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THE NEWSPAPER OF RECORD FOR BEVERLY HILLS

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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

	Friday	78° 54°
<u>~</u>	Saturday	77° 55°
\	Sunday	75° 55°
<u>~</u>	Monday	73° 56°
<u>~</u>	Tuesday	71° 53°
ඌ	Wednesday	72° 53°
ථ	Thursday	73° 52°

Wilshire Boulevard Temple Donates Ambulances to Israel's Red Cross



Photo courtesy American Friends of Magen David Adom

Ambulance in service in Israel

BY RYAN TOROK

In response to terrorist group Hamas' unprecedented attack on Israel, Wilshire Boulevard Temple (WBT) has provided support to purchase Magen David Adom ambulances for use in Israel.

American Friends of Magen David Adom (AFMDA), which raises funds and awareness for Israel's nonprofit emergency medical service, expressed gratitude for the gift.

"I am deeply touched by the way Wilshire Boulevard Temple mobilized so quickly and See AMBULANCES, page 18

Council Liaison Committee Weighs in on City Website Redesign

BY CLARA HARTER

The city of Beverly Hills' website is home to a treasure trove of information, but tracking down a particular fact across the site's 3,000plus pages can be a navigational challenge.

In order to improve the user experience, staff are undertaking a website redesign and met on Oct. 30 with members of the City Council Liaison Website Steering Committee to chart a path forward.

The committee is composed of Councilmembers John Mirisch and Lili Bosse who emphasized two key priorities during the meeting: ease of use and quality of design.

"If we see something that looks good, but it is difficult to navigate, we're going to say 'sorry,' and if we see something that's easy to navigate, but that doesn't look good, we're going to say 'sorry,'" said Mirisch. "We're putting a lot of effort into this and it needs to be done right."

The committee also reviewed feedback from a community survey on the website redesign.

See WEBSITE REDESIGN, page 17

Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Centennial

BY ERIC LICAS

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce has promoted a thriving business community for nearly as long as the city has existed, and will commemorate its 100th anniversary at a centennial celebration on Nov. 8.

The event scheduled to take place at the Beverly Hilton will highlight a century of support for local businesses. Over the decades, the chamber's influence has helped form Beverly Hills'reputation as one of the luxury capitals of the world, Todd Johnson, the organization's President and CEO, said.

"There are certain kinds of businesses out there that are extremely successful, but do they all make sense in Beverly Hills?" Johnson told the Courier in an interview.

He and other representatives of the



Photo courtesy Todd Johnson City Manger Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Mayor Dr. Gold and Johnson on Chamber trip to New York City

chamber were recently joined by Mayor Dr. Julian Gold and Vice Mayor Lester Friedman on a trip to New York. There, they touched

See CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, page 15

Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Set for Nov. 16

BY CLARA HARTER

The Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Ceremony returns on Nov. 16 with a star-studded musical and theatrical lineup. Headlining the celebration is actor and singer Sheryl Lee Ralph, who first rose to fame in the original Broadway production of "Dreamgirls" and recently stole the spotlight with her Emmy award-winning role on ABC's "Abbott Elementary."

This year's holiday lighting theme, "Up, Up and Away Holiday!," is designed to whisk viewers away into a magical world of whimsy and charm. It will feature fanciful hot air

See HOLIDAY LIGHTING, page 13

Congratulations to the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce on its Centennial

Award-Winning BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

Courier Calendar

NOW - NOV. 5 GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE: "THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY" WED.-FRI. 8 P.M. SAT. 3 P.M., 8 P.M. SUN. 2 P.M., 7 P.M.

The Geffen Playhouse presents the West Coast premiere of "The Engagement Party," written by Samuel Baum and directed by Darko Tresnjak. In the play, the Champagne is on ice, the hors d'oeuvres are perfectly arranged and the table is exquisitely set. At a swank Park Avenue apartment, a young couple is celebrating their engagement with an intimate gathering of family and friends. When a glass of wine is spilled, the night takes an unexpected turn, unleashing a spiraling sequence of events and revelations that will irrevocably change their lives. The runtime for the production is 85 minutes with no intermission. Ages 12 and older are recommended for this show. Masks are encouraged. Tickets range from \$30-\$129. The Geffen Playhouse is located at 10886 Le Conte Ave., Los Angeles. geffenplayhouse.org

NOW - MARCH 10, 2024 MOCA GRAND AVENUE: "MAPPING AN ART WORLD: LOS ANGELES IN THE 1970S-80S" TUES.-WED., FRI. 11 A.M.-5 P.M. THURS. 11 A.M.-8 P.M. SAT.-SUN. 11 A.M.-6 P.M.

"Mapping an Art World: Los Angeles in the 1970s-80s" revisits the decades leading up to the founding of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in 1979 and the opening of MOCA's Grand Avenue building in 1986. Through the presentation of works from MOCA's collection, the exhibition aims to reconsider the pivotal decades of the 1970s and 1980s, and to explore the spirit of experimentation and collaboration and the unique cultural and social landscape that contributed to and firmly established Los Angeles as one of the most dynamic art capitals in the world, and MOCA as an enduring presence for the city's artists. The exhibition features more than 200 artworks and pieces of archival ephemera-including beloved works by Eleanor Antin, John Baldessari, Mike Kelley, Claes Oldenburg and Ed Ruscha alongside more rarely-exhibited works and new acquisitions by Carole Caroompas, Alonzo Davis, Ilene Segalove and Joey Terrill, among others. Admission to this show is free. moca.org

NOW - NOV. 5 HAMMER MUSEUM: "BECOMING VAN LEO" TUES.-SUN. 11 A.M.-6 P.M.

The Hammer Museum presents an exhibition, "Becoming Van Leo," which is the first international survey of work by the late Armenian Egyptian photographer known as Van Leo, a pseudonym of his own making. The exhibition traces Van Leo's career from his earliest encounters with the camera in the 1930s, in which he used friends and family as models, through his experiments in self-portraiture of the 1940s and 1950s, and onward to his studio work, which extended into the 1990s. Van Leo is a

complicated, compelling, transnational, intersectional figure; his is a diaspora story and a cosmopolitan story. There is perhaps no more important time than now to present this long-overdue retrospective of an artist whose work belies facile definitions of East and West and pushes the boundaries between art and craft. Admission to The Hammer is free. The museum is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd.,

Los Angeles. <u>hammer.ucla.edu</u>

NOW - NOV. 5 CULVER CITY HIGH SCHOOL AVPA: "THE LARAMIE PROJECT" 2 P.M., 7 P.M.

Culver City High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA), in collaboration with Center Theatre Group, presents "The Laramie Project." It is a play by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project about the reaction to the 1998 murder of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming. The murder was denounced as a hate crime and brought attention to the lack of hate crime laws in various states, including Wyoming. Each showing takes place at the Kirk Douglas Theatre located at 9820 Washington Blvd., Culver City. Each performance is followed by a community conversation with community members from the arts, LGBTQ+ and Culver City Unified School District, Tickets are \$25 for general admission.

 $\underline{center the atregroup.org}$

NOW - NOV. 5 VIBRATO GRILL JAZZ: SETH MACFARLANE, DAVID GARFIELD AND RICCARDO BERDINI 7 P.M., 7:30 P.M., 9:30 P.M.

Vibrato Grill Jazz will host three shows from Nov. 3-5. On Nov. 3, Seth Macfarlane and his Big Band perform at 7:30 p.m. Cover is \$295 or \$250 at the bar and includes admission, reservation, 3-course dinner, tax and service fee. On Nov. 4, David Garfiled plays contemporary jazz, funk and Latin in "Outside the Box" featuring Walfredo Reyes Jr. and Liliana de los Reyes with Grant Geissman, Brandon Frileds, Hussain Jiffry and a special guest. Shows are at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. and cover is \$25. Ricardo Berdini presents "Mesmerized" on Nov. 5, an evening of music and magic with The Great Berdini and the Italian Scoundrels. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. and cover is \$40 or \$20 at the bar. Reservations are available online.

vibratogrilljazz.com

NOW - NOV. 6 OPEN FIST THEATRE COMPANY: "BLOOD AT THE ROOT" 3 P.M., 8 P.M.

Open Fist Theatre Company presents "Blood at the Root." In this play, racial tensions erupt in an explosive ensemble drama based on a real-life incident at a Louisiana high school. The production is a "choreopoem" infused with hip-hop and movement, written by Dominique Morisseau, directed by Michael A. Shepperd and inspired by the true case of the "Jena Six." Performances are held at the Atwater Village Theatre at 3269 Casitas Ave., Los Angeles. Tickets range from \$20-\$30. openfist.org

NOV. 5 HOLOCAUST MUSEUM LA: FILM SCREENING: "THE SURVIVOR" 2-4:30 P.M.

Holocaust Museum LA presents a screening of the film "The Survivor." Directed by Academy Award-winner Barry Levinson and based on a true story, HBO original film "The Survivor" stars award-winning actor Ben Foster as Harry Haft, who, after being sent to Auschwitz, survives not only the unspeakable horrors of the camp, but the gladiatorial boxing spectacle he is forced to perform with his fellow prisoners for the amusement of his captors. Unbeknownst to those who try to destroy him, Haft's will to survive is driven by his quest to reunite with the woman he loves. "The Survivor" is an examination of one man's journey from unspeakable horrors to freedom, forgiveness and redemption. This screening will be followed by a conversation with Alan Haft, son of Harry. It is free to attend this event. Reservations are available online. The Holocaust Museum LA is located at 100 The Grove Drive, Los Angeles. holocaustmuseumla.org

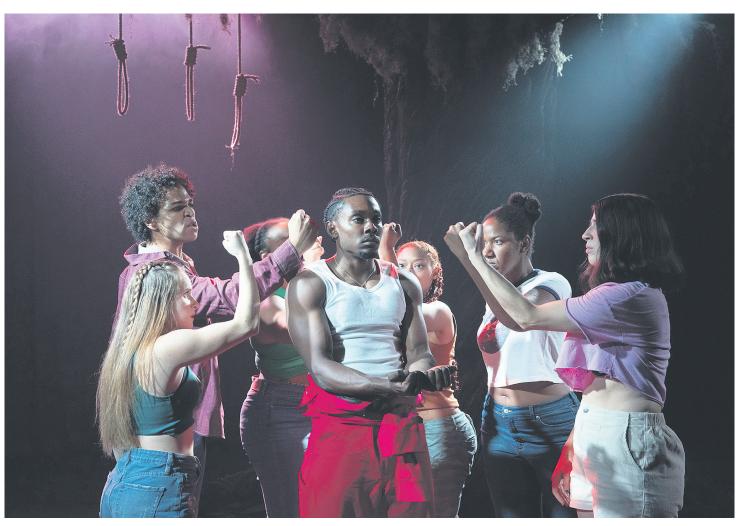


Photo by Jenny Graham

Nicholas Heard and the ensemble cast of "Blood at the Root" at Atwater Village Theatre until Nov. 6

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JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION LOS ANGELES



Electrical Resilience Ad Hoc Committee Explores Microgrids



BY ERIC LICAS

An ad hoc committee tasked with improving the reliability of Beverly Hills' electrical grid, especially amidst wildfires and other natural disasters, weighed a series of options to achieve that goal from utility providers, neighboring communities and city staff on Nov. 1.

It was the fourth meeting of the Mayor's Citywide Electrical Resilience Ad Hoc Committee since its inaugural session on Aug. 30. The body was formed largely in response to repeated power outages in the Trousdale Estates area due to extreme heat waves last summer.

Vice Mayor and Committee Member Lester Friedman noted that owners and operators of the grid powering Beverly Hills, Southern California Edison (SCE), had completed a series of upgrades to electrical equipment in the Trousdale area as recently as late March. However, it was too early to See ELECTRICAL, page 19

USC Shoah Foundation to Collect Testimony from Oct. 7 Attack Survivors



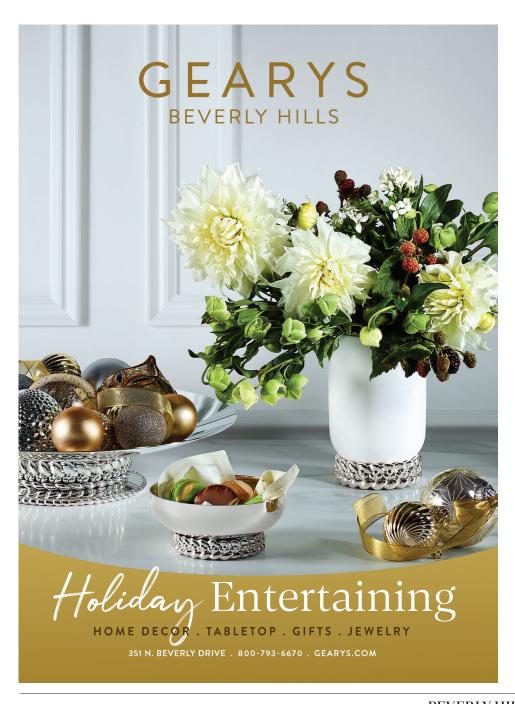
Dr. Robert J. Williams, Finci-Viterbi Executive Director Chair of USC Shoah Foundation

USC Shoah Foundation-The Institute for Visual History and Education (the USC Shoah Foundation) has announced that it will collect and acquire testimonies from survivors of the Oct. 7 terrorist attack on southern

Israel. Survivor stories will be preserved in perpetuity within USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive (VHA) where they will be accessible at more than 190 institutions around the world including museums, libraries, and universities and available to policy makers, NGO's, researchers, and content creators. Through the VHA, testimonies will be integrated into USC Shoah Foundation's award-winning educational programs and partnerships, which reach an estimated 10 million students around the world annually with classroom resources aimed at countering hate and building critical thinking skills and civic engagement.

"We have been gearing up for a major initiative to capture more testimonies of the victims of today's antisemitism, which has been growing year over year around the world for the last decade. After the hate-fueled terror attacks by Hamas, we had to mobilize even faster than planned," said Dr. Robert J. Williams, Finci-Viterbi Executive

See SHOAH FOUNDATION, page 10





Public Health Emphasizes Importance of Up-to-Date Vaccinations Prior to Holiday Season

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) is advising all residents that they are eligible for a new, updated COVID-19 vaccine and now is the time to get vaccinated against COVID and flu to reduce the chance of getting very sick or having to cancel plans this holiday season.

It is important to note that unless a person has been vaccinated since Sept. 2023, they are not up to date with their COVID-19 boosters. They should consider getting the updated vaccine soon to increase protection from severe illness before gathering with family and friends for Thanksgiving. It may take up to two weeks for the body to build-up maximum protection against COVID-19 after vaccination, so it is good to plan ahead.

Vaccines provide protection from infectious diseases that can lead to severe illness for individuals, especially those who are more vulnerable. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in the first 10 months that first COVID-19 vaccines became available, they saved more than 200,000 lives and prevented more than 1.5 million hospitalizations in

the United States.

In Los Angeles County, more than 540,000 doses of the updated COVID-19 vaccine have been administered, and among people 65 and older, 15% have received the newest COVID-19 vaccine. For people ages 12 to 64, uptake is currently lower, about 5%. Public Health is working to make sure more people know about the updated vaccine, its benefits and that they are eligible.

In Los Angeles County over the past 30 days, people who were vaccinated against COVID-19 were three times less likely to be hospitalized and 3.4 times less likely to die. While many people in Los Angeles County recognize the benefits of the vaccine, there may be confusion on whether this updated vaccine is needed.

Unfortunately, just like protection from a previous COVID-19 infection wanes over a few months, scientists have learned that vaccine protection also wanes over time. Similar to flu, because different strains of COVID-19 virus circulate each year, updated vaccines are needed to maximize protection. This is especially true for those who are

most likely to experience severe illness if infected, including people who are older, very young children and people with chronic or underlying health conditions.

The updated vaccine is for everyone six months and older, made to target strains that are circulating now, specifically the XBB lineage of the Omicron variant—which accounts for 99% of sequenced specimens in Los Angeles County.

As of the most recent specimen sequencing in Los Angeles County, the XBB sub strain EG.5 accounted for 35% of sequenced specimens. The next most dominant strain was HV.1, a descendant of EG.5, accounting for 8% of sequenced specimens followed by XBB.2.3 and XBB.1.16.6, each accounting for 7% of specimens.

Public Health encourages residents to have conversations with friends and family

and make sure they know they are eligible for the updated vaccine. Mobile vaccine teams are out in the county and are listed in search at myturn.ca.gov.

If Los Angeles County residents have questions about vaccines, where to get vaccination or how to get tested, the Public Health Call Center remains open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to answer COVID-19-related questions at 1-833-540-0473. Public Health staff can connect callers with resources and help people schedule vaccination appointments, including in-home vaccinations for those that are homebound.

In Los Angeles County, based on data through Oct. 21, the CDC Hospital Admission Level is Low at 4.2 new COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 people.

Public Health reports COVID-19 data weekly. •

www.beverlyhillscourier.com





Mickey Fine Pharmacy is Proud to be a Part of the Beverly Hills Community and Congratulates the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce on its Centennial

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Community

Community Gathers for Unity Vigil at BHHS



Photo courtesy BHUSD

Councilmember Lili Bosse speaking at the Unity Vigil

BY ANA FIGUEROA

A Unity Vigil in honor of the Israeli victims of the Hamas terror attack took place Oct. 30 at Beverly Hills High School (BHHS). Organized and hosted by the BHHS Jewish Club and the BHHS Israel Club, the somber, yet hopeful gathering took place outdoors beneath the fall sunshine at the school's Media Center Patio.

Students, parents, faculty and religious

leaders came together for the vigil. Local officials in attendance included Mayor Dr. Julian Gold, Councilmembers Lili Bosse and Sharona Nazarian, BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy, School Board President Noah Margo and School Board Member Mary Wells. Many addressed the crowd, as did several student representatives.

Memorable moments included the Beverly Hills High School orchestra's



Photo courtesy BHUSD

Attendees at the vigil lit candles in memory of the victims in Israel.

rendering of Hatikvah, the national anthem of the State of Israel, as well as a performance in Hebrew by members of the BHHS Choir Team.

Bosse, whose parents were Holocaust survivors, recounted that she had learned Hebrew while a student at BHHS. She described herself in those days as someone who "never would have had the courage to stand up and speak publicly then."

Now, she is one of the city's most stirring speakers.

"People have come to me and said, 'Don't speak out.' They're afraid for me. I have had threats, personal threats. I've had hate. You should see the things that people say. The more threats, the more hate, the louder I speak. The louder and stronger I become and we become," Bosse said, to applause.

"So, what I do every day now is try and find the light," she continued. "Some days are hard. But you are the light. You are the light that is going to absolutely drown out this darkness. Never again is now and we have to stay strong, no matter how tough it gets. We have to continue. Am Ysrael Chai!" •









JANUARY 2-5 ** CAMP IS CLOSED DEC. 25 & JAN. 1





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Arts and Entertainment

'Priscilla'-Sad Eyed Lady of the Gracelands



Photos courtesy of Sabrina Lantos and A24

Cailee Spaeny as Priscilla Presley doing her makeup

BY NEELY SWANSON

Be careful what you wish for; it might come true. Never was this adage more fitting than in the slow-burning tale Sofia Coppola tells of Priscilla Presley and her life with the King. Coppola, writer and director of this grim fairy tale, has chosen to explore the distaff side of Elvis, guided by Priscilla Presley's autobiography, "Elvis and Me" and her role as Executive Producer. As they say, it's complicated. Priscilla's rise as Elvis's child muse was well-documented in the press at the time (and repeatedly many years after) but there was definitely a dark lining to that silver cloud.

Elvis, riding high as the newly crowned King of Rock 'n' Roll, was drafted into the army in 1958. Given the opportunity to enlist in Special Services and entertain the troops, he was instead advised by his manager, Col. Tom Parker, to go the regular soldier route. There was method to his madness because by doing this, Elvis gained respect both from fellow soldiers but also from the generation back home who viewed him as a threat to society. Also, Parker would have had to relinquish control of Elvis's performances and recordings while he worked for the Army.

The regular Army was a lonely road for Elvis, especially when he was shipped to West Germany where he knew no one and couldn't speak the language. His beloved

mother had recently passed and he was, simply put, homesick. Concurrently, young Priscilla Beaulieu (14) arrived at the same outpost when her stepfather, a career Army Captain, was assigned to the base, and she was miserable. A high school freshman, smart but unfocused, she couldn't relate to anyone. Spotted at the base soda fountain by an Army friend of Elvis, he wondered if she might like to go to one of his parties. This was an opportunity that the introverted girl, daughter of very conservative parents, would fight for, and she did. She and Elvis bonded and Priscilla's thoughts ever after would be about him and him alone.

Defying credulity, Priscilla and Elvis convinced her parents to allow her to complete her senior year of high school in Memphis, carefully supervised and living at Graceland. Elvis's hit, "Can't Help Falling in Love" from his recent movie "Blue Hawaii," offers a window into describing his relationship with Priscilla. Listen to the lyrics and you'll hear "Wise men say 'only fools rush in.' But I can't help falling in love with you... Like a river flows, surely to the sea, Darling, so it goes. Some things are meant to be."

It was Elvis who kept the relationship chaste as he molded his young sweetheart into his ideal of womanhood. It didn't hurt that she was always in her Catholic school uniform. It is unclear how long it took Priscilla to realize that she was a bird in a gilded cage, but eventually she awakened slightly to the downside of being the property of one of the most famous men on the planet.

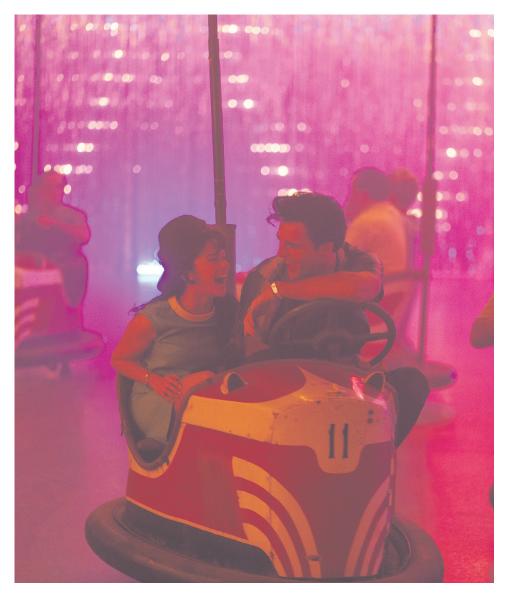
While she was confined to luxury quarters, Elvis left, often for extended periods, as he made movies and recordings that kept him in the spotlight. The rumors of his liaisons with his co-stars, most famously Ann Margaret, were well-founded although

often denied by him. The irony of his sexual adventures away from home and his refusal to take the next step with the chaste teenager were not lost on Priscilla. He continued to lavish her with presents and advise on hair and makeup; stores came to her so she wouldn't face the outside world. Unable to invite school friends, if she had any, to the house, she was surrounded by Elvis's band of rowdy musicians, his surly father, and the



Jacob Elordi as Elvis Presley

PAGE 8 BEVERLY HILLS COURIER NOVEMBER 3, 2023



Cailee Spaeny and Jacob Elordi

women who worked at Graceland. It surely didn't escape her notice that even when he was home, Elvis reverted to adolescence with his bandmates, his closest friends. They had nothing in common with the teenager, nor she with them.

Priscilla, lost, could not help but note that he, too, was searching for something with his forays into the occult, spiritualism, Eastern religion and quasi Bible studies where he searched for meaning in the "woman at the well." Controlling, sometimes violent, always unpredictable, she was caught in his web never wanting to be free. Until she did. But let's leave some of her story on the screen.

There must have been something magnetic about the quiet teenager that made Elvis's friend engage her in the first place. She was surely not the only attractive American teenager on the base. And therein lies one of the flaws in Coppola's film. Cailee Spaeny plays Priscilla without personality or passion. She is deadpan through most of the movie, always with the same wideeyed expression. Her Priscilla is definitely not a scholar and seems to be without any curiosity, intellectual or otherwise. She's pretty but, like a deer in the headlights, her expression rarely changes from situation to situation. It's certainly understandable that an inexperienced young girl, living with her idol, would give up any sense of self to continue floating in his backdraft. Coppola, no doubt, was interested in the portrayal of spousal abuse both on the giving and receiving ends. Priscilla, always holding out for the ring she eventually got, is portrayed as a classic recipient of abuse where the husband and/or lover acts out and then profusely apologizes, setting off a course of "I'll never do that again" repetition. The main problem here is that Spaeny's Priscilla has virtually no personality and it's hard to be invested in her. The questions that continually arise are "What did/does he see in her?" Spaeny's look of wide-eyed innocence begins to wear on the viewer and you are as relieved as she was when she decided to leave (that's not a spoiler unless you don't live on this planet).

The story of Elvis Presley, his rise, his life, his death, has been told endlessly and Coppola's intention to tell the Elvis/Priscilla story from Priscilla's standpoint was a great idea. Unfortunately, despite her best efforts to focus on Priscilla, the Elvis of this tale, played by Jacob Elordi, is far more interesting and grabs the spotlight even when it's not shining on him. His portrayal is compelling and electric, emphasizing that there was no there there with Priscilla. For every one of his actions we rarely see a reaction on her part. Certainly, part of Coppola's point is about the disparity of power, and that is on full display. But it is hard to sympathize with a young woman, left by herself so often, who didn't find something to occupy her



Photo courtesy of Philippe Le Sourd and A24

Jacob Elordi and Cailee Spaeny

time. You never see her with a book in her hand; the television, when on, is tuned into "Petticoat Junction" or "The Beverly Hillbillies," underscoring a stereotypic view of her world. (On the other hand, we all watched those inane shows; they were fun, not societal statements.) This Elvis, the supporting character in the film, is dynamic; eyes flashing, his very act of walking or lying still is riveting. It's probably an unfair criticism to compare performances because, as written, either by Coppola or Presley herself, Priscilla is a cypher to which no one seems to have the algorithm.

The movie flows at a steady pace and Coppola establishes the conflict between idolatry and reality. Although I was unappreciative of Spaeny's performance, clearly Coppola was more interested in the aftermath of the wrong dream than the "why her" aspects of the story. But no matter how hard you try, Elvis is always a focus because this Priscilla has been given little or no character development.

The rest of the cast is fine, if not well developed. Lynne Griffin as Grandma "Dodger" brings compassion and warmth to the Presley household. Dagmara Dominczyk

as Priscilla's mother Ann Beaulieu, shows the right amount of worry for her daughter but is inexplicably absent after her daughter moves to Memphis. Did Priscilla's parents entirely abandon her? The boys in the band, too numerous to mention, bring vitality and controlled chaos to a film that is too often static.

Production Designer Tamara Deverell has captured the era and has recreated Graceland at its shiny best. Costume Designer Stacey Battat has the time period down pat. Cinematography by Philippe Le Sourd is rather unremarkable but wide expansive shots are not characteristic of biopics. A big disappointment is the music. Curiously there is very little rock 'n' roll from the era, and the music that is used is distinctly non-distinct.

The pacing of the film is good and you won't be checking your watch, but overall, this is a bland story about a marriage that was anything but bland. If you are going to make a film about a character's awakening, you need, at the very least, to have them wake up.

Opening wide on November 3 at AMC theaters throughout LA. •



Neely Swanson spent most of her professional career in the television industry, almost all of it working for David E. Kelley. In her last full-time position as Executive Vice President of Development, she reviewed writer submissions and targeted content for adaptation. As she has often said, she did book reports for a living. For several years she was a freelance writer for "Written By," the magazine of the WGA West, and was adjunct faculty at USC in the writing division of the School of

Cinematic Arts. Neely has been writing film and television reviews for the "Easy Reader" for more than 10 years. Her past reviews can be read on Rotten Tomatoes where she is a tomato-approved critic.

Community Blood Drive Taking Place Dec. 14





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The American Red Cross is holding a community blood drive on Dec. 14 in the City Hall Municipal Gallery, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment or email Nina.Minton@Redcross.org with any questions. If concerned about eligibility to donate, call 866-236-3276. Blood donors will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email.



Professor of Psychology, Co-Director of the Greater Good Science Center at University of California, Berkeley



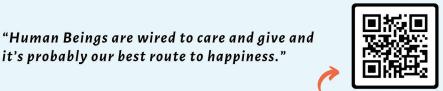
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A chronology of the Visual History Archive at the USC Shoah Foundation

SHOAH FOUNDATION, from page 4 Director Chair of USC Shoah Foundation.

While the initiative is still being developed, teams in Israel have already recorded the first testimonies, which will become part of the Contemporary Antisemitism collection and will help combat disinformation about the Oct. 7 attacks.

"This testimony coming from Israel is raw and unfiltered, and it is painful to know that the atrocities that the Jewish people have suffered for generations continue to happen," Wiliams said. "But these testimonies are essential for us to live up to our obligation to document antisemitic crimes in order to build understanding, awareness, and the resilience to push back. We know from our work that seeing and hearing from survivors can profoundly affect audiences in ways that can encourage the creation of cultures that value mutual respect and understanding," Williams said.

USC Shoah Foundation's VHA contains more than 56,000 video testimonies of survivors and witnesses of genocide, crimes against humanity, and related persecution. It is the largest digital collection of its kind in the world. Currently encompassing nearly 120,000 hours of video testimony, nearly every testimony contains a complete personal history of life before, during, and after the interviewee's firsthand experience with genocide. The Visual History Archive is digitized, fully searchable, and continuously updated to ensure the quality and integrity of the testimonies. This indexing allows students, scholars, researchers, and others around the world to retrieve entire testimonies or search for specific sections within testimonies through a set of 65,600

keywords, 1.99 million names, and 719,000 images.

The vast majority of testimonies in the archive-more than 55,000-relate to the Holocaust, with remainder coming from the Armenian Genocide that coincided with World War I, the 1937 Nanjing Massacre in China, the Cambodian Genocide of 1975-1979, the Guatemalan Genocide of 1978-1983, the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, and the ongoing conflicts in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, and anti-Rohingya mass violence.

Amid a global rise in anti-Jewish violence, the USC Shoah Foundation launched the Contemporary Antisemitism Collection in 2015, gathering accounts from victims of antisemitism as it occurred after 1945. The initiative to significantly expand that collection was in the works before the attacks in Israel.

"Holocaust survivors who entrusted their memories to us hoped that their words would help create a world without antisemitism, and certainly without the kind of antisemitic violence we just witnessed in Israel," Williams said. "Clearly, there is still work to do. This expansion of the VHA not only creates opportunities for millions of people to learn about and remember the Shoah, but also to understand the experiences of today's victims of the same irrational hatred that led to the Holocaust."

At present, USC Shoah Foundation is laying the technical groundwork and fundraising for its expanded initiative. In coming months, the Institute will announce additional details including subject experiences, partnerships, and instructions for how families can register for filming. •

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BEVERLY HILLS COURIER NOVEMBER 3, 2023 PAGE 10

GEARYS

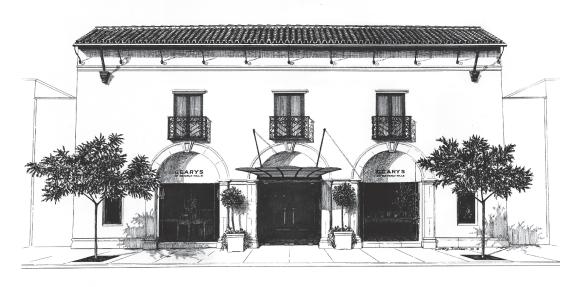
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NOVEMBER 3, 2023

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Birthdays



HAILEY ESSES
November 4



MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY
November 4



RICHARD S. ZIMAN November 5



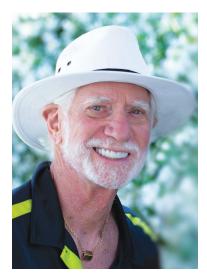
BOBBE JOY DAWSON November 6



ETHAN HAWKE November 6



WARUKA SERIO November 7



MITCHELL DAWSON
November 8

BEVERLY HILLS COURLER

TO HELP SHOWCASE OUR
COMMUNITY AT ITS BEST,
PLEASE SEND A CURRENT
PHOTO EVERY YEAR ALONG
WITH YOUR FULL NAME AND
PHONE NUMBER. ALL PHOTOS
MUST BE HIGH-RESOLUTION,
AT LEAST 300 DPI.

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WITH AT LEAST TWO
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Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't have to do an A+ job on every task and in fact it would be unwise to try. You'll recognize what's important to you, give your best energy to it and win the day.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). While some of your thinking will be purposeful, featuring a beautiful idea or two, you will also have thoughts that are dubious, fearful and overall unhelpful. Tune into your heart. Your heart will bring order to the mind.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've so much love to give and today it radiates from you in many forms, including the words of encouragement you lend, your friendly smile and your other smile with all the mischief in it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). These rests you take with the intention of restoring yourself, however brief they may be, will contribute to an overall peace and well-being. Solace is the stillness that is, strangely, also movement.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What people think about you does affect you, so of course you care about it, but just not that much. Your emphasis now is on what you need to accomplish to satisfy your own requirements of yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). No matter where you are on the ladder of knowledge, there are people who know more than you and people who know less. There is always someone to learn from, and someone to teach.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a zest that is utterly personal, and the impact you make with it will be unmistakably your own. You're mostly concerned with making things interesting for you and everyone, and your style springs from that impulse.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Fear will dissipate once you decide there's something much more important at stake. Purpose doesn't just pull you through; it elevates you like an airplane flying above the storm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Life has at times been harsh on you. Now you'll seize the opportunity to give what you wished you'd been given. You'll succeed in the endeavor. Humanity is elevated one personal

interaction at a time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're tired of being constantly marketed to. You can drown out the persuasion of the world by getting more serious about self-influencing. Surround yourself with the motivational symbols and messages to inspire your best work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may feel stuck and still have no idea

how exactly you're being blocked. It's like you've come to a door with an obstacle on the other side preventing you from opening it. Investigate and negotiate to free things up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Though being kind can require very little effort, sometimes people are too preoccupied to notice their opportunities for benevolence. Your example will serve as a guide and reminder.



This week's eligible pup for adoption is Morgan. He is an 11-month-old, 15-pound schnauzer mix in need of a new home. If interested in this sweet boy, please contact Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.

shelterhopepetshop.org

PAGE 12 BEVERLY HILLS COURIER NOVEMBER 3, 2023



Photo by Kate Jones, courtesy the Rodeo Drive Committee

Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Celebration 2022

HOLIDAY LIGHTING, from page 1

balloons, sweeping piles of presents and cascades of sparking lights.

"The reveal of this year's decor themed 'Up, Up and Away Holiday!' celebrates the start of the holiday season and brings together our community and visitors on Rodeo Drive," said Kay Monica Rose, president of the Rodeo Drive Committee. "We are delighted to welcome Sheryl Lee Ralph to our iconic street, where each magical encounter promises to be a gift, unwrapping our hopes and dreams for everyone."

During the ceremony, the street will be

transformed into a winter wonderland animated by interactive roaming performers, towering peppermint stilt walkers, and roller-skating holiday gifts.

Mayor Dr. Julian Gold and members of the City Council will lead the countdown to illuminate Rodeo Drive. Santa Claus will parade down the street led by the Beverly Hills High School marching band on a Beverly Hills Fire Truck, followed by a dazzling fireworks finale.

"Our Holiday Lighting Celebration is an opportunity for us to come together, recognize how fortunate we are, and begin this year's holiday season—a celebration of our



Photo courtesy of the artist

Sheryl Lee Ralph

city and a hopeful beginning for the New Year," said Gold.

"At the same time, we recognize the impact of world events and our thoughts are with those here and abroad as we approach the holiday season," he continued. "We hope they can find a sense of hopefulness and strength as we all overcome darkness with light."

Throughout the evening there will be no shortage of songs, dances, treats and surprises.

Performers will include the Jewish a cappella group The Maccabeats; Bollywood dance star Nazara; the duo of Broadway performer Terron Brooks and American Idol contestant Vonzell Solomon, Cajon drummer Nick

Adams, the Holiday Rhythm Tappers dance group, The Four Parts Barbershop Quartet and Winter Wonderland Carolers, DJ Z, and the Holiday Helpers dance group.

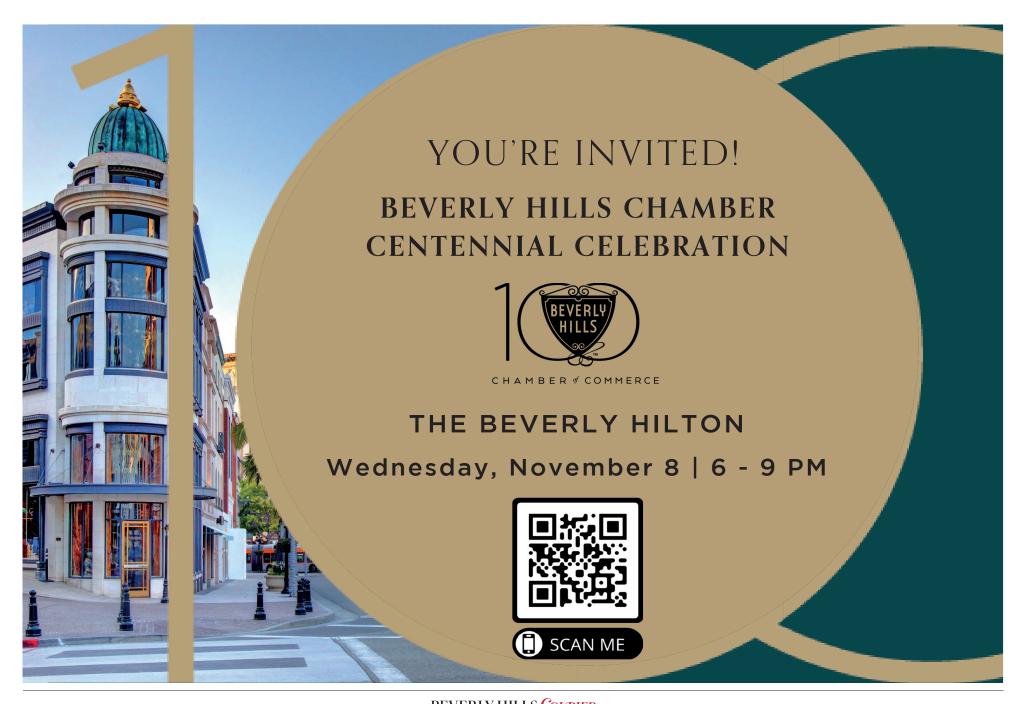
Additionally, three stages along the street will host sets from The Wallis's critically-acclaimed theatrical experience "LOVE ACTUALLY LIVE." Featured performers include cast member B.Slade, Emmy award-winning actor and singer Madison Taylor Baez and The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles

The Holiday Lighting Ceremony marks only the beginning of the festive season in Beverly Hills. Residents and visitors are welcome to view holiday light installations across the city through Jan. 1.

These include the "Glowing Gardens" at Beverly Canon Park; the "Lights on the Lily Pond" show at Beverly Gardens Park, which takes place every 15 minutes beginning at 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; and the "Unwrap the Magic" projection show viewable nightly every half hour from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the Beverly Hills City Hall Tower.

In addition, the city's "Jolly Trolley" will take visitors to the "Unwrap the Magic" projection show every Thursday through Sunday evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., from its stops at Rodeo Drive and Dayton Way and N. Crescent Drive and N. Santa Monica Boulevard.

Finally, there will be family-friendly holiday celebrations at Greystone Mansion and Gardens from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 2 and 3. •



Fun and Games

SUDOKU AND PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR 10/27/23 ISSUE on page 20

SUDOKU 11/03/23 ISSUE									
				7		5		3	
	3				1				
		5	2		4		9		
1						7			
	9	4				2	8		
		8						6	
	6		8		5	4			
			1				3		
8		1		2					

GOURIER WEEK NINE

THURSDAY, NOV. 2

TENNESSEE @ PITTSBURGH 5:15 PM PRIME VIDEO (PIT -3)

SUNDAY, NOV. 5

MIAMI @ KANSAS CITY 6:30 AM NFL NET (KC -2)

SEATTLE @ BALTIMORE 10:00 AM CBS (BAL -6)

ARIZONA @ CLEVELAND 10:00 AM CBS (CLE -8)

TAMPA BAY @ HOUSTON

10:00 AM CBS (HOU -3)

CHICAGO @ NEW ORLEANS 10:00 AM CBS (NO -9)

MINNESOTA @ ATLANTA 10:00 AM FOX (ATL -4)

SUNDAY, NOV. 5

LA RAMS @ GREEN BAY 10:00 AM FOX (GB - 3 1/2)

WASHINGTON @ NEW ENGLAND 10:00 AM FOX (NE -3 1/2)

INDIANAPOLIS @ CAROLINA 1:05 PM CBS (IND -2 1/2)

DALLAS @ PHILADELPHIA 1:25 PM FOX (PHI -3)

N.Y. GIANTS @ LA VEGAS 1:25 PM FOX (LV -1 1/2)

BUFFULO @ CINCINNATI 5:20 PM NBC (CIN -2)

MONDAY, NOV. 6

L.A. CHARGERS @ N.Y. JETS 5:15 PM ABC/ESPN (LAC -3)

Week Nine Spread by: Danny Sheridan Check your local listings for games schedules. All times PST.

THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE 11/03/23 ISSUE

19

YOU'RE ONTO SOMETHING BY ROBERT RYAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

 $Robert\ Ryan, of\ London, is\ an\ economist\ for\ Britain's\ Competition\ and\ Markets\ Authority.\ This\ is\ his\ third\ crossword\ for\ The\ Times\ -\ all\ Authority\ This\ is\ his\ third\ crossword\ for\ The\ Times\ -\ all\ Authority\ This\ is\ his\ third\ crossword\ for\ The\ Times\ -\ all\ Authority\ This\ is\ his\ third\ crossword\ for\ The\ Times\ -\ all\ Authority\ This\ is\ his\ third\ crossword\ for\ The\ Times\ -\ all\ Authority\ This\ is\ his\ third\ crossword\ for\ The\ Times\ -\ all\ Authority\ This\ is\ his\ third\ crossword\ for\ The\ Times\ -\ all\ Authority\ This\ is\ his\ third\ crossword\ for\ The\ Times\ -\ all\ Authority\ This\ is\ his\ third\ crossword\ for\ The\ Times\ -\ all\ third\ crossword\ for\ This\ third\ crossword\ for\ This\ third\ crossword\ for\ This\ third\ cross\ third\ cross\ for\ third\ cross\ for$ Sundays. Although he grew up solving cryptics (and loves their wordplay), he doesn't create them. He has only ever submitted crosswords here. "Once I discovered the American crossword, I was completely sold." - W.S.

ACROSS

- 1 Small dosage qtys. 4 In South America they're known as "gallinas de palo," or "chickens of the tree"
- 11 You can see right through 'em
- 16 Jockey (for)
- 19 Dadaist Jean
- 20 Grevhound's competition
- 21 Went for
- 22 Little demon 23 Acts cov in salary
- negotiations? 26 Dismissive rejection
- 27 Components of some kitschy clocks
- 28 What was once yours? 29 "Good gracious!"
- 31 Play opener
- 32 Standoffish
- 34 Celeb's hangout
- 35 Bowlful with Thai basil and bean sprouts
- 36 Public stance of a member of
- 41 Unsavory relation?
- **43** Biblical grandson of Adam and Eve 44 Clichéd name for a
- 45 "S.N.L." alum Bryant 46 Document that may be kept in a lockbox
- 47 Singer Easton
- **ANSWERS FOUND** IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...

- 49 Shepherd's job, essentially?
- **56** Relative of a musette
- 57 Take in
- 58 Do something illegal around a basketball hoop
- 62 Business-card abbr. 63 Turn more heads than
- intended? 68 Head for business?
- 69 Some informants,
- informally 71 Memo starter
- 72 Part of Q.E.D.
- 73 Nourish 74 Newspaper write-up that's light on criticism?
- **79** Top-of-the-line Mercedes
- 82 Object with one hole or two, depending on whom you ask
- 83 Actress Kurylenko of "Black Widow"
- 84 Blessing
- 85 They're craze-y! **86** It can be a strain on
- the pupils 92 Bungee jumping on
- Tuesday, skydiving on Wednesday, etc.? 96 Mens ____ (legal concept)
- 97 Less trustful (of)
- 98 Wear down
- 99 Swamplike
- 100 Almost spherical in
- **101** [Shrug]
- 103 The world's bestselling planes

- 106 2001 biopic starring
- 55 Unpleasant surprises 107 Show off one's vocal when buying concert range and stamina? tickets 111 Mother figure
 - 112 Up and about

 - 113 "Stop obsessing over that" 114 Downside
 - 115 Go out with

 - 116 Unloads, in a way 117 Diagnostic using an
 - injected tracer 118 O'Hare identifier

DOWN

- 1 Eccentrics
- 2 Who once quipped, "I never forget a face. but in your case I'll be glad to make an exception"
- 3 Singer Ronnie of the Ronettes
- 4 Some unique digits: Abbr. 5 Oft-relied-upon
- 6 Footwear craze of the early 2000s
- 7 Pop singer Grande, to
- 8 Sat
- 9 Nail-polish remover
- gear) 12 Summon, in a way
- 13 URL ending
- 14 Heart-pumping activity 15 Soaks
- 16 Pairing for an entrecôte or filet mignon, perhaps 17 *Facepalm*

- Will Smith
 - 24 Something a Brazilian is unlikely to wax
 - American celebration
 - aesthetic
 - **32** "Eureka!"
 - times
 - predecessor
 - Ave., e.g.: Abbr.
 - for short
 - 42 Go out with
 - 47 Aquatic barker

 - crime
 - vineyards

 - 55 Antagonist
 - 60 Approach 61 Heap affection (on)

- 18 Disposables kept as mementos
- 25 Age for a Latin
- 34 D.C. tiebreakers, at
- 38 Lid malady

- water, in an idiom
- 52 Highly rated French
- 10 Porpoise, in old usage 11 guards (soccer President Barbie in
 - 59 Shade of unbleached linen
 - 64 Shares one's bunk?

- 30 Most showily
- 33 Small, cutesily
- 36 Nintendo Switch
- 46 Served a sentence
- 50 Be a partner with in
- 53 Word on an Irish flag
- "Barbie"
- 58 Journalist Ifill
- 63 Pub lineup 65 Had a following

- **37** 1500 Pennsylvania
- **39** Universal blood type,
- 40 Drift (off)
- 48 Alternative to high
- 49 Kitties
- 51 Lone word?
 - like a past-tense verb 67 Pop star Rita 70 Belonging to a
 - 72 Among others, for 74 In the altogether
 - 77 Disney's ___ Arendelle

- 23 41 53 92 97 100 106 111 112 115
- 87 British ref. work 66 Number that sounds **78** New 79 Govt. funds for mom-

81 Basis for a

- and-pop shops 80 "Colorful" exclamation in a particular time hospital drama
- fortuneteller's romantic prediction **75** Like some displays of wealth 82 Road workers' gloop 85 Fox coverage? **76** Escapes are made by
 - Foundation 86 for Justice (international human rights group)
- 88 A, abroad
- 89 _ Flow" (song by Enya) 90 Gadget for a wine
- enthusiast 91 Nightfall 93 Munitions compounds
 - Lobel, author of the "Frog and Toad" series
 - 99 Web portal with a Bing search bar
- 101 Face-off
 - 102 Decorative vases 103 Give a ticket
 - 104 Batter's need 105 Wrecked
- 108 Wired internet letters 94 Small, cutesily 109 Past-tense verb that sounds like a
 - number 110 Batter's objective

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, from page 1 base with about 25 companies and entrepreneurs who either have a notable presence in Beverly Hills or an interest in setting up shop in the city.

Some potential newcomers included several Michelin-rated restaurants and "a type of entertainment we could use in our city," Johnson said.

"We've got a number of businesses excited to continue conversations of potentially coming here," he said. "Now that doesn't happen overnight, it's relationships."

The chamber was formally incorporated in June 1923, with the mission of ensuring that the voices of local business owners are heard. Since then, it has become a hub where local entrepreneurs and people curious about moving to Beverly Hills can find answers and advice.

Johnson and the current chair of the organization's board of directors, David Mirharooni said.

The number of businesses partnering with the chamber has steadily grown over the years, Gordon Gelfond, the organization's board chair from 1978 to 1979, said. He added that it has become more diverse, both in the types of companies it represents and the makeup of its leadership.

"I don't think we had any women on the board when I was chairman," he said. "A lot has changed for the betterment of the chamber."

Mirharooni said prior to his involvement

with the chamber, he used to think of it as simply a marketing organization. But over time he saw how they ensured that the concerns of the business community were heard by lawmakers planning out major developments like the location of the upcoming Metro rail station and rules for outdoor dining during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic was one of the most challenging periods in the chamber's history, Johnson said. The majority of its members are small businesses, and many struggled to stay open amidst the lockdown. In addition to promoting outdoor dining, the chamber also wound up waving membership dues in order to help shops and restaurants stay in Beverly Hills.

The local business community has bounced back dramatically since then, Mirharooni said. Today, Beverly Hills has a lower commercial vacancy rate than any of its neighboring municipalities, with newly available units getting filled practically as soon as they are put up for lease, Johnson said.

"I'm impressed by the growth of Rodeo Drive," Gelfond said. "Some of the stores, Chanel and others, have increased the size of their footprint. That means the business must be good and they have confidence in Beverly Hills."

Their upcoming centennial celebration will be an opportunity to celebrate the resilience of the chamber and the business community it has helped foster. The organization plans to honor seven companies in particular for their longevity and longstanding partnership with the chamber. These include the iconic Beverly Hills Hotel, the Beverly Wilshire Hotel and the Beverly Hilton. The healthcare provider Cedars-Sinai as well as the Greater Los Angeles Realtors Association will also be recognized. Retailer Gearys and local chain Mickey Fine Pharmacy round out the centennial event's

honorees.

"This is the most amazing community to be a part of," Mickey Fine owner Gina Raphael said. "It feels to me like small-time America. It has that type of warmth and concern. We're just overwhelmed by the support for Mickey Fine now and through history. And to think about the honorees being mentioned, and that Mickey Fine is a part of that, it's a total 'wow' for us." •



The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce will celebrate its centennial at an event on Nov. 8.





Police Blotter

The following incidents of assault, burglary, DUI arrest, motor vehicle theft, robbery, theft, and vandalism have been reported. Streets are usually indicated by block numbers.



ASSAULT - SIMPLE

10/30/2023, 4:20 p.m. at 400 Block of N. REXFORD DRIVE

10/30/2023, 10:35 a.m. at 200 Block of S. ROBERTSON BLVD.

10/26/2023, 5:07 p.m. at 100 Block of N. SAN VICENTE BLVD.

10/25/2023, 1:25 p.m. at 300 Block of S. ROBERTSON BLVD.

BURGLARY -COMMERCIAL BUILDING

10/26/2023, 6:42 p.m. at 9200 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

BURGLARY - CONSTRUCTION SITE

10/26/2023, 1:50 a.m. at 800 Block of N. ROXBURY DRIVE

10/16/2023, 7 a.m. at 100 Block of N. STANLEY DRIVE

BURGLARY - FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

10/30/2023, 10:50 p.m. at 100 Block of N. STANLEY DRIVE

10/29/2023, 9 p.m. at 400 Block of N. OAKHURST DRIVE

10/29/2023, 3:11 a.m. at 100 Block of N. LE DOUX RD 10/28/2023, 6 p.m. at 100 Block of N. ALMONT DRIVE

10/27/2023, 1 p.m. at 400 Block of N. OAKHURST DRIVE

10/23/2023, 6 p.m. at 9500 Block of OLYMPIC BLVD.

10/15/2023, 3 p.m. at 200 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

BURGLARY -RESIDENTIAL (COMMON AREA)

10/18/2023, 4:30 a.m. at 200 Block of S. DOHENY DRIVE

BURGLARY -RESIDENTIAL (HOME OCCUPIED)

10/27/2023, 3 p.m. at 200 Block of N. CLARK DRIVE

BURGLARY -RESIDENTIAL (NO ONE HOME)

10/27/2023, 8 a.m. at 100 Block of S. ELM DRIVE

DUI ARREST

10/30/2023, 12:57 a.m. at S. DOHENY DRIVE/ CHARLEVILLE BOULEVARD

10/22/2023, 1:27 a.m. at WILSHIRE BOULEVARD/ N. ROBERTSON BOULEVARD 10/16/2023, 10:38 p.m., N. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD / N. REXFORD DRIVE

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

10/29/2023, 10:30 p.m. at 400 Block of N. PALM DRIVE

10/21/2023, 10:02 a.m. at 8900 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

10/19/2023, 5:38 p.m. at 300 Block of REEVES DRIVE

ROBBERY

10/27/2023, 9:20 p.m. at 9100 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

10/22/2023, 12:30 a.m. at 400 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

10/18/2023, 6:09 p.m. at DAYTON WAY / N. ALMONT DRIVE

THEFT OF AUTO PARTS

10/30/2023, 12:30 p.m. at WILSHIRE BOULEVARD / WHITTIER DRIVE

10/19/2023, 9:52 a.m. at N. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD / N. ROXBURY DRIVE

10/16/2023, 5:51 a.m. at 200 Block of S. WETHERLY DRIVE

THEFT - GRAND

10/29/2023, 12 p.m. at 400 Block of S. MAPLE DRIVE

10/27/2023, 4:47 a.m. at 300 Block of S. CAMDEN DRIVE

10/27/2023, 4:30 a.m. at 9300 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

10/26/2023, 6:39 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

10/20/2023, 7:46 p.m. at 400 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

10/18/2023, 2:35 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY

10/31/2023, 8:20 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

10/30/2023, 11:04 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

10/26/2023, 4:45 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

10/26/2023, 1:50 a.m. at 600 Block of N. BEDFORD DRIVE

10/26/2023, 1:15 p.m. at 100 Block of S. BEVERLY DRIVE

10/25/2023, 3 p.m. at 400 Block of N. ROXBURY DRIVE

10/20/2023, 7 p.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD. 10/19/2023, 10:20 p.m. at 400 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

10/18/2023, 1:19 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

10/17/2023, 2:24 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY (FROM VEHICLE)

10/26/2023, 10 p.m. at 200 Block of S. GALE DRIVE

10/21/2023, 1 p.m. at 200 Block of S. DOHENY DRIVE

VANDALISM

10/26/2023, 7:45 p.m. at 9500 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

10/26/2023, 7:30 a.m. at 8400 Block of GREGORY WAY

10/26/2023, 11:53 p.m. at 800 Block of CINTHIA STREET

10/25/2023, 12 a.m. at 400 Block of S. BEDFORD DRIVE

10/24/2023, 7 a.m. at 400 Block of S. ROXBURY DRIVE

10/24/2023, 5 p.m. at 300 Block of S. PALM DRIVE

10/23/2023, 12:55 a.m. at 400 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

10/21/2023, 2 p.m. at 100 Block of S. MAPLE DRIVE

10/21/2023, 2 p.m. at 400 Block of S. LA PEER DRIVE

10/21/2023, 1:14 a.m. at 400 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

10/20/2023, 2 p.m. at 200 Block of LASKY DRIVE

10/18/2023, 6 p.m. at 9900 Block of DURANT DRIVE

10/16/2023, 1:30 p.m. at 400 Block of N. BEDFORD DRIVE

PAGE 16 BEVERLY HILLS COURIER NOVEMBER 3, 2023

WEBSITE REDESIGN, from page 1

The survey highlighted several existing elements that residents enjoy and would like to see preserved. These include the user-friendly online services portal, the access to live meetings and the comprehensive event calendar.

The survey also pointed to aspects of the website that the community would like to see improved. These include a more mobile-friendly layout, the clearer organization of language, the addition of a robust search function, and more prominent placement of ongoing City Council and Commission initiatives. Lastly, respondents expressed

a desire for a sleek and modern layout that captures the city's historic charm.

"What we want to do is make it simpler, but also make it comprehensive so you can find anything you want about the city; if it's history, if it's the library, if it's 'how do I pay my bill?' If it's how many police do we have? All of that should be there," said Mirisch.

In an ideal world users should be able to find any information they are seeking within two clicks, said Bosse. Once the redesign is completed, she would like it to be tested on unfamiliar users to ensure it is truly userfriendly and easy to navigate.

"I really want us to wear the hat of

somebody who is literally coming on to the website for the first time," Bosse said.

Mirisch agreed with the "two-click" rule and also said it was important to make the search function as effective as possible.

"The search bar should be prominent, it should be intuitive," he said. "One search should get you exactly what you want."

Councilmembers and survey respondents also highlighted a desire to make the website more visually appealing and a dynamic representation of the city's history and culture.

Mirisch said the city should make good use of its historic landmarks, stunning

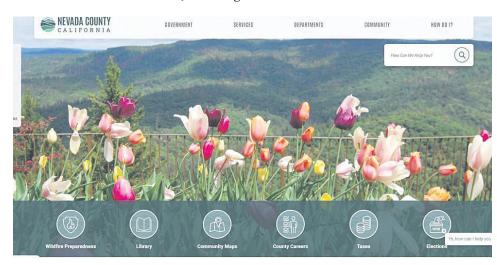
buildings and beautiful parks as website visuals. Bosse said the site should paint a thorough portrait of Beverly Hills' history and help explain how the city's past development informs its current goals and values.

Based on this feedback, staff will continue to work internally on the redesign and meet again with the committee in December to discuss a website mood board and potential layouts.

The goal is to finalize the design plan in December, migrate content onto the new site in January, train staff on the new website in March and release it to the public in April. •



 ${\it Council Mebsite Steering Committee meeting on Monday, Oct.\,30}$



A website template used by Nevada County, California that was presented to committee members in the Oct. 30 meeting







Photo courtesy American Friends of Magen David Adom Ambulances were airlifted to arrive in Israel as soon as possible.



MAJOR MWD PIPELINE REPAIRS PROMPT CALL FOR CONSERVATION OF WATER

NOVEMBER 6 - 8, 2023

As crews from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) plan repairs to a pipeline that delivers water to Beverly Hills, water customers across the Beverly Hills service area are being asked to conserve water from November 6th to November 8th, 2023.

Now that work is set to begin on the MWD pipeline impacting Beverly Hills, the City will be utilizing water supplies from its existing reservoirs and from its own water treatment plant while MWD's work is performed.

During the three days, the City is requesting customers to refrain from outdoor watering and conserve water indoors as much as possible.

For additional water wise tips, please visit bhsaves.org.

For more information please contact: Public Works (310) 285-2467 or AskPW@Beverlyhills.org

AMBULANCES, from page 1

completely to save lives in Israel," AFMDA CEO Cathy Reed said. "The entire community came together in an astounding show of solidarity and support. Many wounds will be healed, and many lives saved due to this community's giving spirit."

WBT is a local and historic synagogue. Over the past several weeks, its congregants have donated amounts large and small to send life-support ambulances to Israel, according to Erinn Alcabes, director of institutional advancement at WBT. The congregation sponsored seven MDA ambulances, along with providing additional funding for ambulance maintenance and medical supplies, she said.

"The funds keep coming in, and we are continuing to send the money to MDA," Alcabes told the Courier.

As of Nov. 1, the congregation had raised \$830,000 for AFMDA–funds "earmarked for seven life-support ambulances," Rob Rosenthal, chief marketing officer at AFMDA, said

The organization recently announced it received a record-breaking \$44 million matching gift from former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Part of the funds provided by WBT will be matched by Bloomberg's gift, paying for equipment including ballistic vests, blood bags, helmets, defibrillators and tourniquets as well as exam gloves, incubation tubes and hemostatic bandages.

"The needs are great," said Rosenthal.
"Wilshire Boulevard Temple mobilized its entire congregation," Dorin Esfahani, AFMDA's director of major gifts for Greater Los Angeles, told the Courier. "We've really seen the community come together. We are truly grateful for the incredible leadership of Wilshire Boulevard Temple and the generosity of its congregants, especially during this difficult time."

According to AFMDA, which raises funds and awareness for Magen David Adom, more than 435 WBT families and individuals donated over just one week. An initial goal of raising funds for the purchase of two ambulances soon doubled and multiplied further because of matching grant opportunities from Jaime and Andrew Schwartzberg, as well as the Karen and Russell Goldsmith Family Charitable Trust.

As soon as the severity of the crisis in Israel became apparent, synagogue leadership began appealing for contributions.

"There is no greater imperative than saving a life. We, as leaders in the Jewish community, cannot stand idly by. It is incumbent upon all of us to act, however we can," WBT Senior Rabbi Steve Leder said in a statement. "We are proud of and grateful to our members for funding these lifesaving ambulances and to American Friends of Magen David Adom for delivering them to the skilled paramedics, EMTs, and innocent victims that need them."

Magen David Adom is Israel's official representative to the International Red Cross. Each MDA ambulance costs \$115,000. The ambulances are manufactured at General Motors facilities in Michigan and outfitted in Indiana. Since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, authorities have been airlifting the ambulances to Israel.

In the first hours of the war, which was prompted by Hamas' attack on Israel, MDA EMTs and paramedics responded to nearly 2,400 incidents directly related to the violence. More than 8,000 calls came into MDA's 101 emergency call centers across Israel

According to Esfahani, a dozen MDA ambulances have been destroyed or hijacked by Hamas. As a result, Esfahani told the Courier, "Ambulance sponsorships are urgently needed."

Every day, MDA paramedics are facing rocket attacks from Gaza, Esfahani said.

"They're still out there, needing supplies and protective equipment," she said.

Israel is experiencing some of the direst circumstances in its 75-year history. More than 1,400 civilians and soldiers in Israel were killed—and more than 200 kidnapped—after Hamas militants broke through a border wall separating Israel from the Gaza Strip, on Oct. 7. The attack led Israel to declare war on Hamas.

Many synagogues have since stepped up to support Israel. Sinai Temple, a large and influential congregation, is hanging a large banner outside its Westwood campus, visible to those driving east on Wilshire Boulevard toward Beverly Hills. It reads, "Sinai Temple Stands with Israel." The display has a large QR code that passersby can scan on their phones for more information.

Additionally, in commemoration of the hostages being held by Hamas, the congregation recently sectioned off 17 rows of more than 220 seats in its sanctuary.

In Beverly Hills, meanwhile, there have been at least two recent instances of antisemitic graffiti, with authorities believing they're connected. Graffiti was discovered on the outside of an apartment building housing Jewish tenants as well as a Holocaust survivor. On the same day, antisemitic graffiti was found in a local alleyway. Beverly Hills police are investigating the incidents as a hate crime. •

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

The Courier wants to hear from you!

Email: editorial@bhcourier.com

Fall Into the Arts at The Wallis

BY ROBERT VAN LEER

Autumn is upon us, and with it, a brand-new season of music, dance, theater, film and family entertainment at The Wallis. In the six months since my arrival here in Beverly Hills, I have come to embrace the spirit of community and pride that this wonderful city exudes through its dedicated City Council and staff, the local businesses, and our residents. Over the past 10 years, the staff and Board of Directors here at The Wallis have tirelessly worked to build the reputation that we now enjoy locally, nationally, and internationally as a cultural destination in Southern California.

That being no low bar to clear, I want to take this moment to introduce you to what we have in store for you this season. I am very happy to share that we have fully opened our doors again during regular business hours. We welcome you to stop by and say "hello," take a tour of our campus, chat with our fantastic Ticket Services staff, or just simply stroll about and enjoy the historic architecture.

Our artistic programming is garnering great excitement. A few short weeks ago we were overjoyed to open our season with two sold-out performances of soul/R&B artist PJ Morton and Dean & Britta's "13 Most Beautiful...Songs for Andy Warhol's Screen Tests." Our season-long partnership with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra launched and we dipped our toes into the comedy arena with "Saturday Night Live" alum Tim Meadows. We have since welcomed back fan

favorite "BODYTRAFFIC" with two sold-out evenings of incredible dance featuring two world premieres, this season's first family-friendly theater performance of New York Times bestselling author Todd Parr's "It's Okay to Be Different," and The Wallis debut and world premiere performance of Michael Feinstein's tribute to Liza and Vincente Minnelli. We are back and audiences are returning to enjoy live performances at The Wallis more than ever.

In just a few weeks, we will announce the second half of our 2023/2024 Season. In the meantime, I invite you to peruse our incredible line-up over the next four months. The centerpiece of the winter is the return of L.A.'s holiday entertainment tradition—"Love Actually Live." Over the past three engagements of this iconic mash-up of film and concert at The Wallis, tens of thousands of Angelenos have made this their go-to holiday celebration, and this year we are also honoring the 20th Anniversary of the beloved film.

This season we also focus on exploring new musical genres. We are bringing you several new styles of global and local music that have never been on our stages before, such as folk, funk, roots, blues and much more. We are reenergizing "The Sorting Room," which is returning after four years, as our eclectic and intimate nightclub this October and December.

For our local families, we hope you were able to join us on Oct. 14 for the debut of Family Fest. This offering was a reimagining of our former Sunday Funday

program, making it bigger and better with a multitude of family-friendly artists who performed throughout the day across our campus, along with kid-friendly activities in partnership with our friends at Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. These events are completely free to everyone, so we hope that you can join us again this spring for the next offering.

Speaking of free events, please join us on the morning of Nov. 3 for the arrival of Little Amal. Little Amal is a 12-foot-tall puppet representing child refugees. She is making a 6,000-mile journey from Boston to San Diego to carry a message of hope for displaced people everywhere, especially for children who have been separated from their families, with a simple but urgent message: "Don't forget us." This community event will be the grand finale of Amal's visit to Los Angeles. Join us for a joyous free outdoor celebration of this worldwide phenomenon directed by the legendary Debbie Allen.

As for additional theater offerings, we will have two poignant theater pieces that

I feel will move and inspire you. Asher Kravitz's acclaimed novel "The Jewish Dog," adapted and directed by Yonatan Esterkin, will bring to the stage a stirring tale of survival and devotion through the eyes of a puppy raised by a Jewish family, witnessing the rise of Nazism and the Holocaust. This performance explores loyalty, identity, and the fine line that separates humanity from animals. Audiences of all ages can enjoy this production. Then in January, we are presenting the acclaimed Boston Court Theater production of "Both And (Laughing While Black)," a play that deeply investigates the nucleus of Black joy as a woman's journey reveals a unique and powerful story, rich with humor, raw honesty, and passion, that becomes a brilliant meditation on how to reconnect with personal happiness.

I hope that you will join us in person over the next few months to share in the undeniably unique experience of live performance at your city's performing arts center. Please join us to celebrate the performing arts. •



Robert van Leer has served as Executive Director and CEO of The Wallis since April 1.

NEWS

ELECTRICAL, from page 4

tell how much that work will improve the energy reliability locally.

"I think we're still going to see how that affects the Trousdale area," Friedman said.

The committee's most recent meeting opened with a presentation from representatives of SCE. They went over a variety of rebates potentially available to ratepayers to offset the cost of generators and backup batteries to keep a property's lights on during an outage.

Discussion segued into how that equipment might eventually be used to form a cooperative solar-powered grid to produce and store energy within the community, thereby becoming less reliant on SCE. The committee heard from a community non-profit attempting to develop such a system in Pacific Palisades.

Antonella Wells of Resilient Palisades said the organization was in the early stages of its Pali Microgrid Project. A major initial hurdle for them remains the high cost of the batteries used to store electricity locally.

The price of those batteries can vary wildly depending on capacity and intended use, anywhere from \$1,000 to \$18,000 according to a cursory search by city staff during the meeting. However, members of the ad hoc committee remained optimistic about the potential of developing a microgrid in Beverly Hills, or at least promoting the

implementation of more solar and backup power equipment in the Trousdale area as "baby steps" toward that goal.

The committee was also amenable to identifying buildings in the community that could be outfitted with solar cells and storage batteries. Of particular promise are schools, according to City Consultant Mariko Geronimo, co-founder of Lumen Energy Strategy.

"This is a really promising use case that I see in the research," Geronimo said. "Whether that's a single-building school or a larger multiple-building campus. Schools typically have the rooftop space for solar, so a clean microgrid is more achievable for them. They're already serving a vulnerable population, kids, and it's a trusted community center."

Members of the committee were in agreement that incremental steps toward producing and storing green energy locally should be taken as soon as possible. Committee Member Ethan Bearman went as far as to suggest finding a way to eliminate the city's reliance on SCE.

"I agree with this idea of baby steps to get going, and I believe the city is uniquely positioned to take a big bold step forward," Bearman said. "I heard absolutely nothing from SCE that gives me any confidence that they take this seriously." •



NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM

The City is developing guidelines for residents who may request future traffic calming devices on their streets. Traffic calming includes infrastructure and programs to reduce vehicle speeding and cut-through traffic on residential streets. City Council will consider approval of the Final Draft guidelines.

City Council Study Session

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023 AT 2:30 PM | Council Chamber

FOR QUESTIONS: 310-285-2467 or AskPW@beverlyhills.org **FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:** beverlyhills.org/TrafficCalming

WATCH LIVE: beverlyhills.org/live

Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 23-O-2882

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVER-LY HILLS AMENDING BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE §10-3-100 TO REDEFINE AN ALTERNATIVE PARKING FACILITY AND FINDING THE AMENDMENT EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEV-ERLY HILLS HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOL-LOWS:

Section 1. On August 10, 2023, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing after which it adopted Resolution No. 2033, recommending that the City Council amend a section of Title 10 (Planning and Zoning) of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to amend the definitions of an "alternative parking facility" to allow fully automated parking systems and specifically allow for the use of robotic parking systems. On October 3, 2023, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing, received public testimony, and thereafter intro-

duced this Ordinance.

Section This Ordinance and the Amendment, in conjunction with the proposed project located at 8633 Wilshire Boulevard (collectively the "Project") were assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. The Project includes amending previously approved entitlements to allow for the construction of a new three-story commercial building with rooftop uses and an alternative parking facility. The City Council hereby finds that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15305 (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. This exemption is applicable because the Project involves amendments which constitute minor changes to land

use regulations in ar-

eas with an average

slope of less than 20%, which do not result in any changes in land use or density.

Section 3. The Amendments are

consistent with the objectives, principles, and standards of the General Plan. General Plan Land Use Policy 2.1 "City Places: Neighborhoods, Districts, and Corridors," General Plan Land Use Policy 2.4 "Architectural and Site Design," General Plan Land Use Policy 11.2 "Site Planning and Architectural Design," and General Plan Land Use Policy 12.2 "Building, Parking Structure, and Site Design" strive for a distinctive, high-quality aesthetic that complements the surrounding built environment and enhances the City's business district. General Plan Land Use Policy 2.8 "Pedestrian-Active Streets" calls for buildings in business districts be oriented to, and actively engage the street through appropriate design features. General Plan Land Use Policy 15.1 "Economic Vitality and Business Revenue" call for the City to sustain a vigorous economy by supporting businesses that contribute revenue, and high-quality services. General Plan Circulation Policy 4.1 "Parking Provisions," General Plan Circulation Policy 4.9 "Parking Area," and General Plan Circulation Policy 4.10 "Parking Strategies," aim to provide adequate parking for all uses, while encouraging measures to reduce parking space and explore alternative modes of travel and parking strategies.

Section

The City Council hereby amends §10-3-100 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 10 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code by amending the definition of the term "Alternative Parking Facility," as set forth below, with all other definitions in the section remaining unchanged:

"ALTERNATIVE PARK-ING FACILITY: An off street parking facility in which vehicular storage is accomplished with mechanical parking lifts and/or automobile elevators that are operated by a valet or other driver. An alternative parking facility

may also be a fully automated parking facility that uses mechanical and/or robotic systems to hoist individual vehicles from receiving areas to separate automobile storage areas without a driver."

<u>Section</u> Severability. If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or place. is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the final decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall be and remain in full force and effect.

<u>Section</u> Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the City within fifteen (15) days after its passage in accordance with Section 36933 of the Government Code, shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance, and shall cause this Ordinance and her certification, together with proof of publication, to be entered in the Book of Ordinances of the Council of this City.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall go into effect and be in full force and effect at 12:01 a.m. on the thirty-first (31st) day after its passage.

Adopted: October 17, 2023 Effective: November 17, 2023

JULIAN A. GOLD, M.D. Mayor of the City of Beverly Hills, California

ATTEST: HUMA AHMED (SEAL) City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: LAURENCE S. WIENER City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT: NANCY HUNT-COFFEY City Manager

VOTE:
AYES: Councilmembers Nazarian, Bosse,
Mirisch, Vice Mayor
Friedman, and Mayor
Gold
NOES: None

CARRIED

Notice Inviting Bids: Robertson ADHC is in the process of accepting new bids for food

vending for 2024.

Sealed bids will be received by Robertson ADHC at 369 S. Robertson Blvd. Beverly Hills, CA 90211 until 11/30/2023 2:00pm for meals to be served in the center. At said time and place and promptly thereafter all bids that have been duly received will be publicly opened and read aloud. Description of product for Bid: Breakfast, Snack, & Lunch five (5) days per week Monday thru Friday.

Meals are to be delivered to one (1) location in Bulk form inclusive of milk based on a 25 day menu cycle to be provided by this agency. All meals of each type must meet the minimum standards set by the USDA for CACFP meals of that type.

The contract will be awarded to the responsible bidder that possesses the potential ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed procurement and is lowest in price. Other factors shall be given consideration when there are sound documented business reasons such as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources. BHC: 11/03/23, 11/10/23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023197181 The following is/are doing business as: LINK! 11777 San Vicente Blvd. Ste. 600, Los Angeles, CA 90049; Fermyon, Inc. 11777 San Vicente Blvd. Ste. 600, Los Angeles, CA 90049;; The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION, registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: Fermyon, Inc. Sriram Subramanian, CEO: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: SEPTEMBER 7, 2023; Published: October 13, 20, 27, November 3, 2023 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023226344 The following is/are doing business as: **DENNIS GEWANT** DBA ATLAS JUDGMENT RECOVERY 269 S. Beverly Drive #102, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; Dennis Gewant 140 1/2 S. Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212 The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on JUNE 2010: Dennis Gewant, Owner: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: October 18, 2023; Published: October 27, November 3, 10, 17, 2023 LACC

SUDOKU ANSWERS 10/27/23 ISSUE

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PUZZLE ANSWERS 10/27/23 ISSUE



NOTICE— Fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (See Section 14400, et seq., Business and Professions Code).

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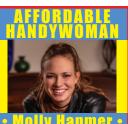
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