oct. 17.

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; geotechnical 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 weekend work hours.

“To minimize the noise impact from this work, low-noise mutters 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.

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 deck and jet grouting prep. Sidewalk access will be maintained on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard, with pedestrian side walk 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 monitoring of noise associated with jet grouting, and the ability to take measures if there are issues, we’re comfortable.”

- John Mirisch
Beverly Hills councilman
Santa Monica Blvd. Construction Moves to Final Segment

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 last 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.

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 Cadon 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 Boulevard 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 restricted and right turn lanes 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 designated intersections on the north side of North Santa Monica Boulevard (Linden, Alpina, Foothill, Elmo, Hillside, Hillcrest, Aird, Alto and Sierra drives). These striped, high-visibility crosswalks will connect the Beverly Gardens Park jogging/walking path where it passes 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/smblvd.

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Los Angeles) and U.S. Rep. 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 gun violence and everyday gun violence. While not everyメーカ act can be prevented by any single measure, we should use a comprehensive approach that includes holding 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.

In essence, the measure would repeal 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 does 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, according to the legislation’s authors.

The Equal Access to Justice for Victims of Gun Violence Act allows civil cases to move forward against irresponsible firearm manufacturers, distributors, 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.

Congressional leaders call for laws to hold gun manufacturers liable

Gov. Brown today signed into law a plan to speed up placements for children in foster care by repealing criminal-history restrictions for foster-care place...
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, advertising, Feb. 10, 1960 by Superior Court.

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 stop-textstopwrecks.org.

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 thirsty 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 $750 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 great interest in conserving. 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 to discuss options for a sustainable landscape. City Plants partners with LADWP to provide free shade trees. For information, visit at savethetropla.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 sustainable 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 in 2021. “As we move into the future, Metro is exploring how technology can help us keep improving our service,” said Metro CEO Philip 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.”

“As we move into the future, Metro is exploring how technology can help us keep improving our service.” -Metro CEO Philip A. Washington

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 help 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 at savethedrop.org.

The Park Labrea News and Beverly Press are weekly newspapers in Los Angeles, California. Founded in 1946, the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press is published every Thursday with a circulation of 30,000. The Park Labrea News and Beverly Press is a member of the Los Angeles Newspaper Group.
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 antiretroviral treatments, to more than 81,000 people in 38 countries. As part of its 30th anniversary, AHF will host 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 Brown, 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." AHF provides medical care and services at over 45 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 Hollywood is located at 6360 W. Sunset Blvd. For information, visit aidshealth.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 disorders 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 those who are suffering from grave mental illness who are living in deplorable conditions and unable to provide for their own basic human needs – seeing, feeding and care that would drastically improve their quality of life," Barger added.

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

**United States:**

Former South Korean seismological

**Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer:**

Feuer announced that his office had

**In July, a 10-year-old child in**

**Angelo Rocca:**

**Five charged with violating endanger species act**

In July, a 10-year-old child in Rocca’s home allegedly showed a friend the shrimp in a closet. The friend later reported the gun to school officials after allegedly over-

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**A former director of South Korea’s Geoscience and Mineral Resources Research Center at the Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources has been convicted on Oct. 2 by the United States District Judge John F. Walter for one count of engaging in financial transactions with crimi-

**A federal grand jury has returned three indictments charg-

**The indictments allege the**

**The LACE Act.**

**Five charged with violating**

**accused the two seismological companies with engaging in the**

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**It seems highly likely that the**

**The indictment showed that**

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

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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 fiscal 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.

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**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.

“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.

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

“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.

Padilla approved two new vote-by-mail systems that provide an accessible option for citizens with disabilities. California is the first state to certify these types of systems, which allow remote accessible vote-by-mail systems to be used in California elections.

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**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.

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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 Pride of Models 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 LGBTQ 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 Hether, 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 LGBTQ 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 diversities 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.

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, presenter 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.

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 Dodger fans it is my honor to invite him to Los Angeles City Hall and allow us to share in his 90th birthday celebration.”

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Council welcomes Tommy Lasorda

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

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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.

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Earl Carroll Theatre to be protected and restored

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 theatre will be protected and restored by an agreement O’Farrell orchestrated between property owner Essex Property Trust, Hollywood Heritage and the Los Angeles Conservancy.

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.

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State Sen. Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles)

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 Angels. 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.

FULL CLOSURE HOURS: Friday from 8p – Monday at 6am. Work is continuous throughout the weekend. All streets open at 6am, Monday. Construction is a dynamic process and is subject to change.

PHASE 2 TRAFFIC DETOUR:
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Special Needs Network to host annual gala

Areva Martin and Edyta Swilinska attended last year’s event.

Areva Martin (D-Los Angeles)
O’Farrell spotlights healthy living with Fitness Challenge

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, YogoWorks and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Additionally, The Good Creek 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.

Cities can use tax funding for affordable housing

New law combats prescription drug abuse

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 consisting 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.

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.

New law combats prescription drug abuse

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 dollars 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

“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

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Armenia joins coalition fighting climate change

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, said. “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 representing more than 2.5 billion people and $84.9 trillion in gross domestic product. The coalition, formed in 2015 by the states of California and Baden-Württemberg, Germany, pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80 to 95 percent below 1990 levels, by 2050.

“The 2017 Annual Report helps provide an increasingly broad and comprehensive view of the property tax system in Los Angeles County.” Jeffrey Prang said. “The diligent work of Assessor staff serves as the foundation of the property tax system, tax savings and the role of the Assessor’s Office in providing information to the public, including how property values in Los Angeles County represent the seventh consecutive year of growth.”

A plan to help community clinics more easily provide services for people with mental health or drug use disorders was recently signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown. SB 323, authored by state Sen. Holly J. Mitchell (D-Los Angeles), will allow federally qualified health centers, rural health centers and health centers to receive reimbursement for providing substance use disorder treatment and specialty mental health services.

“The bill will make it easier for health centers and counties to work together to improve mental health and drug use disorder treatments,” said Carmela Castellano-Garcia, president and CEO of California Health+ Advocates, co-founder 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.

Water 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 certainty 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, Senateur 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 ground water 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 more information, visit senate.ca.gov/hertzberg.

Property tax notices sent

A property tax notice was recently mailed to Los Angeles County residents. The tax notice is sent to property owners as a reminder to pay their property taxes. The tax notice is sent by mail in order to ensure that the property owner receives the notice. The tax notice includes the amount of taxes owed, the due date for payment, and the address of the assessor’s office where payments can be made.

The assessor’s office is responsible for determining the value of property for tax purposes. The assessed value is used to calculate the amount of property taxes owed. The assessor’s office also provides information about property tax laws and how to appeal a property tax assessment.

The tax notice is sent by the assessor’s office to the property owner of record. The property owner of record is the person who is listed as the owner of the property on the county property records. If the property owner of record is not the person who is paying the taxes, the tax notice will be sent to the person who is paying the taxes.

The tax notice is sent to property owners on the first business day of December. The due date for payment is March 2 of the following year. If the tax notice is not received by the property owner, they can contact the assessor’s office to request a copy of the tax notice.

The assessor’s office can be contacted by calling 310-805-8700. The assessor’s office can also be contacted online at assessor.lacounty.gov.
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 EatSeeHear. “Beauty and the Beast” will be shown on Oct. 20, and audience members can take photos with costumed characters.

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, Horse Beer, Chaucer’s, The Dudes’ Brewing Company, Angel City Brewery, Enegren Brewing Company, Karl Strauss Brewing Company, MadWest Brewing Company, St. Kilian 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, Brewyard 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.

RELENTS

Tourists at Front Porch Cinema

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.

Prime New York Strip Steaks

$19.98

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With this ad only. Good through 10/25/17

All natural, no antibiotics, humanely raised
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.

What makes this dining experience appealing plates right off the movie set. 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 whisky. 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 obi- horo (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 sashimi, 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 omelet). Sesame seeds were sprinkled on top for textural diversity.

My sushi-loving friend Michelle ordered a sushi plate with 25 pieces of rolls and sushi 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, timago, 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.
New flavors at Astro Doughnuts & Fried Chicken

Celebrated National Pumpkin Month at Astro Doughnuts & Fried Chicken with square pumpkin pie doughnuts with pumpkin pie spice, crushed peanuts, 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)622-7786.

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 “macaruffins” 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

Katsuaya Hollywood offers a pre-show, prix fixe dinner menu of eight or more. Menu highlights include edamame, crispy rice with spicy tuna, chicken teriyaki and assorted classic rolls such as a 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)515-8792.

And Cleo post-show

Located steps from the Pantages Theater, Chef Danny Elmaleh’s Cleo offers contemporary Mediterranean cuisine including sharable plates and flatbreads 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, squash, organic apple, clem- entines and goat cheese, sprinkled with hazelnuts 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. 1312 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 wild- fires, 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.

“When the fires impacted a portion of Sonoma County, the vast major- ity 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 vis- iting redwoodca.org/northbayfirerelief, and the Sonoma County Resilience Fund by visiting sonomacountyresilience-fund.org. 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.

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 Hoggstrom for a special five-course dinner on Friday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. The intimate dining experience includes a menu of dungeoness crab cakes, butternut squash soup, cavatelli pasta bolognese with sage and walnut, 72-hour short ribs and candied apples made with white chocolate and made with arugula, roasted Brussels sprouts, squash, organic apple, clementines and goat cheese, sprinkled with hazelnuts 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. 1312 Second St., (310)382-2901.

Pumpkins: $1.00 each

Pumpkin Liner

Weekends in October Beginning October 7th

Saturday and Sundays 10:30am to 2:00pm

Ride a vintage train to pick the perfect Jack-O’Lantern from “The Patch”

Arts & Crafts • Hot Dogs • Tri-Tip Sandwiches
Hay Maze • Face Painting • Vendors
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Dia de los Muertos
Antonio’s on Melrose celebrates
ones who have passed away to the altar.
orful decorations, flowers and costumes, as well as skeletons and skulls, with molé sauce, and chicken pipian. The festive holiday is marked by col-
ted in Mexico.
 officially announced a
ing 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 1960s 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.

“Throughout Kusama’s career, her interests have manifested in diverse political, spiritual and aesthetic 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 Hatori’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 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.

The Broad has announced a schedule of performances and film screenings inspired by its upcom-
gas and music videos. The awards gala will take place on Jan. 27 at the Ray D o l b y Ballroom at Hollywood & Highland. For more information, visit artdirec-
tors.org.

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

“Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors” 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 Broad intends to expand our visi-
tors’ 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

films will provide opportunities to expe-
rience the breadth of Kusama’s crea-
tive 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.”

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Following the conclusion of the exhibition, The Broad will contin-
u its exploration of Kusama’s work through the premiere of Ron Athey and Sean Griffin’s “Gifts of The Spirit: Prophecy, Automatism and Disenchantment.” For information and tickets to all “Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors” exhibition programs, visit the broad.org/programs.

Submissions open for Art Directors Guild awards

Television and feature film sub-
misions 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.

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 origi-
nated 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 mole sauce, and chicken pipian. The festive holiday is marked by color-
ful 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.

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 1960s 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.

“Throughout Kusama’s career, her interests have manifested in diverse political, spiritual and aesthetic 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 Hatori’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 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 Disenchantment.” For information and tickets to all “Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors” exhibition programs, visit the broad.org/programs.

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 origi-
nated 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 mole sauce, and chicken pipian. The festive holiday is marked by color-
ful 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.
Halloween horror flocks ‘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, boogeymen and billionaires trying to purge the marginalized. This one’s all about a woman who suffers from the curse of a somewhere in a horror-drama that’s all too timely right now.

The Burglingane’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 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 interacted with. Dehydrated and suffering from post-traumatic stress, Jessie confronts her past and tries to befriend the dog, only to realize it is a monster. But that shouldn’t discount the film just as campy as it is violent. It serves as a splendid reminder that monsters don’t need fangs or a butcher’s knife. Sometimes, the worst dwells within, untouched 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 much more drama than edge-of-the-seat thrills. 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 movie’s scare 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.

This one 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 array of multiple characters, from sadistic and violent to sweet and innocent. She’s tasked with killing her husband and herself, and she’s��着 at her question if she’s truly wanted quest lingers.

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, which 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 dwells within, untouched by even an exorcist’s holy water.

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

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.

On Screen

With TIM POSADA

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

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

Samara Weaving portrays Bee in the new horror film, “The Babysitter.”
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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 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 session 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 session 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 session 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.

The series is only available in subscription packages ranging from $260 to $475. For information, contact Tammy Chung at tammy@kccla.org, or call (323)936-3015. To make reservations, visit kccla.org.

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 Atrium 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 Gun 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 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.

Illustration courtesy of KCCLA
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of Beverly Drive. 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 100 block of S. Wetherly Drive. The loss was estimated at $200.

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

At 3:36 p.m., an identity theft was reported in the 400 block of Clara Ridge Road.

Oct. 3

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

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9700 block of Santa Monica. 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 W. Olympic. 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 6 inches tall and 140 pounds.

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 S. Almord 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 200 block of S. Oakhurst Drive at 6:40 p.m. The loss was estimated at $20.

At 230 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of S. Almord Drive. The loss was estimated at $230.

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.

At 6 p.m., 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.

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.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7th block of Oakhurst Drive. The loss was estimated at $6,100.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. La Cienega at 10:46 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9800 block of Wilshire. The suspect was approximately 24 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall and 165 pounds.

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

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

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Olympic and Poinsettia.

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

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

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

Los Angeles Police Department

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1600 block of S. La Brea.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 600 block of S. La Brea.

Police Blotter

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the unincorporated areas of the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood Divisions between Sept. 29 and Oct. 15. The information was compiled from www.crimerep- ot.com to report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies; Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-4746, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)450-4951.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of S. Beverly Drive at 10:25 a.m. The loss was estimated at $6,400.

At 11:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of S. Sierra Bonita.

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

At 12:30 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 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 burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of Hollywood.

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.

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 1:30 p.m.

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

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Hollywood and Las Palmas.

At 11:40 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7400 block of Melrose at 7:45 a.m.

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

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.
The Petersen offers a look at Italian design

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

The exhibit will include five rooms, each representing a differ-
tent stage in the production line: raw materials, bare body shell, drive-
train, trim and finishes, and the final product.

With interactive tools in each room, visitors will find themselves immered in an educational experi-
cence. Cutaways located throughout the exhibit will offer mechanical details, and describe the undertak-
ing of research, manufacturing and logistics required to develop the vehicle.

Founded in 1914 in Bologna, Maserati is internationally acclaimed for designing and manu-
factoring 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 Mercedes-Benz Q8.

Named after the Mediterranean wind, Levante marks the luxury sports car manufacturer’s entry 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
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 maseratisusa.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 Oshino, dance lessons, face painting, stil walk, feminine arts 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.

Across
1. Lunch
5. Refuse
14. It’s often hard to live up to
15. Sound
16. Asia
17. Middle Eastern ruler
18. Boiled breakfast dish
19. Cultivate
20. Neptune, for one
23. Anklets
24. Mont Blanc part
25. Fraternity party staple
27. None’s opposite
28. Be skal-didly
32. Venetian
34. Garnam ___ (Indian spice mix ture)
36. Old Soviet Union
37. Middle Eastern appetizer, with many spellings
38. Wrapped garment
42. Organized protests
43. Coral islands
46. Kosher-style store
47. In the style of
48. Jabber
51. Body part
53. Own, of a kind
55. Lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, cucumbers and peppers, perhaps
56. Maths term
57. Letter-perfect
62. Drift
63. ___ of Man
64. On and off items
65. Willing to consider new ideas
66. Chiasmal concord
67. Eliminate
68. Swing retreat

Down
1. Mount in the Cascades
2. Percussion instrument
3. Beer colony
4. Frozen floaters
5. Zoo structure
6. Distress
7. Underground passage
8. Naturally belonging
9. Palentologist’s find
10. Vegetarian staple
11. Neither freshwater nor marine
12. Shields
13. Nostick spray brand
14. Muslim woman’s veil
15. Suit of a knight
16. Needlefish
17. Red, white-and-blue limo
18. Periodical publications
19. Checkered
20. Disorder
21. Chamber
22. In a flowing manner
23. Olive or castor
24. Individual items
25. Articulate
26. Throwback
27. Florida county
28. Lampon
29. Not even
30. Positive
31. Court group
32. Checkered
33. Sea
34. Crossword Puzzle by Myles Melior
35. Checkered
36. Under
37. Dish
38. Drift
39. Past
40. Individual items
41. Thing
42. Member
43. Member
44. Individual items
45. Member
46. Member
47. Member
48. Member
49. Member
50. Member
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See answers page 31

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 Hollywood Sign. The Theatre, both of which were spared from the inferno. A brush fire burned approximately three-quarters of an acre of land on a hillside south 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.

Local seniors poker group expands

The Jewish Family Service’s Freda Moor Multipurpose Senior Center has completed its move to temporary quarters while the FairFax Avenue facility is undergoing extensive renovations. The move allows more space for the Seniors Poker Group, which plans to expand and accept more members. Participants play for prizes donated by individuals, local merchants and Larry Flynn’s Hustler Casino. Participation is free; members must be at least 50 years old.

In addition to playing Texas Hold’em, participants receive spec-
cial lessons and enjoy talks by local citizens, including George Epstein, poker book author and columnist for many gaming publications. Epstein was recently named to the Seniors Poker Hall of Fame. Other local poker experts will be invited in the near future.

Epstein said playing poker is a great recreational activity for senior and citizens. The Freda Moor Seniors Poker Group meets Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. at the senior center, temporarily located at 6310 San Vicente Blvd., Ste. 275, near Crescent Heights Boulevard. For information and reservations, call (323)937- 5900.

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 home-
lessness 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 Artega, of St. Anne’s Housing Programs. The meeting will also focus on the impact of Propositions H and IHHH, which guarantees funding for houses 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)9371277, ext. 131, or emailing tickets@ebelloflosange-
les.com.
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, Zauil and Radubeh. Until they are reunited, goblins will be haunting the 20th Century Fox lot. Ticket prices subject to change.

LA Phil showcases global talent

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 Maxim Vengerov performing Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1. Remaining highlights include two concerts with conductor Yefim Bronfman for an evening of Viennese Romanticism and music from the 2011 Israeli film “Footnote.” And on Nov. 1, the Marinsky Orchestra with Valery Gergiev will perform a selection of 20th-century Russian masterworks, including Prokofiev’s Second Piano Concerto.

For information, visit LAnphil.com.

Join a bewitching, Halloween charity race to fight cancer

Witches, monsters, goblins and ghouls will be haunting the 20th annual L.A. Halloween 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 Hironobu Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research has sponsored and produced the annual Halloween charity race.

The LACC highlights include a hair-raising Pit Family Expo, a Halloween Candyland Kids Zone, a Kids Can Cure Fun Run, celebrities, live course entertainment, Children’s Hallowe’en Parade and Adult Costume Contest. Registration includes a 20th anniversary commemorative long sleeve shirt and swag bag, custom finishinger’s bib, custom runners bib and chip-timed event.

Proceeds from the LACC will benefit the Hironobu 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 $7.5 million for pancreatic cancer research and support.

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 Nafees Bin Zafar, a technology senior research manager. “But in the study can call (323) 993-8919 or email copska@hightcenter.org.

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 a L.A. High School football game at the high school’s Houson Field. The game will include an all-alumni half-time show. On Saturday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m., a centennial gala will be held in the Bruce Meyer Family Gallery at the Peterson Automotive Museum, 6060 Wilshire Blvd. The gala will be announced after the Peterson’s founding chairman, Meyer, a lifelong automo- bilist, enthusiast, collector and Los Angeles High School alum. The event will feature access to the muse-

Academy’s Tech Council adds seven members

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, bringing the Academy’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 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 soil destruction simulation systems.

Film editor Maryann Brandon, Bill Corso, Andrea Kalas, Ai-Ling Lee, Leon Silverman and Steve Yedin have accepted invitations to join the Academy’s Sound Branch.

Kalas, Ai-Ling Lee, Leon Silverman and Steve Yedlin have accepted invitations to join the Academy’s Science and Technology Council, a professional association focused on the professional media content creation industry.

Steve Yedin is a cinematographer, director and visual effects supervisor who has worked on such films as “Peter Pan.” His work 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 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 supervising the feature “The Darkest Minds” for 20th Century Fox.

Bill Corso is an Oscar-winning makeup artist and designer, whose recent credits include “Deadpool,” “Passengers,” “Blackadder: 2049” and the upcoming “Star Wars: The Last Jedi.” He is expected to contribute to the development of large-scale soil destruction simulation systems.

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 a L.A. High School football game at the high school’s Houson Field. The game will include an all-alumni half-time show. On Saturday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m., a centennial gala will be held in the Bruce Meyer Family Gallery at the Peterson Automotive Museum, 6060 Wilshire Blvd. The gala will be announced after the Peterson’s founding chairman, Meyer, a lifelong automo- bilist, enthusiast, collector and Los Angeles High School alum. The event will feature access to the muse-

L.A. High School celebrates 100th anniversary

L.A. High School celebrates 100th anniversary

As Walt Disney digital studio goes on to release its 100th feature film, it is overseeing digital studio services, which provide post production on all of its animated features. Digital Domain is a technical distribution services and workflow expertise. He is a past presi- dent of Professional Association, a trade association focused on professional content creation industry.

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10/19/17, 10/26/17, 11/2/17, 11/9/17
**Hollywood Museum hosts ‘Dungeon of Doom’**

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 I 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 name 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 contest rules, visit metro.net/projects/purple-line-extension-dbn.

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 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.

For information, call (844)HELPALZ, or visit alzgla.org/walk4ALZ.

**El Capitan presents ‘Nightmare Before Christmas’ screenings**


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 elcapitantickets.com.

**Elmwood presents ‘Nightmare Before Christmas’ screenings**

The Elmwood Theatre in Los Angeles 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 Elmwood Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd. For information, call (800)DISNEY6, or visit elcapitantickets.com.

**Community invited to relighting of Jensen’s sign**

The 17-foot-by-28-foot sign, originally featured a bowling alley and billiards parlor on the ground floor, and recently underwent renovation of its third floor, and recently underwent renovation of its third floor, and recently underwent renovation of its third floor. The building was declared a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument in 1998.

For information, visit cd13.org.

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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 goals to bring the mobilizations across the district.

“Education interrupts poverty, improves life,” board vice president said. “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.

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New law allows for more single-gender schools

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 Assemblyman David Chiu (D-San Francisco) and Kevin McCarthy (D-Sacramento). It will expand the number of students eligible for a community college fee waiver. Santiago said he 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 workforce.

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

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 application for single-gender schools under a law recently signed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

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 allows 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, to become official single-gender schools.

“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 Gonzalez. “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 strategic 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.

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New law allows for more single-gender schools

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

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

“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**

Sen. Holly J. Mitchell (D-Los Angeles) was recently presented with a Child Care Champion Award by Parent Voices and the Child Care Law Center.

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As the chair of the Select Committee on Women and Inequality, I’ve heard countless testimonies and read numerous reports about the negative effects of implicit bias against women, particularly in sciences, 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 opportunities,” 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.”

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.
Hepatitis A outbreak in L.A. County

From page 1

Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency (LAHSA) is working with DPH’s Environmental Health unit on improving sanitary conditions for the homeless to limit the spread of hepatitis A. For example, LAHSA hands out hygiene kits filled with soap and water, and the department is open to information on the virus and how to prevent transmission. The department is also working with DPH to determine long-term solutions, such as increasing the hours of public bathroom rooms and installing more handwashing 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 leap; we’re a very big county with over 50,000 people who are homeless, and we’ve had a lot of those cases for these past few years to coordinate before versus just having service providers and try 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 San Francisco, Murphy appears that the combined approach between LAHSA and DPH is working. Murphy said they could basically 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 outbreaks in A in its tracks before it takes hold.”

Los Angeles City Councilman Peter Welsh is from 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 get the district to its most vulnerable constituents. He has also set up regular cleanups around encampments, identifying and cleaning the sidewalks. He said he was happy to hear that the county was putting in such extraordinary efforts to get people to better secure their properties. There is no one answer. A sexagenarian with a long hair, odor, and agoraphobia.

MMRA President Jim O’Sullivan said the area has been regularly plagued by residential burglaries and auto thefts and breaks in. If a dedicated patrol is established in the Miracle Mile area, the security forces would have to “explore further” the patrol and what that would look like, Councilman Julian Gold said.

Patrol looks to improve safety on Miracle Mile

From page 1

When people express interest, a permanent patrol could be established that would be spearheaded by residential associations like the area. Garcia said the home owner associations also want 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.

“I am all for the [me] have a problem, it is very easy to know that there is a problem,” Garcia said. “Our goal is to get to where we need to be to try to be as proactive as possible.”

Crime statistics provided by the LAPD’s Wildfire Unit show that burglary rates in the Miracle Mile area have increased 17.1 percent, and thefts from motor vehicles have increased 2.2 percent in the past 2.2 percent as of the end of September. However, burglaries have decreased by 13.3 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.

“Those are spikes and there and then we are addressing them,” Joseph said. Sometimes, citizens don’t see it that way. “Crime is up to them and that’s perception of it. That’s why we have to work with communities to get 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 sign up after posting their information are protected by private security companies and guards play a role in protecting public safety.

“People do it all the time. They are,” Murphy said. “It’s 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 consider a security company for a dedicated service. Logistics and other issues would be considered as the plan moves forward. “We have a number of people in my city who would arm and would assume all liability,” O’Sullivan said.

“Let’s start out with a dedicated patrol,” O’Sullivan added. “The 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@micademila.com, or fellow MMRA member Kelly Perkins at kelly.perkins@micademila.com.

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

Police seeking upgrades in Beverly Hills

From page 1

The current facility, at 464 N. Rexford Drive, across the street from City Hall, was designed to meet the federal court’s 1986 recommended housing 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,” specifically referring to when the department works around some of the logistical challenges of processing one arrest, for example, requires an officer to visit three to four floors, instead of just one officer in those departments that have more optimally designed facilities make.

The need to add acclimation areas, “mased out” lockers rooms to stores when levels were among the other reasons Spagnoli cited as reason why the department, which police have also become more reliant on technology, may not have the cellular phone coverage required for use, according to police’s report to the council.

Councilman John Mirisch said the current facility would need to upgrade the facility as a “basic condition that would need to explore a different building and that what would look like,” Councilman Julian Gold said.

Sen. Bob Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys, announced today that Gov. Jerry Brown has signed his legislation 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.

Bill: Mic check tax checks for food banks

Bill sponsored by Assemblymember Torey Brown has signed legislation to ensure that Californians can continue to mark boxes on their tax returns to contribute money to food banks.

SB 40 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.”
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 100,000 acres to the Rim of the Valley Corridor to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

The Rim of the Valley stretch- es from the San Gabriels 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 spectacu- lar wilderness beyond. Our bill will, and projects critical areas for generations to come," Schiff said. "As more of this area is developed, 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: "Access to open spaces is essential for quality of life in Los Angeles," Feinstein said. A bill by Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (D-Pasadena) to provide law enforcement in Los Angeles, Oakland and Sacramento with a new tool to end sex trafficking has been signed by Gov. Jerry Brown. Assembly Bill 1206 will give law enforcement agencies the authority to conduct to 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 neighbor- hoods from people who are taking advantage of vulnerable women who are being trafficked and forced into acts beyond their control," Brown said. Unfortunately, many parts of my district have suffered from increasing incidences of prostitu- tion 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 exist- ing law, police can only seize a vehicle if the John or pimp has a prior conviction within the last five years. After the measure will require each of 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 part- ner 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, preda- tors and pedophiles. Make no mis- take 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.”

WeHo’s eastside could see improvements

From page 1

2011 to 2015, the east district has suffered from increasing incidences of prostitu- tion 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 exist- ing law, police can only seize a vehicle if the John or pimp has a prior conviction within the last five years. After the measure will require each of 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 part- ner 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, preda- tors and pedophiles. Make no mis- take 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.”

Call ing it “Measure H at work.” Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Marianne Ridley-Thomas announced that “street engagement teams” are fan- ning out across Los Angeles County to have face-to-face interactions with people experiencing homelessness, and to help them access housing, healthcare, and other services.

“All over the County of Los Angeles, you’ll find us working, doing what we do to lift up little people up and restoring them to their full purpose and capacity,” Ridley-Thomas said at a news conference where one of the teams was presented with a plaque for working without a home- less encampment near the 110 freeway in South LA.

Los Angeles- approved quarter-cent sales tax, will enable the County to create more street engagement teams and fund other efforts to help the homeless population, currently estimated at 56,000. The County also collected 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 innov- ative 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 we offer, the Homeless Initiative 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 sup- portive services.

The County piloted street engagement teams in Slid Row back in January 2016, with a team consisting of a nurse, a sub- stance use counselor, a mental health clinician, a social worker or outreach worker, and a person who has experienced homelessness. The program has improved almost 600 people into permanent supportive housing, placed 600 people in interim housing, and connected 400 people to intensive services.

Law requires drug makers to give notice about price hikes

Under an effort to increase trans- parency in prescription drug pric- ing, Gov. Jerry Brown signed SB 17, legislation authored by Sen. Ed Hernandez (D-West Covina) requiring pharmaceutical compa- nies to give notice before increas- ing prices.

“Californiaans have a right to know why their medications costs are out of control, especially when pharmaceutical profits are soar- ing,” Brown said. SB 17 requires drug manufac- turers to provide a 60-day notice if prices are increased by more than 16 per- cent in a two-year period. The bill applies to drugs that have a whole- sale 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 public health is not a bargaining chip for their government for help,” Hernandez said. “Requiring drug companies to provide advance notice and some explanation for large price hikes is a step toward a more stable and predictable drug marketplace. Sometimes, even a modest change brings about big results. Transparency will make drug companies reconsider or er whether drastic price increases are appropriate. For information, visit leginfo.ca.gov.

New law allows police to seize vehicles used in prostitution

A bill by Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (D-Pasadena) to provide law enforcement in Los Angeles, Oakland and Sacramento with a new tool to end sex trafficking has been signed by Gov. Jerry Brown. Assembly Bill 1206 will give law enforcement agencies the authority to conduct to 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 neighbor- hoods from people who are taking advantage of vulnerable women who are being trafficked and forced into acts beyond their control," Brown said. Unfortunately, many parts of my district have suffered from increasing incidences of prostitu- tion 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 exist- ing law, police can only seize a vehicle if the John or pimp has a prior conviction within the last five years. After the measure will require each of the city to
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