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AAA Travel Reminder: Please note that some travel destinations may require a minimum stay of 4 nights, and some travel destinations may require a minimum stay of 6 nights.

AAA Travel Notice: Please note that some travel destinations may require a minimum stay of 8 nights, and some travel destinations may require a minimum stay of 10 nights.

AAA Travel Information: Please note that some travel destinations may require a minimum stay of 12 nights, and some travel destinations may require a minimum stay of 14 nights.

AAA Travel Restrictions: Please note that some travel destinations may require a minimum stay of 15 nights, and some travel destinations may require a minimum stay of 16 nights.

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AAA Travel Notice: Please note that some travel destinations may require a minimum stay of 81 nights, and some travel destinations may require a minimum stay of 82 nights.
NEW COVER-UP CLAIM FILED AGAINST SHERIFF VILLANUEVA

JOHN WATERS DISHES ON HIS NEW NOVEL

THE CIRCLE JERKS REUNION IS IN FULL SWING AND KEITH MORRIS IS THRIVING

BY BRETT CALLWOOD
Mental Health Awareness Month Home Base
Grand Park
May 1 - May 31
200 N Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Grand Park located in downtown Los Angeles will serve as a hub for connection throughout May by bringing together the partners and people at the heart of WE RISE 2022 through healing-centered activities and a special community art installation comprised of 72 live oak trees. Programmed to accentuate the physical space of the “park for everyone” and the metaphysical healing of personal well-being especially during these unpredictable times, Grand Park aims to create a sense of social cohesion through arts-based practice activities, park tours and community partnerships.

Get Lit WHY I RISE Poetry Contest
Los Angeles County Office of Education
May 1 - May 10

Calling all artists, storytellers and poets interested in reducing mental health stigma! The “Why I Rise” poetry contest is your chance to speak your truth and be recognized! If you are 13-24 years old, you’re invited to submit a poem that connects to the theme of mental health. Open for submissions through May 10.

Toe Foʻi: The Return
Arts Council for Long Beach
May 1 - May 31
695 Alamitos Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802

Toe Foʻi: The Return is a community exhibit in collaboration with 5 Pasifika artists that builds upon a series of story-circles. The project reminds visitors that the stories of those lost to COVID-19 are the stories of those who survived. Toe Foʻi: The Return is anchored to the role of artists as healers who move us collectively through this hurdle of misinformation, fear, mistrust, and entitlement. This event will be ongoing through the month of May.

Parks at Sunset
LA County Department of Parks & Recreation
Wednesdays and Thursdays in May

Come fuel your soul by attending a free drop-in activity during sunset at an LA County park near you. Hosted by the Department of Parks & Recreation, Parks at Sunset features a variety of family-friendly experiences - from meditation and yoga to dance jams and canvas painting. Pick a Wednesday or Thursday evening in May and enjoy the healing benefits of being part of an outdoor activity with friends, family or on your own while taking in a breathtaking sunset. For a full listing of parks, amenities and special events, visit parks.lacounty.gov.

Beading & Talking Circle Workshops
HEAL
Wednesdays in May @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
3601 South Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

HEAL’s Beading & Talking Circle Workshops is a free Native-led, four-part series, featuring a talking circle and art/beading workshops. Participants will learn how to bead and finish a basic beaded rope necklace while focusing on the cultural and healing aspects of Native beadwork (mindfulness, grounding). Attendees will also gather in a talking circle to support wellness by using the medicine wheel to address the four aspects of health. Advance registration is required. This event will be held every Wednesday in the month of May.

Mindfulness & Mandalas
LA County Library
May 5 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
12350 Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650

Discover what free programs are happening at your local county library branch throughout the month of May. At Mindfulness & Mandalas, you’ll learn about how to cultivate a mindfulness practice and other tips to stay focused and present. Practice these techniques as you color your own mandalas in this creative and meditative activity. This event is designed especially for teens, but anyone can visit the Library YouTube page to access multiple playlists related to mindfulness. For additional resources and events from Los Angeles County Library, visit lacitylibrary.org.

Do Say Gay! Queer Art Class
The Center
May 6 @ 10:00 am - 11:30 am
2017 East 4th Street, Long Beach, CA 90814

This series of classes will explore historic queer artists and their work, art-making as an opportunity for representation and personal storytelling, and how to use art to advocate for social justice. Lessons will concentrate on some well-known, queer artists as well as artists that are creating work that calls outside of the classic, heteronormative cannon. We will also create our own works of art utilizing what we learned in class. For more info, visit artslb.org/bridging-wellness

Abuelita’s Remedios (Grandma’s Remedies)
Meztli Projects
May 7 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
4801 East 3rd Street, East Los Angeles, CA 90022

Abuelita’s Remedios (Grandma’s Remedies) – La Cultura Cura Health Fair is a free culturally-based wellness & health gathering in East Los Angeles for young people and elders. Join us in honoring ancestral knowledge and restorative practices through participatory healing workshops, cultural marketplace, healthy food demonstrations, culturally-relevant mental health resources, and more. For more info, visit meztliprojects.org

Garden Block Party
Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles
May 7 @ 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
599 Columbia Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Free food, music & fun for all! Please join Levitt LA as we share the joy of music at the annual Cultiva LA Spring Health Fair at their Westlake Community Garden. Their mission is to transform healthy food access and wellness through people, social enterprise and environmental justice. This free, all ages community event is created to offer access to resources and to bring people together. For more info, visit levittlosangeles.org

Soil to Stomach: Growing and Foraging Food
Self Help Graphics & Art
May 7 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
1300 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033

What does it take to get your favorite food on your plate? Grab a bite from local caterers and explore growing your own food, local foraging, and creating healthy and delicious meals in the process. Join chef Jocelyn Ramirez of Todo Verde, foraging expert Bat Vardeh of Arlington Garden, gardeners Alberto Tlatoiani of South Central Farms, and Mireya Arizmendi for this hands-on workshop. For more info, visit www.selfhelpgraphics.com

SISTERHOOD
Mujeres de Malz
May 11 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Virtual

Join singer, songwriter, emcee (rapper), poet, and published author Jessa Calderon for A Writing Wednesday Chat about writing as a form of healing and empowerment. Jessa, of the Chumash and Tongva Nations of Southern California, also identifies with Yoe and Mexican roots. Jessa will read from her new book Sisterhood, a coming-of-age story about young girls in the midst of struggle, fighting to survive, heal and grow. For more info, visit mujeresdemaiz.com

Greet the Day: Wellness Morning
Sandra de La Loza
May 14 @ 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
905 E El Segundo Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90059

Enjoy a morning of wellness by connecting with self, community and nature at Earvin Magic Johnson Park. Start the day with a “Walk to Empower” that celebrates the beautiful ecosystems around the park’s newly redesigned lake and walking path. Experience various body-centered wellness offerings that include: yoga, meditation, massage, acupuncture, reiki, food demonstrations and art-making! For more info, visit themreyogacoop.org/werisel2022

Tlapalpahtiz: The Act of Healing Through Colors and Painting
El Nido Family Centers
Join a community celebration of Ancestral Approaches to Community Recovery. The event features healing discussions and environmental advocacy. The community will be invited to participate in the creation of a traveling mural by artist Kristy Sandoval prior to this celebration. Attendees will witness the unveiling of this artistic work.

**Wellness Mini-Conference**
**iShift Collective**
May 14 @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
150 Elm Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802

iShift Collective Wellness Mini-Conference is an event meant to highlight and nurture the symbiotic relationship between individual and collective wellness. The period of uncertainty we are experiencing globally is shining a spotlight on not only the challenges we all face, but also on the opportunity for renewal and transformation. Humanity is awakening to the realization that everything is connected, and the iShift Collective Wellness Conference was created to foster that awakening.

For more info, visit [artslb.org/bridging-wellness](http://artslb.org/bridging-wellness)

**Community Healing Open Mic Event**
**Levitt Los Angeles**
May 14 @ 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
3655 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90007

Join Levitt LA as we pop up at Mercado La Paloma in the Figueroa Corridor during a community healing Open Mic event. Through creative expression, emotions are moved out of the body and into a communal space where they can be seen, heard, validated, and felt. All are welcome to sign up and share your creative voice with the community.

For more info, visit [levitlosangeles.org](http://levitlosangeles.org)

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**South Central Film Festival**
**Esperanza Community Housing**
May 20 - May 21
3655 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90007

The Inaugural South Central Film Festival illuminates the beauty, strength, and wisdom of communities of color by amplifying emerging voices of Indigenous, Black, Brown, LGBTQIA2S+, immigrant, and people of all abilities.

For more info, visit [southcentralfilmfestival.com](http://southcentralfilmfestival.com)

**Unfiltered: CyberYouth Manifesto**
**18th Street Arts Center**
May 20 @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

A virtual cyber-revolution workshop for youth ages 14-18. Participants will share, explore, co-process, alchemize, and transform past and ongoing experiences with digital social media landscapes. The workshop will illuminate the social algorithmic powers that define, censor, and/or limit representation and empower youth to take control of how they utilize this powerful technology.

Register here: [18thstreet.org/event/unfiltered-cyber-youth-manifesto](http://18thstreet.org/event/unfiltered-cyber-youth-manifesto)

**Here and Queer: Community Resource Fair**
**Gente Organizada**
May 21 @ 11:30 am - 3:00 pm
638 West Holt Avenue, Pomona, CA 91768

Gente’s queer youth-led social action group presents Here & Queer. HQ is a youth-led resource fair for and by queer youth and parents to support the health and wellbeing of queer and trans people in Pomona.

For more info, visit [gentecommunity.org](http://gentecommunity.org)

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**Resisting Through Sueños**
**Youth Justice Coalition**
May 27 @ 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
7625 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90001

A community event and showcase featuring three powerful types of creative and artistic expression: spoken word, a visual art exhibition that includes photography and music from youth impacted by the carceral state. From zine-making to mural-building, youth attendees will explore a range of topics such as their roots, dreams, and the future.

For more info, visit [youthjusticeela.org](http://youthjusticeela.org)

**Bringing Community Together**
**Paving the Way Foundation**
May 28 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
44818 Fern Avenue, Lancaster, CA 93534

A resource fair celebrating wellness by and for the community with a youth art exhibit, DJ and food. Paving the Way Foundation educates and empowers communities in the Antelope Valley through powerful and engaging educational programs. The walk will begin at 44818 Fern Ave, and complete at 44738 Sierra Highway with the Youth Art Exhibit and Contest.

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**Creating Our Next LA at Walk the Talk**
**LA Commons**
May 27 @ 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
7625 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90001

Join LA Commons at Walk the Talk, a biannual parade, presented by LA Poverty Department. The Creating Our Next LA art activation celebrates the lives and stories of those living in Skid Row and is open to all county residents. Walk the Talk brings Skid Row to life with performances along the parade route that pay tribute to neighborhood initiatives and the people whose contributions to the community call for a big, blaring celebration!

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**Culture Cures: Community Re-Activation & Healing**
**Community Coalition**
May 28 @ 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
8101 South Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90044

Culture Cures: Community Re-Activation & Healing, is a four-week art series that will provide a platform for residents to reconnect through arts and healing practices. Programming will include free workshops, gallery exhibits on the 30th Anniversary of the Civil Unrest, and a community festival with live entertainment, resources and art walk.

For more info, visit [cocosouthla.org](http://cocosouthla.org)
During Mental Health Awareness Month, WE RISE Aims to Heal L.A. through Community

BY LEDA MANOS

A full-throated poetry slam from silver-tongued teens. A get-your-hands-dirty workshop on growing food, foraging and creating delicious meals hosted by chefs and experts. A garden block party with free music and food.

These are some of the lively, healing sights, sounds and smells to expect at WE RISE 2022 – a month-long series of free community-led events across L.A. County featuring an array of hyperlocal programming to promote healing and wellbeing.

Now in its fifth year, WE RISE runs through May, which is Mental Health Awareness Month. This year they are partnering with over 25 community partners, artists and nonprofits to produce art installations, cultural experiences and community engagement activities aimed at bolstering mental health for young people aged 14 to 24 and the people in their world.

Grand Park will be the home base for WE RISE throughout the month, featuring a communal art installation with 72 live oak trees and healing-centered activities. Participants and partners of the campaign, who will be using the park as a gathering place, will notice it lit in green – the color of healing and mental health awareness.

Now more than ever, WE RISE is essential to communities’ healing and recovery. A March study by the World Health Organization found that the COVID-19 pandemic caused global anxiety and depression rates for all ages to grow 25%, and an April Harvard Youth Poll found that 52% of 18-to-29-year-olds report feelings of depression or hopelessness.

WE RISE aims to remedy these challenges through their guiding principle: Community plus cultural and artistic expression has the power to heal.

They cite the World Health Organization research on the subject: “Studies reveal that arts engagement, performing and creative expression can significantly help people experiencing mental health concerns, acute conditions and those with neurodevelopmental and neurological disorders.”

And thankfully, WE RISE works. A 2019 evaluation of WE RISE by the RAND Corporation found that “teens who attended the event appeared to gain a greater awareness of the challenges faced by individuals who have experienced mental health problems, better understanding of how to get mental health care, and increased empowerment.” The study continues, “This suggests that the campaign’s focus on mobilization to improve societal support for those experiencing mental health challenges has been effective and continues to resonate with Los Angeles County youth.”

This year, WE RISE events will continue to focus on health and healing in underrepresented communities that have been historically impacted by disproportionate levels of poor health outcomes due to systemic racism and injustices.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair and Representative for the Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission Holly J. Mitchell highlighted the focus of bolstering these communities, stating, “The WE RISE artistic celebration recognizes that we must invest in and expand our cultural understanding of mental health. This approach strengthens our communities from within by tackling the stigma, shame and silence that too often keeps people from knowing how to reach out for help and healing.”

This year’s WE RISE is even more expansive, diverse and engaging than those of years past, featuring month-long art exhibits and installations as well as community and youth-focused events across L.A. County that promote connection, including:

Beading & Talking Circle Workshops

Held every Wednesday in May, HEAL’s Beading & Talking Circle Workshops is a “free Native-led, four-part series, featuring a talking circle and art/beading workshop. Participants will learn how to bead and finish a basic beaded rope necklace while focusing on the cultural and healing aspects of Native beadwork (mindfulness, grounding). Attendees will also gather in a talking circle to support wellness by using the medicine wheel to address the four aspects of health.”

South Central Film Festival

Sponsored by Esperanza Community Housing, and running May 20 – 21 near USC, the inaugural South Central Film Festival “illuminates the beauty, strength, and wisdom of communities of color by amplifying emerging voices of Indigenous, Black, Brown, LGBTQIA2S+, immigrant, and people of all abilities. Recognizing that storytelling is medicine and a tool for cultural preservation, the South Central Film Festival is dedicated to promoting narratives that inspire healing and radical change.”

Unfiltered: Cyberyouth Manifesto

Taking place on Zoom May 20 and sponsored by 18th Street Arts Center, the virtual workshop for youth ages 14-18 will let attendees “share, explore, co-process, alchemize, and transform past and ongoing experiences with digital social media landscapes. The workshop will illuminate the social algorithmic powers that define, censor, and/or limit representation and empower youth to take control of how they utilize this powerful technology.”

More details can be found for the 30+ events in the WE RISE calendar in this issue of LA Weekly and online at werise.la.

With so many different, engaging events, WE RISE events draw in as much of the diverse community represented in L.A. as possible. By bringing people together, WE RISE connects individuals not just to resources, but to their community as well. Having a strong community as a backbone creates a multiplier effect – it allows people to work together to elevate mental health outcomes for all.

This is a sentiment echoed by the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Jonathan E. Sherin, M.D., Ph.D., “When we lean into essential community supports that facilitate access to resources for mental health and wellbeing, we ensure that our Los Angeles County family stays connected to community.”

Dr. Sherin continued, “WE RISE does just that by emphasizing connectedness through community-led, heart-forward activities that are central to healing and wellbeing. None of us are well until ALL of us are well.”

You can find out more about WE RISE by visiting werise.la or @whywerise on social media.

Get Help Now: Call 1-800-854-7771 or text “LA” to 741741 anytime for a crisis counselor.
NEW COVER-UP CLAIM FILED AGAINST LOS ANGELES SHERIFF VILLANUEVA

After surveillance footage leaked of a sheriff’s deputy kneeling on the neck of an inmate, a “whistleblower” claimed Sheriff Villanueva orchestrated a cover-up.

Isai Rocha

A former sheriff assistant claimed Sheriff Alex Villanueva lied about his involvement in the cover-up of a leaked deputy use-of-force video.

Robin Limon, who was an assistant sheriff at the time of the March 2021 incident, said that Villanueva attempted to blame her for the alleged cover-up.

Villanueva had stated that he did not know of the incident until eight months after it occurred, but the claim states that Villanueva said it “would look bad” if the video was made public.

Limon’s legal claim stated that she, alongside Villanueva, watched the DVD video of a deputy kneeling on a cuffed inmate’s neck and that the sheriff was aware of the incident.

After the leak, Limon claimed Villanueva forced her out of her role as assistant deputy. “Villanueva demanded and forced Assistant Sheriff Limon to choose between two poisonous options: retire or be demoted four ranks, to lieutenant,” the claim reads. “The reasons for the sheriff’s misconduct were two-fold, to retaliate against the Complainant for being a whistleblower on several instances of illegal and other wrongful conduct and to further his cover-up of an excessive use-of-force incident.”

Commander Allen Castellano was named as the first “whistleblower” for this incident, for whom the claim says Villanueva retaliated as well.

“This just keeps getting worse,” Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn said on April 28. “It seems the sheriff did see the video of his deputies kneeling on a handcuffed man’s neck soon after it happened, tried to cover it up, retaliated against his own employees, and intimidated a reporter who brought the truth to light.”

The video was originally shown and reported by the Los Angeles Times, and in an April 26 press briefing, Villanueva said the theft and distribution of the video is currently under investigation.

Villanueva also described a timeline of the investigation from the point of the incident, up to present day.

The sheriff said that everything that took place internally was “standard procedure” and at one point said, “it doesn’t sound much like a cover-up here.”

“We don’t have time for this internal, ‘Let me see if we can blow up the sheriff’s somehow’, nonsense,” Villanueva said during a press briefing related to the incident. “We have serious issues to handle out there… on top of that, we have this circus that’s entirely orchestrated for political purposes, only.”

During the press conference, Villanueva singled out Los Angeles Times reporter Alene Tchekmedyian, posting her photo in his presentation and later saying that “all parties to the act are subject to investigation.”

While members of the press asked questions during the briefing, Villanueva addressed Tchekmedyian directly and said he would not be taking questions from her.

The singling out of Tchekmedyian was condemned by multiple journalism associations and unions, including 22 Southern California-based groups.

“Today, the Los Angeles County Sheriff suggested that Alene is a subject in a criminal investigation into a leaked video showing a deputy kneeling on an inmate’s head,” the Los Angeles Press Club said in a statement. “This escalation comes after a years-long history of the sheriff harshly criticizing many local journalists just for doing their jobs, including Cerise Castle, Josie Huang, Maya Lau and others.”

The surveillance footage was considered evidence in an active investigation and the sheriff said an investigation into the tape’s leaking will continue.

$18 MILLION SETTLEMENT REACHED AFTER WOMAN KILLED BY TEEN IN LAMBORGHINI

More than a year after a deadly crash took the life of 32-year-old Monique Muñoz in West L.A., the Muñoz family reached an $18.85 million settlement in a civil lawsuit.

The settlement amounted to the maximum possible insurance payout, with the Muñoz family attorney Daniel Ghyczy saying, it was never about the money for the family.

“This amount of money is not something they’re celebrating,” Ghyczy told L.A. Weekly. “For them, it was about obtaining 100% of what was available… and that the insurance companies would be sent a message that they couldn’t receive a discount on the life of Monique Muñoz.”

On Feb. 17, 2021, Muñoz was struck and killed by a Lamborghini SUV that ran a red light at more than 100 mph in West Los Angeles.

The driver, who was later identified as 17-year-old Brendan Khuri of Beverly Hills, was believed to be racing a friend during the incident.

Since the incident, Los Angeles residents have joined Muñoz family members in rallies and memorials at the scene of the crash. Social media activism also took place with #justicemoniquemunoz hashtags being circulated to bring awareness to the incident.

“All they want and all they can do at this point is ask for the community to continue to spread awareness about what has happened, so that other parents don’t have to deal with the tragedy that they’ve experienced,” Ghyczy said.

When the family found that Khuri had not been charged for the death, it believed it was
because of the status of Khuri’s father, James Khuri, who was a multimillionaire entrepreneur. Investigators denied those claims and said the teen was hospitalized, delaying his arrest.

In October of 2021, Khuri was sentenced to 7 to 9 months in a juvenile camp, with up to four years of probation.

Khuri was not tried as an adult, as Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascon implemented a strict policy against trying minors as adults. That policy has since been revisited by Gascon saying minors may be tried as adults in the “most extraordinary of cases.”

Ghyczy said any further action against Khuri would be in the hands of the L.A. District Attorney and the Muñoz family is “not seeking restitution from Brendan Khuri.”

“No amount of money is ever going to bring her back,” Ghyczy said. “They don’t care about what the money is, it’s not something that they’re celebrating today as a win, it doesn’t bring their daughter back.”

James Khuri was charged with a misdemeanor for “contributing to the delinquency of a minor” and is scheduled to appear in court on June 8.

**DODGERS TREVOR BAUER SUSPENDED, LEAGUE CITES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY**

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Trevor Bauer was suspended for 324 games without pay, with Major League Baseball (MLB) saying he violated its domestic violence policy. Under the MLB domestic violence policy, a player does not need to be charged or convicted in order for the league to enact a punishment, and players may appeal to an arbitrary panel.

While continuing to deny any wrongdoing, Bauer stated that he intended to appeal. “In the strongest possible terms, I deny committing any violation of the league’s domestic violence and sexual assault policy,” Bauer said through Twitter on Friday. “I am appealing this action and expect to prevail. As we have throughout this process, my representatives and I respect the confidentiality of the proceedings.”

The 324 games amount to two MLB seasons, meaning Bauer would not be able to return to the field until 2024, after which he would be a free agent.

If the suspension holds, the Dodgers would be without Bauer’s services through the duration of the league-record three-year, $102 million contract.

Without the unpaid suspension, the Dodgers would have still owed Bauer $64 million over the next two seasons.

“Today we were informed that MLB has concluded its investigation into allegations that have been made against Trevor Bauer, and the Commissioner has issued his decision regarding discipline,” the Dodgers organization said in a statement. “The Dodgers organization takes all allegations of this nature very seriously and does not condone or excuse any acts of domestic violence or sexual assault. We’ve cooperated fully with MLB’s investigation since it began, and we fully support MLB’s Joint Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Child Abuse Policy, and the Commissioner’s enforcement of the Policy. We understand that Trevor has the right to appeal the Commissioner’s decision. Therefore, we will not comment further until the process is complete.”

On April 25, Bauer filed a defamation lawsuit against both his accuser Lindsey Hill and her attorney, claiming they intended to “destroy” his reputation and career. “Ms. Hill’s motives for making her false claims and statements are now clear,” the lawsuit reads. “She wanted to destroy Mr. Bauer’s reputation and baseball career, garner attention for herself, and extract millions of dollars from Mr. Bauer.”

Prior to this suspension, Bauer had been placed on administrative leave since July 2, 2021.

The Los Angeles District Attorney’s office concluded that it would not file criminal charges against Bauer in February, after reviewing all available information from the Pasadena Police Department’s investigation.
FIRST LOOK:
CALIFORNIA MEETS CAPRI AT EATALY

The Amalfi coast comes to an L.A. marketplace

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

Capri, a new southern Italian-inspired restaurant, has popped up under a canopy of lemon trees on the main floor of the Eataly marketplace in Century City.

The limited-time indoor/outdoor dining experience conjures up the atmosphere of the Amalfi coast with an installation of Vietri ceramics hand-painted with the restaurant’s signature lemon motif, as well as a patio with sweeping westside views, where the tables are shaded by blue and white umbrellas typical of Capri’s beach clubs.

Executive Chef and Naples native Giuseppe Manco pays meticulous attention to the coastal menu - heavy on seafood, pasta and market vegetables.

Pizzas include a traditional Neapolitan white buffalo mozzarella with chili oil and basil, and a more dramatic housemade Stracciatella with mounds of arugula and sweet cherry tomatoes topping the creamy fresh mozzarella curds. Cheese is king at Capri, with a tableside caprese cart that offers three different varieties of mozzarella, with a selection of local tomatoes and other accompaniments.

The scialatielli pasta with mussels and clams, as well as the homemade flower-shaped caciotta cheese-filled ravioli in a bright tomato sauce, are primi standouts. Main courses worth trying are the tender grilled swordfish with lemon and capers, alongside sauteed spicy broccoli rabe. Continuing the California-meets-Capri theme, the Delizia di Limone dessert is a pillowy lemon sponge cake with Limoncello cream filling, lemon glaze, sprinkled with lemon zest. There’s also a classic Babà al Rum al Taglio yeasted cake soaked in rum and filled with cream.

Beverage Director and fellow Naples native Luigi Capasso turns things upside down with his Cocktail dei Faraglioni, a glass of prosecco garnished with a popsicle made from local California fruit, and a build-your-own spritz option where you can choose your own preferred spirits for a personalized cocktail. And, an Italian gin and tonic with the aroma of rosemary, the lemon’s best friend, is a refreshing sip on the patio overlooking the Century City riviera.
L.A.'S HARDCORE KING
The Circle Jerks reunion is in full swing and Keith Morris is thriving
BY BRETT CALLWOOD
For years, Keith Morris insisted that he didn’t want to do the Circle Jerks again. The band is responsible for one of the great hardcore punk albums in 1980’s Group Sex, they released a bunch of other awesome records and are remembered as one of the truly great live hardcore bands. But by the time they embarked on an indefinite hiatus, bitterness had infected the inner workings. Morris was done. The circle was all jerked out.

But time is a great healer, and when Morris was approached about a Circle Jerks tour in 2019, he had softened. Older and wiser, the man could see the sense in the plan.

“I had a friend come to me and say ‘Keith, I’m willing to bet that you have no retirement plan. ’I said, ‘I think I know what you’re getting at,’ Morris says. “See, the Circle Jerks a long time ago were offered a ton of money to play Coachella. This would have been right when Coachella started doing two weekends back-to-back. I was deep into the OFF! Situation, and I didn’t want to do it. At that time I was very angry and bitter toward my fellow bandmates, so I said no. I told a booking agent, ‘don’t wave any more carrots in front of the guys – that’s not fair.’ He said, ‘It’s my job and I have to do it!’ OK, do whatever you’re gonna do. Try to book whatever you’ll try to book. I’m not playing with the Circle Jerks.”

We meet with Morris at a Silver Lake breakfast spot – one of his regular haunts. The staff there know him, but it doesn’t seem like they know who he is. They seem surprised that we’re there to meet with Morris. Morris himself is friendly but focused.
from the very start. He's not one to smile constantly; rather, it feels like his mind is always working. He's very, very serious about what he does and cares deeply about the music that he's leaving for the world - his legacy.

"I told my friend, 'What do you propose? Are we going to Europe to play festivals?' Because we never did any of that," Morris says. "My friend said, 'I need seven months and you'll cover Japan, Australia, South America.' I had been to Europe with OFF! and we played Primavera Sound festival in Barcelona. I was talking to the promoter of our stage. He's wearing a Minutemen T-shirt, so he's very well aware of my history. In the conversation, I somehow mention the Circle Jerks. I'd play with the Circle Jerks for a trip to Spain or Portugal. I have no problem with that. I can get over my grumpy, curmudgeonly, bitter, angry - I can get over all of that. That's how it started. So far we've played about 19 shows, and it's going great."

We should never forget that Morris co-founded Black Flag with Greg Ginn, and sang on the incendiary Nervous Breakdown EP. The impact of that EP, and that band, can't be overestimated. The fact that he quit Black Flag and then did it again with Circle Jerks is a reflection of Morris' talent, drive and energy.

"I consider myself to be extremely fortunate that I took this path and it's actually turned out pretty well," Morris says. "I've been able to go to a lot of places that, if I was working a 9-5 job, I would never have been able to do. I'm extremely fortunate that I've met all of the people that I've met."

Morris is confident, but quite humble. When discussing Group Sex's place among the great punk rock albums, Morris comes up with an endless list of records that he thinks are better. That said, he's aware that lots of people love it, and he's massively grateful for that. It's fair to say that he was enjoying the start of the Circle Jerks tour, taking those songs to the people again, before the pandemic shut it down.

"We had 70 shows booked, and then everybody's told to stay home and wear a mask, get vaccinated and getboosted," Morris says. "I have no problem with any of that. The scenario with the quarantine really threw us for a loop financially. I sold off a chunk of my record collection, part of my book, DVD and compact disc collection, like everybody does when they're scrambling to pay bills. Our booking agent was staying on top of the whole situation. He rebooked these shows twice. Finally, everybody said 'Look, we've brought it to a place that we can probably live with, and we went through the Omicron and that was brutal for some of us even though it was not as harsh as Delta.'"

Zander Schloss joined the Circle Jerks in 1984, and the bassist has been involved with every lineup of the band since then. He's delighted to be back out with his old pals again.

"I'm so grateful to be with these guys, who I've known for so long," Schloss says. "Who would have thought, at the ripe age of 60 years old, that I'd be doing this. Literally, my solo career came out of the fact that I didn't think I'd be doing this. I'm a long game player. So the kind of music that I'm making, I could make for the rest of my life and I don't intend on retiring. But the Circle Jerks, it's amazing that we can physically pull off what we're doing at our ages. It sounds sharp, and it sounds fucking intense. If you close your eyes, you could imagine being back in 1982-1984."

Yes, Schloss recently released his debut album, Song About Songs. It's being promoted as the "polar opposite of punk rock," with his Tom Waits-esque, singer/songwriter style.

"I tried to have the guts to say some things out loud that roll around in my subconscious, in the hope of giving myself therapy," Schloss says. "And maybe, just maybe, somebody will think that it's gutsy of me to say that stuff out loud, being that I'm in a hardcore band. Admitting tender and vulnerable feelings, daring people to uncross their arms. I don't think toughness is helping the world right now."

Schloss isn't the only one doing other things. Morris has been performing his old Black Flag tunes in a band called FLAG with fellow former members Chuck Dukowski, Bill Stevenson and Dez Cadena. He also has a cover band called Midget Handjob. And his creative outlet for new material is the hardcore band OFF!

"The OFF! situation is that we've recorded our new album three times with three different lineups," Morris says. "Right before the pandemic, we hit a wall. We had a problem with a member of the band overarching his boundaries and trying to pull off something that you don't do to your bandmates. No details, but it was seriously uncool. One of the guys got fired, the other guy quit, and it was time for Dimitri [Coats] and I, if we were gonna keep the band going, to come up with a new rhythm section. We couldn't be more excited. We're releasing 16 songs for the new record, which comes out in September. We signed a deal with Fat Possum Records, who are great.

Dimitri Coats is a former member of Burning Brides. He met Morris at a house party and the pair hit it off.

"Writing songs with Keith is one of my favorite things to do where being in a band with him is concerned," Coats says. "We spend a lot of time just fucking around, going to eat, shop for records, then we'll come back and play the records that we bought. We'll get fired up drinking coffee. I might smoke some weed, and we'll just basically party like two kids after school who are discovering bands together. It'll get to the point where we can't take it anymore, and I'll grab a guitar and start hammering away on it. He'll be scribbling down words. In the case of the new album we've written, we went into really strange territory, and decided we wanted to experiment and approach an album a different way."

They sure did, and that's why there's an OFF! movie in the works, too. Understandably, it has a lower budget than the recent Foo Fighters horror flick, but it sounds intriguing nonetheless.

"We discover something that gives us the ability to move back and forth in time," Morris says of the plot. "We all have these different jobs or we're doing different things, before we're in the band. That's just the simple plot. There are wrongdoers, and we have to rid the world of evil. Dimitri wrote it."

Back to the Circle Jerks, who will finally be playing a hometown show at the Hollywood Palladium in May. The band is composed of Morris and Schloss, original guitarist Greg Hetson, plus "new boy" drummer Joey Castillo. The guys aren't spring chickens anymore, and Morris says that he prepares carefully for each show.

"I've got to eat," he says. "I've got to try to eat three meals before we play. Being a diabetic, I normally eat every four hours. Maynard from Tool taught me to try to stay horizontal, as much as possible. Hopefully with your eyes closed. When I go to bed at night, I might sleep for four hours, five if I'm lucky. Rest, food, and Dimitri taught me some vocal exercises. There's one where you put your fist in your jaw to loosen your jaw. There's another when you push your tongue against your front teeth. I occasionally drink some throat coat [tea] with some slippery elm."

Meanwhile, the main man is psyched to be performing in SoCal with his Circle Jerks, and everywhere else, too.

"We're playing the Hollywood Palladium May 11," Morris says. "It's sold out. We're also going to be playing a Glass House show. We have somebody working on Central America, South America, about three weeks of shows between those two areas. We're also working on Australia and Japan. Possibly going back to Europe after we do this run. What was supposed to be seven months could go all the way into 2023."

At the end of the day, this is what Keith Morris does. And whether he's with Circle Jerks, Flag, OFF!, Midget Handjob or anyone else, he gives it everything he's got.

"I'm 66 years old and there's no retirement for me," he says in conclusion. "This goes through 2023 and 2024. There's no retirement for me, based on the path that I've chosen."

We'll always be here for you, sir.
MOM’S HEAT LIST 2022

We’re cutting through all the Mother’s Day cannabis noise you’ll find online because the moms of Los Angeles smoke way better than most

BY JIMI DEVINE

There’s no denying moms love weed and we’ve got a lineup that is sure to help her with lift off come Mother’s Day this Sunday.

You’re going to have a lot of cannabis-themed Mother’s Day lists coming at you in the next 72 hours. But this list is geared for L.A. moms. The moms that puff tough. The moms who didn’t understand why somebody wrote a THC milligram limit for edibles into Prop 64. Basically the baddest bitches on the planet.

So here is a list that is heat-worthy of these queens and their high tolerances!

Cupsy
Puffco is at it again. When it isn’t innovating how we take dabs with electricity, it’s figuring out how to make bong rips more stealthy in seemingly rotating development cycles. The Cupsy nails the latter. The coffee cup-impersonating bong is the perfect road warrior. Now we’re not recommending anyone smoke and drive, but a bong rip in the parking lot before a movie never killed anyone for sure. You can just leave the Cupsy in the cup holder and walk in. And while it’s discreet, it’s set up in a manner that your mom won’t accidentally drink bong water if she gets too ripped and forgets it’s not her coffee!

Aunty Aloha Gummies
Your mom wants you to take her to Hawaii?! Brutal. Aunty Aloha’s edibles are a much more affordable way to give her some stoney island vibes. And they’ve proven themselves above the pack. Just a few weeks ago they took home the top prize for edibles at L.A. Weekly’s Coachella Desert Smoke-off 2.

The judges noted that the obvious combination of flavor and impact was what put them at the top of the podium. While not the plane ticket she’s hoping for, at the very least mom will get a nice buzz.

Fig Farms - Gelato 41
This Oakland-grown rendition of the legendary Gelato phenotype ranks among the greatest ever. It’s so good that it’s the first phenotype Fig Farms has ever packaged that it didn’t find from seed in-house; it was a big debate for them, but we’re glad they decided to pull the trigger. Why? Because it’s magical heat worthy of being alongside their other famous phenos many rank at the very top of California’s recreational marketplace. The handful of producers that can actually compete with the quality trap weed on the streets need to be given credit despite going through the hurdles of METRC’s track and trace program deserve a lot of credit. In addition to all this, it was grown by a mom! And she’s got another one on the way!

710 Percy Pods
Few companies in the cannabis space have built the following of 710 Labs. The new Percy pod line only makes it more accessible than ever to moms all over California. While we’re fans of the general 710 lineup, the pods might be the thing that holds itself at the highest echelons of the game.
ENTERTAINMENT

LIA TARS AND LUNACY

John Waters Dishes on his new Novel and Expanding his Twisted Universe

BY LINA LECARO

There’s something wickedly delicious about entertainment that purposely ignores norms of appropriateness and taste, but there are not many people who can pull it off well. Provocateurs, especially in entertainment, can come off as trying too hard or serving up empty shock value. The best bawdy and biting works don’t just eschew boundaries, they brew wit, fearlessness and effortless cool into something unique. John Waters has been doing just this for decades and it’s made him a pop trash treasure and a cultural legend. The man behind Pink Flamingos, Female Trouble, Hairspray, Cry-Baby, and Serial Mom represents everything that alternative subcultures hold dear to this day, which has made the 76-year-old a hot commodity on the guest appearances circuit, from music festivals (he just hosted the burlesque show at the L.A.-promoter led “Viva Las Vegas” rockabilly festival) to suitably weird events like Lethal Amounts’ recent holiday humdinger “John Waters Easter” at the kitschy oasis known as The Madonna Inn.

Waters is back in these parts this week doing something he’s never done before—promoting his very first novel. Held at the Aratani Theatre in Little Tokyo (co-sponsored by Skylight Books and the Los Angeles Library Foundation) on May 10, fans can expect his usual uncensored, sassy takes on society, but this time through a new lens of fictional farce. Liarmouth…

A Feel Bad Romance, is the twisted tale of Marsha Sprinkle, a suitcase thief, ha

Did Liarmouth have a sensitivity editor? “Well, we sent it to one and she never called us back,” Waters says. “But I have a lot of women that work for me and they’re my sensitivity editors.”

Highly sensitive or easily offended people aren’t the target audience here, of course. Waters is the guy who helped make Divine a drag legend by eating dog poop in Pink Flamingos and who created “Odorama” cards so his audiences could smell the magic and malodor in Polyester. In the spirit of his special kind of subversive art, Liarmouth has a narrative that could easily adapt to screen, and if you’re a fan of his work, you can almost see it in that format as you read it.

Waters acknowledges that it definitely could be if somebody buys the rights to make a movie version. “But to me, it was written very much to be a novel because I try to parody everything about a novel narrative, with alliteration and characters, and it even has a happy ending. Well, sort of a weird happy ending…a surprise ending,” he says. “It’s a page turner and a lot happens in this book in four days. If that many things happened to one person in that amount of time, they’d all have heart attacks in real life.”

Speaking of real life, the biggest difference between his latest and his past books is the man himself. “Shock Value was about making the first movies I did, Crapckpot was about my journalism, Carsick was about when I hitchhiked across America by
myself,” he lays out. “I was always in it and with a novel you’re not in it. But really, in a novel you’re every character, a little bit.”

“Writers try to imagine other people’s lives,” he continues. “I like to imagine people’s lives that are not necessarily feel-good people. Marsha is pretty much a villain. She’s pretty evil to people, but I think she’s so ridiculously evil, hopefully I’m making you laugh at the same time that you are recoiling from her behavior.”

Waters and this writer agree that villains are more compelling than heroes in general. “I mean, who cares about Dorothy? The wicked witch was who I wanted to run off with,” he shares. “So at the same time, I think you’d have fun going with Marcia Sprinkle. But even her family and all the other people that are trying to stop her are equally as insane. Their lunatic mission is just as ridiculous. So we have a bunch of really extreme people in this book against each other, and the whole world is against all of them.”

From pet facelifts to trampoline junkies, Waters creates a universe of compulsive people and absurd situations. “When I develop a character, a lot of times, they’re obsessed by things that seem almost surreal or unbelievable. Why would someone care about that? So I want to spend time with people who maybe I don’t understand. But if you set up a crazy universe, you have to stick to it. The rules of your universe have to be followed, and the logic has to be followed.”

To his enduringly passionate fanbase, Waters’ universe is a lot more interesting than the one we actually live in. His perspective and unfiltered wisdom – whether it’s conveyed via fictional yarns or first person anecdotes, on film or the printed page, is gospel. Before our chat about the book concludes, we decide to take advantage of having real face time with the icon. We ask about his favorite authors and filmmakers and he mentions Denton Welch and Ivy Compton Burnett, “writers that you can instantly tell by their style and by their choice of stories.”

He doesn’t really enjoy feel-good entertainment in general. “I like authors that make you feel bad after reading them or make you feel really disturbed by them,” he explains. “I like a book to shake me up and rattle what I think.”

He cites his favorite film last year as Annette, and professes love for Summer of Soul, mentions of which get us on the subject of the now-infamous Will Smith-Chris Rock slap. Like most, we were sick of hearing about it a few weeks ago, but John Waters opinion? That want to know.

“I mean, I’m just glad Will didn’t punch Liza,” he quips. “Lady Gaga would have come to her rescue and taken his Oscar and shoved it where the Academy doesn’t shine. What I think could happen next year is Will and Chris come out together, give the Best Picture award and then do a choreographed big number where they slap whoever accepts.” Yeah, this would definitely happen in John Waters’ universe.

PHOTO BY GREG GORMAN

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MEET PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE WORLD AS A STAGE: SARA JANE BOYERS

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT

Sara Jane Boyers is a photographer with a journalistic streak that dances with her prevailing love of nuance and ambiguity. She is drawn to places that, even when seemingly vacant, are like stages, set for stories to be told and thus replete with questions and considerations about us. The space unveils the tale. Primarily I search the American story: who we are and why we matter. I like it to be vague, inspiring others to explore and question as well.

SARA JANE BOYERS: My father owned commercial photo labs in DTLA close to Angels Flight. I would visit, slide through the heavy blackout curtains to the large velox machines and the darkrooms. There was magic there as images slowly revealed themselves in the developer, shifting from translucence to a reality of sorts. I then knew there were layers upon truths that I too wanted to reveal. What is your short answer to people who ask what your work is about?

I am interested in places that, even when seemingly vacant, are like stages, set for stories to be told and thus replete with questions and considerations about us. The space unveils the tale. Primarily I search the American story: who we are and why we matter. I like it to be vague, inspiring others to explore and question as well.

What would you be doing if you weren't an artist?

Been there. Done that! For several decades I wandered through the music & publishing industries in several roles. I've written, created and published books about art, poetry and politics. I've photographed. I love to paint, draw and play with graphic design but I don't want to leave the camera… so it's still being an artist. Soon I'd like to combine it all — or get more organized, which may be the same thing.

Did you go to art school? Why/Why not?

My family was not supportive of my becoming a professional artist so, yes and no. I started UC Berkeley carrying my dad's Rollei but majoring in poli-sci, but was dragged home when the Free Speech Movement exploded — in the long run a good move as the L.A. art scene was truly alive in the mid-60’s, with Ferus Gallery, Dwan Gallery, Light & Space and Rauschenberg and John Cage roller-dancing in Culver City. I switched to Art History at UCLA, spending days and nights in the art department darkrooms. Frankly, my deeper art involvement continued into law school where all I did was visit galleries instead of studying although I fell in love with intellectual property and wrote a major paper on artist rights that was nationally awarded and published.

Why do you live and work in L.A., and not elsewhere?

I've almost always lived in L.A. I did not intend to but I am inspired by its architecture, history and constantly shifting diversity, whether or not it shows in my work. I am emotionally tied to the abstract quality of the coastal marine layer. That said, I traveled extensively during my music and publishing days; then again for my long-term photo projects so my sense of place and time expanded over the years to keep me aware and challenged.

When was your first show?

Twenty+ years ago when I finally was able to do what I had always wanted, I had a two-person show on my in-progress Finding Chinatown project in Santa Monica at Rumba Art & Design, and it would later be exhibited at Craig Krull Gallery.

When is/was your current/most recent/next show or project?

Right before everything shut down: A large exhibition in Shenyang Province PRC for the Third International Exhibition of Industrial Photography, an experience I treasure. Presently I am working on a project based upon my pandemic work, The Ghostlight Project, where I photographed live performance stages standing vacant, dark and illuminated solely by a ghost light, and which is presently available as a book and up online on my website supporting a fundraiser for the theaters I photographed.

What artist living or dead would you most like to show or work with?

Edward Hopper, Charles Sheeler, Frederick H. Evans, Irving Penn, Sophie Calle

Do you listen to music while you work?

Absolutely! 20 years in the music industry!! I am totally eclectic from Bach’s St. Matthew Passion to the Moody Blues, Springsteen, Joni Mitchell, Leonard Cohen, Kanye West, to “High Above the Water” — written and performed by Kathryn Bostic for the Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am film soundtrack, John Adams and Phillip Glass. And David Byrne sends a monthly playlist and I always explore.
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