



Sunny with temps in the mid 60s

# BEVERLY PRESS

INSIDE

- CIM Group buys Sears building p. 3
- Protestors rally at Cosby's star p. 3

Volume 25 No. 48 Serving the West Hollywood, Hancock Park and Wilshire Communities November 26, 2015

## Hollywood expects 1 million at 84th annual Christmas Parade

■ Extravaganza will feature live performances, celebrities

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

Members of the Pacific American Volunteer Association (PAVA) World Korean Traditional Band danced and played music on Monday at the Hollywood and Highland Center to help kick off Hollywood's holiday season and preparation for the 84th annual Christmas Parade on Nov. 29.

More than one million people are expected to crowd the 3.2-mile parade route on Hollywood Boulevard at 5 p.m. as Los Angeles ushers in the season with more than 4,000 parade participants.

At the news conference on Monday, Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District, talked about the importance of the event being held in the wake of recent attacks on civilians in places like Paris and Beirut.

"At a time when there are those



photo by William Kidston

The 84th annual Hollywood Christmas Parade will start at 5 p.m. this Sunday on Hollywood Boulevard.

in the world that would want us to not celebrate our freedoms, not celebrate our religious pluralisms, not celebrate our multi-cultural resources that we have in the city of Los Angeles, this parade this

year takes on more importance than ever," he said. "This parade represents what this great country is all about. We will not give in to the threats and the oppression and

See parade page 26

## West Hollywood honors transgender victims

■ 23 trans murders occurred last year in U.S.

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

Suspects in an SUV pulled up to a street corner in Fresno at 2 a.m. on July 24 and stabbed to death a 66-year-old. The victim, K.C. Haggard, was a transgender woman, but Fresno police referred to Haggard as a man.

Hundreds gathered outside of West Hollywood's library for Transgender Day of Remembrance

on Friday, where a volunteer recalled the homicide from the victim's perspective.

"I collapsed on the sidewalk while bystanders did nothing but look at me on the ground bleeding," the volunteer said.

Haggard's was one of dozens of stories told about transgender homicides that occurred this year in the U.S. and around the world. At

See TDOR page 25



photo by Joshua Barash

The Transgender Day of Remembrance rally starts down San Vicente Boulevard in West Hollywood.

## Thankful for community support

■ Big Sunday, C.I.T.Y. x1 and other groups assist people in need

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Thousands of community members gathered in the days leading up to Thanksgiving to assemble food packages and serve dinner to people in need. Local organizations helping for the holiday include Big Sunday, C.I.T.Y. x1 and the L.O.V.E. Foundation.

Big Sunday, a non-profit organization on Melrose Avenue, provided more than 2,000 bags of food yesterday to service providers for people in need on Thanksgiving.

Approximately 125 LGBT youth and their friends gathered in Hollywood last Sunday for a Thanksgiving feast held by C.I.T.Y. x1, an organization that has been hosting holiday dinners for homeless youth every November for the past 13 years.

The organization, whose name stands for Community Intervention Through Youth, is a grassroots effort dedicated to hosting events for LGBT youth and their friends. It started as a small program at



photo by Edwin Folven

Terri Roberts and Eric Toms were among the hundreds of volunteers who assembled bags of food for needy families Wednesday at Big Sunday's headquarters on Melrose Avenue.

Children's Hospital Los Angeles encouraging homeless youth to come together. Funding for the program ran out in 2005, and organizers found themselves on their own, said Carlos Sosa, executive director for C.I.T.Y. x1.

The group reached out to supporters and found that many were willing to help. The city of West Hollywood provided funding and a location at Plummer Park to hold

the Thanksgiving dinners. Sosa said the event grew, and this year it was held in a banquet hall at the Hollywood Hotel to accommodate the crowd.

"It started out as a fun project, but when we went to Plummer Park, it just started snowballing from there," Sosa said. "It's been getting bigger and bigger. It's always been the Sunday before

See holiday page 26

## LAPD hosts turkey giveaway, prepares feast for officers

■ Aztec Rising group passes out 1,000 turkeys for at-risk youth

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

Officers with the Los Angeles Police Department's Hollywood Division on Wednesday teamed up with Aztec Rising, a nonprofit gang prevention group, to give food to some of the less fortunate families in the city.

Aztec Rising members went around Los Angeles and passed out vouchers to approximately 250 families in need in the areas around the Hollywood, Olympic

and Wilshire divisions. On Wednesday, those families brought the vouchers to the Hollywood Division's community room at 6501 Fountain Ave. The families picked up their turkeys and bags that contained canned goods, potatoes and other non-perishable food at the first annual giveaway.

Tina Padilla, the Hollywood case manager for Aztec Rising, said it was the fourth time the group held a giveaway but it was the first time in Hollywood. The group started with 150 turkeys at their first event, but this year the

See LAPD page 26



photo by Gregory Cornfield

LAPD Sgt. Darrell Davis, left, stands with the cadets who helped distribute food at the turkey giveaway on Wednesday.

FREE 16GB SD CARD & CASE

**Nikon D3200** with 18-55mm & 55-200mm DX Lenses

At the heart of the image™

24.2 MEGAPIXELS

WI FI

EXPPEED 3 ISO 12800 6400

**\$396.95** PLUS TAX!

\$876.95 - \$480 INSTANT REBATE

Nikon Authorized Dealer

ALL NIKON PRODUCTS INCLUDE NIKON INC. USA LIMITED WARRANTY. AUTHORIZED NIKON DEALER, NIKON USA INC.

2 LENS KIT

Lexar 16GB 300x45mm

**Samy's Camera**

WWW.SAMYS.COM

**BLACK FRIDAY DEALS!**

NO TAX ON 1000'S OF ITEMS

431 S. FAIRFAX AVE. | (323) 938-2420

THURSDAY: SAMY'S STORES ARE CLOSED. SAMYS.COM IS OPEN!

FRIDAY: OPEN FROM 8AM - 6:30PM!

PRICES GOOD THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2015 EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED. Not responsible for typographical errors. Limited to stock on hand. First come, first served. No rainchecks and no holds. Prices subject to change without notice. Colors of some cameras vary by location. Samy's pays Sales Tax on select items. Mail Order, samys.com & all Used, Demo or Refurbished purchases are excluded from the "No Sales Tax" Promotion.

**Canon EOS REBEL T5** with 18-55mm & 75-300mm Lenses

SAVE \$350

18 MEGAPIXELS FULL HD LiveView ISO MODE 12800 6400

• Continuous shooting up to 3.0 fps

**\$399.00**

\$749 - \$350 INSTANT REBATE

NO TAX!

ALL CANON ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE INCLUDES CANON USA 1 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY REGISTRATION CARD.

2 LENS KIT

# Parade features Toys for Tots

From page 1

the dangers that lurk around the corners sometimes.”

O’Farrell offered assurance that increased safety measures will be in place to make sure it will be a secure parade.

“I think we have a unique opportunity this year to shine a light for the rest of the world as to what is possible in terms of peace and freedom,” he said.

The parade will feature the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, which provides gifts to less fortunate children. On Monday, Lt. Col. Thomas Kisch and other Marines representing the Toys for Tots Foundation picked up approximately 600 toys at PAVA headquarters in Koreatown. PAVA is a non-profit volunteer organization that specializes in environmental education, cleanup and restoration work, and its band is one of 17 that will be featured in the parade. Alex Woo, CEO and president of PAVA, said youth members helped collect the toys and helped deliver them to the Marines.

“They did all the heavy lifting; these are the ones that do all the actual work,” Woo said. “They roll up

their sleeves and get their hands dirty. They did some fundraising, got their friends and families to be able to provide the funds to be able to purchase these gifts. It really took a lot for them to do it. But they graciously did because they wanted to give back to the community.”

Kisch explained that Toys for Tots started in Los Angeles in 1947. Last year, the foundation collected over \$285 million and 16 million toys for 7 million children nationwide.

Kisch and other Marines will march in the parade with a color guard and marching band.

Las Vegas headliners and magicians Penn & Teller will be this year’s grand marshals. Laura McKenzie, Erik Estrada, Dean Cain and Montel Williams will host the event. Elizabeth Stanton and Garrett Clayton will serve as special guest hosts. The Hollywood Christmas Parade officials will present boxing star Oscar De La Hoya with a Humanitarian Award for his charitable work.

The extravaganza will kick off with a concert that will include performances by Clay Aiken; India

Arie; Band of Merrymakers; Daughtry; Diana Degarmo; Kat Graham; Candice Glover; Taylor Hicks; Alexander Jean featuring B.C. Jean and Mark Ballas; Sean Kingston; Heather Russell; Ruben Studdard; and Ace Young. Magicians Jonathan Pendragon and Michael Turco, from the CW television series, “Masters of Illusion,” will also perform. Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA), Los Angeles City Councilman David E. Ryu, 4th District, and O’Farrell are expected to attend. Many celebrities are expected to attend, and the parade will include many floats, balloons and equestrian units.

The parade will travel along a 3.2-mile, U-shaped route that will start at Orange Drive and Hollywood Boulevard. It will travel east on Hollywood Boulevard to Vine Street, turn south on Vine Street to Sunset Boulevard, and turn west on Sunset Boulevard and return to Orange Drive.

Grandstand tickets for the parade are on sale. To reserve seats, call Ticketmaster at (800)745-3000 or visit ticketmaster.com/hcp. For the latest updates about the parade, call (866)PARADE1 or visit thehollywoodchristmasparade.org. Fans

## Prepare for Hollywood parade street closures

Los Angeles City Councilmen Mitch O’Farrell and David Ryu, and Greg Savelli, executive officer with LADOT’s parking enforcement and traffic control, issued warnings about road closures.

Starting at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, Hollywood Boulevard will be closed from Orange Drive to Highland Avenue. Orange Drive will also be closed from Hollywood Boulevard to the alley north of Hawthorne Avenue. Those streets will reopen Monday, Dec. 1 at 6 a.m.

At 6 a.m. on Sunday, Hollywood Boulevard will be closed from La Brea Avenue to Orange Drive, and will reopen at 10 p.m. Hawthorne Avenue, DeLongpre Avenue and Fountain Avenue from LaBrea to Highland Avenue, will be closed from 1-9 p.m. El Cerrito Place from Hollywood Boulevard to Franklin Avenue will be closed from 1-8 p.m. Sycamore Street and Orange Drive from Franklin to Fountain avenues, will be closed from 1-9 p.m. Sunset Boulevard, from La Brea to Highland avenues will be closed from 1-10 p.m. La Brea will also be closed from Hollywood to Sunset boulevards from 4-7 p.m. Highland will be closed from Franklin Avenue to Santa Monica Boulevard from 3-9 p.m. Hollywood Boulevard will be closed from Highland to Gower Street from 4-9 p.m. Vine Street will be closed from Franklin to Santa Monica from 4-9 p.m. Sunset will be closed from Highland to Gower from 4-9 p.m.

The northbound and southbound offramps of the Hollywood (101) Freeway to Cahuenga Boulevard and Highland Avenue will be closed Sunday from 3-10 p.m.

For information on street closures, visit [trafficinfo.lacity.org](http://trafficinfo.lacity.org).

are encouraged follow along via Facebook and Twitter, at @HlywdChristmas or with #HollywoodChristmasParade, or #TheHCP2015.

The parade will also premiere as

a two-hour special on The CW Network on Friday, Dec. 11 at 5 p.m. The Hallmark Channel will air the parade multiple times, starting Dec. 19 on the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries channel.

# Holiday meals offered in L.A.

From page 1

Thanksgiving. The most important component is we get a lot of homeless kids attending. For a lot of them, they wouldn’t have a place to go.”

Sosa said the dinner is sponsored by West Hollywood, as well as the Office of Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, the L.A. LGBT Center, AltaMed, Christ Church of Valley and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Free HIV testing was held. O’Farrell attended the dinner and said it is important for Hollywood youth.

“The C.I.T.Y. x1 event is really special. I’ve been there every year since I’ve been in office,” O’Farrell said. “We are talking [about] homeless youth who have been kicked out of their homes. It’s a very spe-

cial group for 13 to 24 year olds. I like going to the event and showing support. These kids need inspiration.”

O’Farrell said members of the community can also enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner today at the First Annual Thanksgiving LOVE Dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hollywood Recreation Center, 1122 Cole Ave. O’Farrell is partnering with community groups such as the L.O.V.E. (Living Our Vision Everyday) Foundation to host the dinner, which is geared toward homeless youth and low-income families but is open to everyone. For information, visit [www.cd13.com](http://www.cd13.com).

Big Sunday also offers more than 250 projects in which people can

help during the upcoming holiday season.

“Going into the holiday season, there are two big needs,” said David Levinson, executive director of Big Sunday. “Some people need stuff. A lot of people don’t have enough food and clothing, and enough toys for their children. A lot of people are lonely and also need a little TLC. Whether you have a lot of money or no money, there are ways to help.”

Big Sunday is holding its Fourth Annual Holiday Decorating Party on Sunday, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Veteran Administration facility in West Los Angeles. Big Sunday is seeking volunteers to help decorate rooms for people who are hospitalized at the facility.

“We are bringing in trees and decorations, and need people who want to spread a little holiday



photo courtesy of C.I.T.Y. x1

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell fills up at C.I.T.Y. x1 annual Thanksgiving dinner.

cheer,” Levinson said.

Volunteers are also being sought for Big Sunday’s Sixth Annual

Holiday Party and Sing-a-Long on Sunday, Dec. 13 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the organization’s headquarters at 6111 Melrose Ave. Members of the community are invited to join Big Sunday for a meal and musical performance. The event will also include a toy drive. For information, visit [www.bigsunday.org](http://www.bigsunday.org).

“For anyone who needs a little TLC during the holidays, we have a little TLC to give,” Levinson added.

C.I.T.Y. x1 is also hosting an event for LGBT youth and their friends called “The Tamale Jam” on Dec. 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Hollywood Hotel, 1160 N. Vermont Ave. Food will be served, and attendees can enjoy music. For information, visit [www.cityx1.com](http://www.cityx1.com).

# LAPD officers feast at work

From page 1

group passed out more than 1,000 turkeys – 250 of which in Hollywood on Wednesday.

Aztec Rising raises funds through different efforts, such as online crowd funding, car washes and bake sales. The group focuses on helping at-risk youth from 14 to 25 years old and their families, Padilla explained.

“We have a lot of participants living in households with one or no parents, or the parents are

working all the time,” she said. “It’s important because they wouldn’t have a Thanksgiving because some can’t afford it or they only have enough to get by.”

Booths were set up where community members could get information about online schools, career development, job training, mentoring and anti-drug services. Senior lead officers and Hollywood cadets helped distribute the food on Wednesday.

While the police officers helped hand out food to community members for the holiday, they will also be cooking for themselves on Thursday. Although many Angelenos will be off work on Thanksgiving, Sgt. Darrell Davis estimated that about 55 members of the Hollywood Division will work on the holiday, and they will be hungry for turkey.

“Some of our officers will be cooking some meals,” Davis said. “Plus we will be getting food donated by the Roosevelt Hotel. That food will be picked up and some will be cooked here at the

station.”

Davis said the officers on 10- and 12-hour shifts will take part in an unofficial tradition of preparing a Thanksgiving feast for the officers on duty. It is unofficial because they do not know who will be working during the holiday week each year. But Davis said about a week before Thanksgiving each year, officers start calling around asking for different Hollywood businesses to donate food for the feast. They also arrange for two officers to take turkeys home to cook and bring them back.

“It’s not easy on the day shift,” Davis said. “Roll call is at 6:45 a.m. You don’t really get to enjoy the holiday.”

Davis said Thanksgiving week does not feel like a typical holiday week, but the Thanksgiving meal helps.

“Three years ago, my family picked up food, and my mom cooked food and we brought it down for the night shift,” Davis said. “We came in, set up the room, set up the table. My mother and myself and my kids prepared the food for the officers that year.”

# CVS can often be misdiagnosed

From page 6

bulimia. There are no blood tests, x-rays or specific procedures to diagnose the disorder. The diagnosis is made after a careful review of the patient’s history, physical examination and lab studies to rule out other diseases.

The Brocks did not know why Aaron was sick until he was diagnosed with CVS when he was four and a half years old. They believe he has had the syndrome since he was 18 months old.

“It remains very undiagnosed

and is considered very rare,” said Aaron’s father, Daniel.

“Some people are being diagnosed with cerebral migraines who don’t understand why it doesn’t react well to treatment,” said Aaron’s mother, Gudrun. “They just have no idea how to help themselves, nor do the doctors.”

Gudrun said Aaron suffered from symptoms five to seven days per week on a bi-weekly basis.

“To listen to a 6-year-old kid

retching and retching, it’s just devastating for the patient and the families,” she said.

Daniel explained that they have tried different treatments, including a feeding program that “went off the rails” and created additional neurological problems for Aaron and he almost died. Now he takes five medications, and his parents can intravenously give him calories and nutrients at home.

“We seem like we’re getting closer to the target but not quite hitting the bullseye,” Daniel said.

Aaron’s parents are hopeful and said his drive to get better is

“nothing short of a miracle.”

“Aaron still loves food and loves to eat and to be in the kitchen,” Daniel said. “His mom is an amazing cook and will cook whatever this kid wants all day. All we want is for him to grow to normal weight and size.”

The Brocks said although they are exhausted, they will not give up.

“We won’t rest until we have him well and better,” Gudrun said.

They are hoping to raise awareness about CVS so people know how it affects families and that there is support and medications to help to alleviate suffering.

For more information on CVS, visit [www.cvsonline.org](http://www.cvsonline.org).

## Answers From Page 21

