



NFC
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Seahawks
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CONFERENCE TITLE GAMES SET

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SPORTS

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MOVIES



By Bob Strauss
rstrauss@sng.com
@bscritic on Twitter

The unthinkable happened. It only lasted about a week.

In late November, Southern California art house chain Laemmle abruptly announced it was pulling out of the Music Hall Theatre, where it had been showing movies for more than 40 years. Combined with Laemmle ceasing operations at the Fine Arts Theatre a mile or so east on Wilshire Boulevard earlier in the month, it looked for a brief moment like Beverly Hills — a community as tightly associated with the film business as Hollywood for a century — would not have any place where the public could buy a ticket to the movies.

Eight days later, that was no longer the case.

On Nov. 29, one current and two former Laemmle employees reopened the three-screen Music Hall. Pooling their own funds, Peter Ambrosio, Lauren Brown and Luis Orellana formed Lumiere Cinema and quickly cut deals with the property's landlord to operate the theater for at least another year, and with Laemmle to inherit projectors and other equipment.

Meanwhile, Screening Services
THEATER » PAGE 6

THE SHOW GOES ON

Former and current Laemmle employees and others aim to make a go of it after theater chain exits Beverly Hills



TOP AND ABOVE: Past and present Laemmle employees Luis Orellana, left, Lauren Brown and Peter Ambrosio took over the Music Hall Theatre in Beverly Hills — now Lumiere Music Hall Cinema — after the chain pulled out of the theater last year. PHOTOS BY SARAH REINGEWIRTZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DISNEYLAND

How to snag a spot on Rise of the Resistance

By Brady MacDonald
bmacdonald@sng.com

You're going to have to get up awfully early in the morning if you want to ride the new Rise of the Resistance when the highly anticipated Disneyland attraction opens in Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.

Disneyland visitors will be able to snap up "boarding group" spots in a virtual queue for Rise of the Resistance as soon as the Anaheim theme park opens each morning.

The new Rise of the Resistance trackless dark ride debuts Friday at Disneyland in the 14-acre "Star Wars" themed land. An identical version of the attraction opened Dec. 5 at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida to big buzz and massive

crowds. Rise of the Resistance enlists recruits to join a battle between the heroic Resistance and the villainous First Order. Along the way, the recruits will be captured aboard a Star Destroyer.

QUEUE » PAGE 5

TORRANCE

Rainfall brings wetland to life

Madrona Marsh transformation captured by drone photographs

By Nick Green
ngreen@sng.com
@NickGreen007 on Twitter

A Torrance drone company has vividly captured how almost 5 inches of rain in a little more than a month transformed city-owned Madrona Marsh — one of the last remaining fragments of vernal wetland in the county — from a dour brown into a breathtaking splash of green habitat providing an important wildlife refuge among the urban landscape.

The soggy winter so far has seen state reservoirs reach historic highs and produced picture-perfect snowpack levels in the mountains.

And two weeks ago, the Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve released images taken by Sky Ladder Drones on Nov. 21 and Dec. 21 that illustrate how the 4.87 inches of rain that fell between those dates replenished a seasonal ecosystem solely dependent on rainfall.

"The marsh comes to life," said chief drone pilot and company owner Steven Katz, who lives nearby.

"This is a composite of 399 pictures, so it's low altitude pictures taken at 300 feet, so they're extremely high resolution," he added. "If you're a photography geek, the camera that's flown is a 20 megapixel camera."

DRONE » PAGE 5

PHILIPPINES

Volcano gushes lava, spreads ash clouds, forcing villagers to flee

By Joael Calupitan and Jim Gomez
The Associated Press

TAGAYTAY, PHILIPPINES — Red-hot lava gushed out of a Philippine volcano early today after a sudden eruption of ash and steam that forced villagers to flee and shut down Manila's international airport, offices and schools.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage from Taal volcano's eruption south of the capital that began Sunday. But clouds of ash blew more than 62 miles north, reaching the bustling capital, Manila, and forcing the shutdown of the country's main airport with more than 240 international and domestic flights canceled so far.

An alternative airport north of Manila at Clark freeport remained open but authorities would shut it down too if ashfall threatens flights, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines said.

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