

FOUR SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR SERIES OF BURGLARIES

By Trevor Roberts

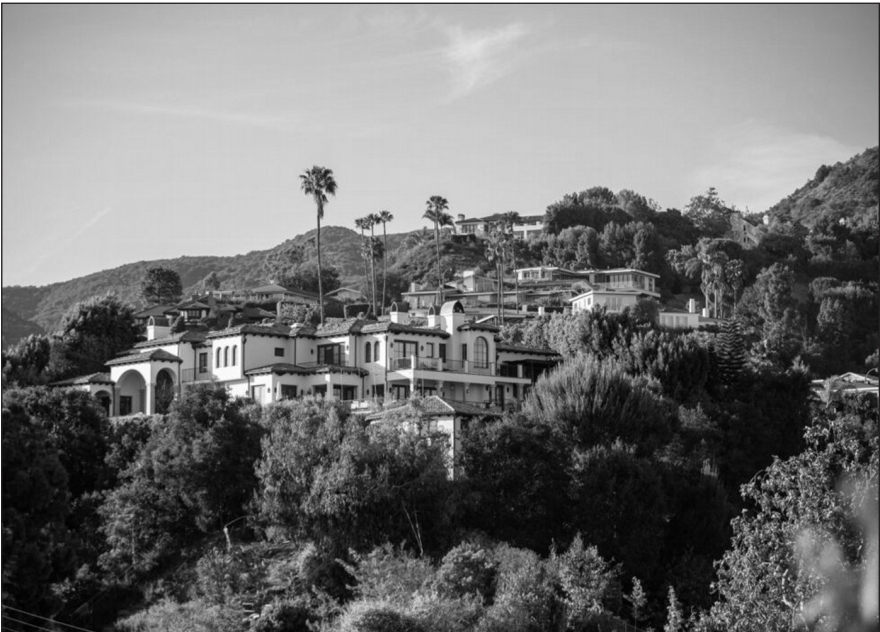
PACIFIC PALISADES—On Wednesday, March 6, the Los Angeles Police Department disclosed that several suspects were arrested by Northeast detectives in connection to a series of burglaries.

The LAPD reported on February 29, detectives tracked the burglary suspects across Los Angeles from the San Fernando Valley to West Los Angeles. Based on the suspects' actions, detectives realized the group was preparing to commit additional burglaries.

Around 1:30 p.m., authorities observed four suspects preparing to commit a burglary. With the help from LAPD's West Los Angeles officers, the suspects were apprehended in the area of Castellammare Drive and Sunset Boulevard before they could execute the burglary.

Three adults were taken into custody without incident while still inside their vehicle, and a juvenile was detained after attempting to flee on foot. He discarded his cell phone and changed clothing during the foot pursuit. Officers discovered burglary tools and other potential evidence inside the vehicle, which will be recovered following the execution of a search warrant.

Patricio Lian, 20, has been



Several suspects have been arrested for a string of burglaries in Pacific Palisades. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock.

booked under the booking number 6768393 for one felony count of 459 PC-Burglary, and one felony count of 3056 PC-Parole Violation.

Carlos Antonio Gonzalez-Ravest, 20, was booked under the booking number 6768381. He faces charges including an outstanding felony warrant for 459 PC-Burglary, and an outstanding felony warrant for 487 PC-Grand Theft, alongside the initial charge of 182 (A) PC, Conspiracy to Commit Bur-

glary. Joaquin Elias Munoz, 19, was booked under the booking number 6768375 for the charge of 182 (A) PC-Conspiracy to Commit Burglary.

The juvenile, a 17-year-old male was booked under the booking number 6768316 for the charge of 602 WIC/182 PC-Conspiracy to Commit Burglary.

Anyone with additional details is asked to contact Northeast Division detectives at 323-

561-3220. During non-business hours or on weekends, calls should be directed to 1-877-LAPD-24-7 (877-527-3247). Anyone wanting to remain anonymous should call the LA Regional Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (800-222-8477) or go directly to www.lacrimestoppers.org. Tipsters can visit www.lapdonline.org and click on "Anonymous Web Tips" under the "Get Involved-Crime Stoppers" menu to submit an online tip.

MALIBU CITY COUNCIL ADVANCES PERMANENT SKATE PARK PROJECT

By Trevor Roberts



Movement is being made on a permanent skate park in Malibu. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock.

-Allowing the neighboring property owner to install landscaping at its own cost to improve the park and prevent graffiti along the perimeter wall of the Skate Park.

-Shifting a portion of the Skate Park 10 feet further away from The Case project homes and lowering one of the above-ground elements.

-Allowing The Case project to lease a portion of the area adjacent to the Temporary Skate Park lot for parking for

\$5,627 per month until construction begins on the Permanent Skate Park.

-Assigning responsibility to The Case project for all costs related to the changes made to the Permanent Skate Park and requiring a deposit of \$150,000 with the City to cover any additional design and construction costs.

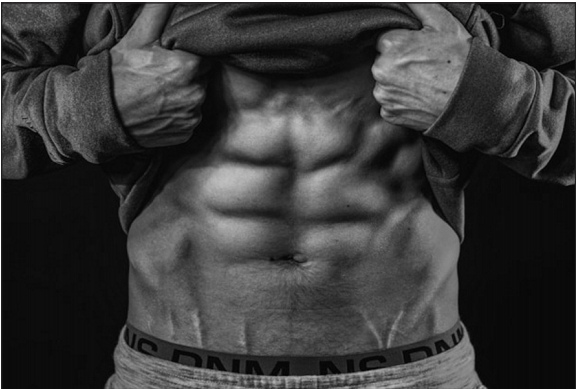
On November 30, 2023, the Planning Commission approved the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for the

BODY BUILDER WARDS OFF WOULD BE ROBBERS

By Sharon Stice

WEST HOLLYWOOD—On February 28, at approximately 2 p.m., a West Hollywood dog walker fought off would be thieves who attempted to steal his watch. The victim of the attack was later identified as Rocco DiStefano, 29, who is a body builder who owns The Lab Athletic Club located at 8305 Sunset Blvd in West Hollywood.

The incident was captured by surveillance cameras outside the gym showing DiStefano stepping out of the gym in his gray sweat suit, his Rolex on his arm, and his small white dog at



Random bodybuilder. Photo by Charles Gaudreault.

the end of a leash.

Three suspects in a black Cadillac sedan rode up beside

DiStefano, jumped out and charged at him. "When I turned around, it was three

armed men running up on me. One had a gun," DiStefano told KTLA. The armed suspect threatened the victim, telling him to "take it off," pointing to the watch and give it to him, or else he'd shoot him.

DiStefano, who is a trainer by trade has spent some time in the boxing ring. His techniques helped him fend off his would-be robbers, and they all left empty-handed.

Canyon News reached out to Rocco DiStefano, also known as, "Rocco the Chemist," for a more information, but did not hear back before print.

GARVEY AND SCHIFF ADVANCE TO NOVEMBER ELECTION

By Sharon Stice

CALIFORNIA—Democrat State Representative Adam Schiff and former Major League Baseball player for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres, Republican Steve Garvey will compete for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Dianne Feinstein on November 5.

According to the Associated Press, 38 percent of the votes cast on Super Tuesday have been counted.

On March 6, at approximately 1 p.m., reports indicated 54 percent of expected votes counted with Garvey in the lead with 1,317,911 votes at 34.6 percent of the vote.

Schiff is currently in second place, with 1,173,917 and 30.8 percent of the vote. Votes Tuesday night showed Schiff in the lead with 1,247,723 votes,

equivalent to 33.2 percent of the vote. Garvey earned 1,220,683 votes, winning 32.5 percent of the vote.

Democrats Katie Porter earned 519,631 (15 percent) of the vote, and Barbara Lee earned 276,854 votes (7 percent) of the vote. Republican Eric Early received 135,396 votes.

Schiff has spoken negatively against former President Donald J. Trump from Congress and on the campaign trail. He led in his fundraising efforts and secured the endorsement of the Coalition of Humane Immigrant Rights. He is an immigration advocate and proponent of open border policies of the Biden-Harris Administration, and California agriculture.

Garvey shared enthusiasm with his supporters stating: "Let's celebrate." After taking the stage, "Welcome to the California come back," and "We haven't come this far, to only go this far."

According to the Garvey for Senate website, he strives to solve homelessness, make the quality of life better for Californians, address crime, public safety, improve national security, water management, agriculture, and is a proponent of immigration reform. He wants to secure the border and help immigrants find a better life in this country legitimately. Garvey supports Ukraine efforts against Russian aggression, and supporting, "Our ally, Israel, yesterday, today, and tomorrow."

On March 5, California Republican Party Chairwoman Jessica Millan Patterson released the following statement.

"As California's primary election results roll in, it's increasingly clear that Californians are fed up with the disastrous policies championed by Democrats from the White House to local office that have led to sky-high prices, surging crime, rampant homelessness, failing schools and more. Republicans are offering commonsense solutions to the many problems that plague our broken state. Voters are ready to send a clear message to radical, far-left Democrats this November that they've had enough, and it's time to put California and our nation on a pathway to success once again."

ROAD CLOSURES IN WEHO DURING LA MARATHON

By Sharon Stice

WEST HOLLYWOOD—On March 6, the city of West Hollywood announced the route of the upcoming Los Angeles Marathon for Sunday, March 17 which is St. Patrick's Day. The streets will be blocked off for the run from 4 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The route entry will start on Sunset Boulevard at Haven Hurst Drive traveling west-bound. The runners will turn south on N. San Vicente/Sunset Boulevard and then turn west on Santa Monica Boulevard at San Vicente Boulevard. All runners will travel south on Doheny Drive, exiting West Hollywood on Doheny Boulevard and Beverly Drive.

Sunset Boulevard, N. Vicente Boulevard, Santa Monica Boulevard, and Doheny Drive



WEHO Road Closures.

will be closed to thru-traffic during the event.

For more information visit the L.A. Marathon website or contact Jesús Heredia who is the Event Services Coordinator for West Hollywood.

"Join us for the 39th running

of the Los Angeles Marathon presented by ASICS on March 17, 2024. Participants will set out on our course starting at Dodger Stadium and finishing on the Avenue of the Stars in Century City and not only accomplish a personal goal but

also support The McCourt Foundation's mission to build a healthier world," reads the LA Marathon website.

The McCourt Foundation was established in 1992 and notes on its website that it is: "Striving to cure neurological diseases while empowering communities to build a healthier world."

The L.A. Marathon is a 26.2-mile tour to begin at 7 a.m. and is scheduled to end at 6 hours and 30 minutes after the last person crosses the starting line.

The Los Angeles Marathon Weekend starts March 15, and includes two days of running. Those interested in the L.A. Big 5K on Saturday, March 16 can visit the website.

BIKE / PEDESTRIAN SAFETY OPERATIONS MARCH 7 AND MARCH 8

By Trevor Roberts

SANTA MONICA—The city of Santa Monica announced on its website that the Santa Monica Police Department will be conducting 2 bike and pedestrian safety operations on March 7 and March 8. There will be a focus on enforcement efforts on primary collision factors involving motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists.

The SMPD identifies locations where pedestrian and bike collisions are prevalent, along with the violations that led to those collisions. Traffic officers will be on duty patrolling areas where bike and pedestrian traffic and collisions occur in an effort to lower deaths and injuries. Officers will be looking for violations committed by drivers, bike riders and pedestrians alike that can lead to life changing injuries. These violations include speeding, making illegal turns, failing to yield or provide right of way to bicyclists or pedestrians, or failing to stop for signs and signals.

The extra enforcement efforts will take place on Thursday and Friday between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.



The SMPD will be conducting two Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Operations on March 7 and March 8. Photo by Gunnar Madlung via Unsplash.

"We all have places to be and not everyone gets there by car. Bicyclists and pedestrians have the same rights to the road but face even more risk without the protections vehicles have. We should all be looking out for one another," the SMPD stated.

Pedestrians

-Be predictable. Use crosswalks, when available.

-Take notice of approaching vehicles and practice due care.

-Do not walk or run into the path of a vehicle. At 30

mph, a driver needs at least 90 feet to stop.

-Be visible. Make it easy for drivers to see you – wear light colors, reflective material and carry a flashlight, particularly at dawn, dusk or at night.

-Be extra careful crossing streets or entering crosswalks at night when it is harder to see, or when crossing busier streets with more lanes and higher speed limits.

Drivers

-Follow the speed limit and slow down at intersections. Be

prepared to stop for pedestrians at marked and unmarked crosswalks.

-Avoid blocking crosswalks while waiting to make a right-hand turn.

-Never drive impaired. Bicyclists

-Obey traffic laws, use hand signals, use lights at night (front white light and rear red reflector), and wear a helmet.

-Bicyclists must travel in the same direction of traffic and have the same requirements as any slow-moving vehicle.

-Avoid the door zone: do not ride too closely to parked cars.

-If there's a bike lane, use it, unless making a left turn, passing, or approaching a place where a right turn is allowed.

-Yield to pedestrians. Bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within marked crosswalks or within unmarked crosswalks at intersections.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

RETAIL THEFT BLITZ OPERATIONS LEAD TO MULTIPLE ARRESTS

By Trevor Roberts

LOS ANGELES—On Monday, March 4, the Los Angeles Police Department announced that Central Area Burglary detectives arrested of multiple shoplifting suspects during two separate blitz operations that transpired in Downtown Los Angeles.

The LAPD reported that retail theft is a major problem in the region resulting in the daily loss of thousands of dollars. Blitz operations are conducted to address this issue by collaborating with impacted retailers to strategically saturate the problem areas with personnel and resources. A total of 14 suspects were arrested.

The blitz operations were conducted on February 29 at a retailer located in the 600 block of South Broadway and on March 1 at a retailer in the FI-



Photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Gat7th Plaza in the area of 7th Street and Figueroa Street.

The four suspects arrested on February 29 included: Mario Moreno, 38, Booking No. 6768175; Kristyanna Banuelos, 19, Booking No. 676821; Vaneza Quioro, 35, Booking No. 6768297; Amalya Sutton, 23, Booking No. 6768305.

Ten suspects, including three juveniles, were arrested on March 1 including: Valeria Vazquez-Zuniga, 25, Booking No. 6768669; Augustus Evans, 54, Booking No. 6768694; Quincy Davis, 53, Booking No. 6768685; Leila Vavalette, 48, Booking No. 6768717; Edna Ordenez-Escobar, 53, Booking

No. 6768731; Alondra Leon, 32, Booking No. 6768744; Darion Moore, 38, Booking No. 6768774.

Under the Los Angeles County Felony / Misdemeanor Bail Schedule, several of the suspects were eligible for Cite and Release, and others had pending warrants.

Anyone with details about any retail theft incidents are asked to call the LAPD Central Burglary Theft Detectives at 213-833-3750. During non-business hours or on weekends, calls should be directed to 1-877-LAPD-24-7 (1-877-527-3247). Anyone wishing to remain anonymous can call the LA Regional Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (800-222-8477) or go directly to www.lacrimestoppers.org.

FORMER NBA PLAYER RASHID BYRD SENTENCED TO PRISON TIME

By Trevor Roberts

LOS ANGELES—On Friday, March 1, the Los Angeles Police Department that former NBA player Rashid Byrd was sentenced to over 90 years to life in prison.

In 2019, the LAPD Robbery-Homicide Division's Special Assault Section started investigating Byrd, after a victim came forward to report that she had been sexually assaulted. During their investigation, detectives learned in 2010, Byrd was convicted of a sexual assault involving a different victim. Detectives also discovered in 2005 that he had

been arrested for sexually assaulting a young woman in Washington State.

According to Byrd's victims, although he was initially charming, he subsequently forced them into a variety of sex acts.

"He started as a charmer, playing up his status as an athlete and pseudo-celebrity, but that quickly faded into rapes and violence," said Detective Dara Brown, the lead investigator on the case.

On September 18, 2020, detectives arrested Byrd for sex-

ual assault. His bail was \$4,150,000, and he has remained in custody since his arrest. Byrd was found guilty, and on March 1, 2024, he was sentenced to 90 years to life for a series of violent sexual assaults that occurred in Los Angeles and Santa Clara Counties between 2015 and 2020.

"The LAPD is grateful for the brave women who came forward to tell their stories," Brown said. "While this investigation has gone on for years, we are thankful that Byrd is no longer on the streets."

Brown added efforts were made to locate all of Byrd's victims and asked that anyone with information regarding his crimes contact her at (213) 486-6840 or email rhdtipline@lapd.online. During non-business hours or on weekends, calls should be directed to 1-877-LAPD-24-7 (877-527-3247). Anyone wishing to remain anonymous should call the LA Regional Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (800-222-8477) or go directly to www.lacrimestoppers.org.