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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

☀️ Friday	78° 52°
☀️ Saturday	76° 52°
☁️ Sunday	73° 57°
☀️ Monday	67° 58°
☁️ Tuesday	65° 56°
☁️ Wednesday	65° 54°
☁️ Thursday	64° 51°

Attacker of Beverly Hills Couple Faces Life in Prison



Photo by Eric Licas

Raphy Nissel addresses members of the community alongside his wife, Rivka Nissel, and Rabbi Marvin Hier of the Simon Wiesenthal Center during a menorah lighting ceremony on Dec. 12.

BY ERIC LICAS

Raphy Nissel said he doesn't care about punishing the man charged with striking him in the back of the head with a belt buckle and trying to rob him and his wife, Rivka, while they were walking to Young Israel of North Beverly Hills to celebrate Shabbat over the weekend.

The 75-year-old was wearing a yarmulke

when he was hit on the morning of Dec. 9. Nissel was bloodied, and also became enraged upon hearing the man who attacked him tell his wife to "give me your earrings, Jew."

Authorities typically recommend avoiding confrontation during a robbery. However, the couple, outraged by apparently being singled out for their religion, See BEVERLY HILLS COUPLE, page 14

Tentative Agreements Reached Between Local Hotels and Union

BY ERIC LICAS

Tentative agreements reached between hotel management and employees of the Beverly Hilton, Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills and the Beverly Wilshire on Dec. 8, Dec. 9 and Dec. 13, respectively, promise improved pay, benefits and working conditions while signaling the end of months of strategic work stoppages.

Representatives for Unite Here Local 11, the union representing housekeepers, front desk staff and restaurant employees at the three Beverly Hills hotels as well as thousands of other workers across Southern California, declined to immediately comment on the details of compensation and benefits offered in the agreements. The deals must be ratified by a majority of union members to be finalized. A date for a vote had not been set as of press time, Unite Here spokesperson Maria Hernandez told the Courier.

The announcement of tentative contracts came as preparations for the Golden Globes, scheduled for Jan. 7, were underway at the Beverly Hilton.

So far, the three unionized hotels located in Beverly Hills and seven others in Southern

See LOCAL HOTELS AND UNION, page 17

First Lady Jill Biden Visits Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

BY JOEY WALDINGER

First Lady Dr. Jill Biden has been working to improve women's health care long before moving into the White House. So, when former California First Lady Maria Shriver approached Biden earlier this year to help close the research gaps in women's health, Biden immediately jumped on board, she said.

On Dec. 8, Biden traveled to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center to announce the new White House initiative on Women's Health Research, which is aimed at overhauling the country's approach to funding and conducting women's health research to find solutions to the most pressing and understudied women's health issues, Biden said.

"Research on women's health has been underfunded for decades, and many conditions that mostly or only affect women ...



Photo by Joey Waldinger

First Lady Jill Biden spoke at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Dec. 8.

have received limited attention," Biden said. "Because of these gaps, we understand far too little about these conditions and how to help the millions of women who struggle

See FIRST LADY, page 17

Architect Hamid Omrani Declares 2024 City Council Candidacy

BY CLARA HARTER

Longtime Beverly Hills resident and home designer Hamid Omrani has become one of the final candidates to enter the race for the hotly contested City Council seats in the March 2024 election.

The experienced architect is running a somewhat unorthodox campaign, seeking to shake up the status quo of what people consider necessary to run for council.

See HAMID OMRANI, page 15

Courier Calendar

NOW - DEC. 17

**BEVERLY HILLS PLAYHOUSE:
“BOB’S OFFICE HOLIDAY PARTY”
FRI.-SAT. 8 P.M.
SUN. 7 P.M.**

Beverly Hills Playhouse presents the 25th season of “Bob’s Office Holiday Party.” In the show, every year, insurance agent Bob Finhead’s whacked out friends and clients stop by his small-town Iowa office for their annual holiday bash. The town mayor, the sheriff, the twin farmer sisters, the stoner, the town floozy and the pastor’s wife have already RSVP’d for this year’s event. But Bob has dreams of a bigger life and wants to escape their narrow-minded thinking. The Beverly Hills Playhouse is located at 254 S. Robertson Blvd., Beverly Hills. General admission is \$35 and VIP admission is \$45. The show runs for approximately 90 minutes and is recommended for audiences 16 and older. onstage411.com/BHOP

NOW - DEC. 17

**THEATRE 40: “THE HALF-LIGHT”
SAT. 7:30 P.M., SUN. 2 P.M.**

Theatre 40 presents the West Coast premiere of “The Half-Life” by Monica Wood. After an intriguing encounter with a psychic, a college secretary asks herself if certain people can be trained to see the dead. Iris’s pursuit of an answer leads to a more earthbound challenge when her beloved colleague, Andrew, is suddenly felled by grief. Armed with her intuition and the garrulous enthusiasm of her friend Helen, Iris attempts to coax Andrew back to the land of the living. In the meantime, Helen faces off with her daughter, Teresa, who believes her house is haunted. These four characters’ entwined journeys all tilt toward the same goal: to be fully seen in the light and the half-light by another living being. Tickets

are \$35. Theatre 40 is located at 241 S. Moreno Drive, Beverly Hills. theatre40.org

NOW - DEC. 22

**GAGOSIAN: “IN A SHADY VALLEY,
NEAR RUNNING WATER”
TUES.-SAT. 10 A.M.-5:30 P.M.**

Gagosian presents “In a Shady Valley, Near a Running Water,” an exhibition of new paintings by Ewa Juskiewicz in Beverly Hills. This will be Juskiewicz’s first solo exhibition in California and her second with the gallery. Juskiewicz’s oil paintings of women begin with historical portraits, appropriating their style while subverting their conventions through fantastical and disconcerting pictorial interventions. In the paintings exhibited in Beverly Hills (all works 2023), Juskiewicz obscures her subjects’ faces, substituting passages of tightly coiffed hair, swaths of fabric, arrangements of flowers and foliage and other additions that meticulously maintain the style of her sources while subsuming their recognizable features. These surreal elements estrange the viewer’s expectations and challenge the means by which women’s identities have long been obscured, idealized and marginalized. Admission to the Gagosian is free. It is located at 456 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills. gagosian.com

NOW - DEC. 30

**THE WALLIS: “LOVE ACTUALLY LIVE”
7:30 P.M.**

The Wallis presents the 20th anniversary of “Love Actually Live.” The show transports friends and families into a three-dimensional world where the film and live action seamlessly blend, immersing audiences in the

heartwarming London setting. Iconic scenes from the movie are displayed on screens that move throughout the set, complemented by an all-star cast of singers and a live orchestra, delivering a reimagined soundtrack featuring beloved songs such as “Christmas is All Around,” “Trouble with Love,” and Joni Mitchell’s “Both Sides Now.” Tickets range from \$79-\$139. The Wallis is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills. thewallis.org

NOW - JAN. 7, 2024

**THE HOLIDAY ICE RINK
PERSHING SQUARE**

The Holiday Ice Rink at Pershing Square reopens with performances this year as part of the annual tree lighting. At 7,200 square feet, it is the city’s largest outdoor rink and offers visitors professional-quality ice for skating and entertainment. Wednesday nights are DJ Spotlight Nights, featuring performances from local DJs. The rink also participates in the City of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation Winter Festival on Dec. 16. Located at 532 South Olive St., Los Angeles, this landmark destination is easily accessible by car, bus, Metro (Pershing Square stop) or Metrolink. General admission to the rink, including skate rental, is \$20, locker rental is \$5 and skate helpers are \$6. Tickets can be purchased in advance online. holidayicerinkdowntownla.com

NOW - JAN. 13, 2024

**ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION
PICTURES: “SONG KANG-HO”**

The Academy Museum presents the first retrospective series of Song Kang-ho, which celebrates his dynamic career and his genuine love for cinema. Born in 1967, Song aspired to become an actor as young

as age 15, realizing his dream by joining a theatre company in his early 20s. Song made his film debut in 1996 at the dawn of the Renaissance of Korean cinema and has remained incredibly prolific, crafting a remarkable array of work. A master of versatility, Song employs negative space in his artistry, resisting the urge to convey his characters in linear, conventional ways. His insight transcends the boundaries of acting, resembling that of a director, with extensive knowledge of filmmaking elements and the importance of their harmony as the collective force to create good cinema. The next installments of this series include “The Good, the Bad, the Weird” in 35mm on Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. On Dec. 16, a double feature of “The Foul King” and “Broker” are shown at 2 p.m. On Dec. 18, “The Throne” starts at 7:30 p.m. All showings are at the Academy Museum, and tickets are available online. The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. academymuseum.org

DEC. 21-22

**OPEN FIST THEATRE COMPANY:
“BOTH: A HARD DAY’S SILENT NIGHT”
4 P.M., 8 P.M.**

“Both” combines The Beatles and the Christmas story. Audiences can celebrate the holidays with “Both: A Hard Day’s Silent Night,” Open Fist Theatre Company’s annual holiday charity concert spectacular. A choir and a live band spread peace and joy, telling the Christmas story through effervescent Gospel arrangements of Beatles songs. Proceeds benefit Heart of Los Angeles, giving underserved kids an equal chance to succeed through a comprehensive array of after-school academic, arts, athletics and wellness programs. Performances are held at the Eli and Edyth Broad Stage at 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. Tickets are \$25, \$35 or \$50. openfist.org

DEC. 24

**THE MUSIC CENTER: 64TH ANNUAL
L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
3-6 P.M.**

The 64th annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration offers Angelenos of all ages the opportunity to experience and honor the dynamic, rich cultures of the county. Attendees can enjoy a diverse lineup of L.A.-based artists including many past favorites and some exciting new talent. The show features performances by choral groups, dance troupes and local artists, the Holiday Celebration brings holiday cheer into the homes and hearts of all who tune in. Viewers may see the L.A. County Holiday Celebration live at The Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion (135 N. Grand Ave.), watch it on PBS SoCal or stream online. It is free to attend this event and RSVP is available online. musiccenter.org



Photo by Rob Latour

Cheyenne Wells as Juliet and Brian McKnight Jr. as Peter in The Wallis’ “Love Actually Live” until Dec. 30

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City Council Approves New Outdoor Dining Regulations



OpenBH was created as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BY JOEY WALDINGER

To help restaurants survive the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beverly Hills City Council in 2020 launched OpenBH, a program that eased outdoor dining regulations and allowed restaurants to construct “parklets,” or dining areas that extend to public areas.

OpenBH was intended as a temporary

solution, and turning it into a permanent program has been no easy task. After creating two subcommittees and holding about 16 months of stakeholder meetings, the City Council on Dec. 12 approved new outdoor dining regulations that build upon the OpenBH rules.

See **OUTDOOR DINING REGULATIONS**, page 15

Nine Candidates to Appear on 2024 City Council Ballot



BY CLARA HARTER

Nine candidates have officially qualified for the Beverly Hills City Council elections and are each hoping that their combination of professional skills and community service will appeal to voters on March 5, 2024.

They are competing for two open seats currently held by Councilmember Lili Bosse and Mayor Dr. Julian Gold. The candidates are Alissa Roston, Mary Wells, Sharon Persovski, Myra Demeter, Craig Corman, Nooshin Meshkaty, Hamid Omrani, Tiffany Davis and Robin Rowe.

“As in years past, we are always pleased to see interest from our residents who wish to apply,” City Clerk Huma Ahmed told the Courier. “The next step will be for candidates to meet their electorate and share what they envision for our city and their views. We encourage everyone to learn about the candidates and remember, every vote counts!”

Alissa Roston is the former president of the Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education, chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, chair of the Charitable Solicitation Commission and president of the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills.

“I’ve been blessed to live in a city where it’s safe, and where they have wonderful schools and where one can get involved,” she told the Courier. “That’s why I’ve always wanted to give back.”

Mary Wells is a current BHUSD School Board member and the immediate past president of the board. She has experience in brand management, account management and municipal bond trading.

“Throughout my career, I have been intentional about lifting up young people, supporting families and empowering our community,” she said in her campaign announcement. “I have a proven track record of getting things done with integrity, and I am eager to speak with residents one door at a time.”

Sharon Persovski is a building designer, non-profit leader and former chair of the Architectural Commission. She believes her professional experience would be a unique asset to the council when reviewing proposed developments.

“It is very important that the skills of architecture and design be applied when analyzing proposed projects,” she told the Courier. “That experience allows you to make informed decisions on whether you should approve the project, deny it or offer suggestions to make it better.”

Myra Demeter has served two terms on the BHUSD Board of Education and was twice elected president; served seven years on the Health and Safety Commission; and is currently serving her second term on the Planning Commission where she is the immediate past chair.

“I am running to be a voice for our residents to maintain our quality of life and world-class services as Beverly Hills enters a period of immense change, external pressures and opportunities,” she said in her campaign announcement.

Craig Corman is an attorney and three-term Planning Commissioner. He is a BHHS alumnus, raised his two children in the city and is a Rotary Club member.

“I’ve lived almost all my life here, I love the city, and I want to help take care of the people who live here and work here and play here and shop here,” Corman told the Courier. “I love seeing the city thrive and I’d like to help it continue to do so.”

Nooshin Meshkaty is a NASA engineer, former president of the BHUSD School Board and former Traffic Commissioner. She believes her technological prowess is well suited to enhancing public safety, supporting local businesses and fostering a culture of innovation.

“My whole reason for running is to be able to do more for the community,” she told the Courier. “I want to do as much as I can to resolve issues and concerns that community members have and bring a vision to take us in line with 21st-century technologies.”

Hamid Omrani is the owner of a local architecture and design firm. He believes this experience will be essential on council as it grapples with the state’s mandate to create capacity for over 3,000 new units by 2029.

“California is grappling with a severe housing shortage, and while the state pursue solutions, it’s crucial that every community’s unique needs, conditions, and environment are taken into account,” he said in his campaign announcement. “Now, more than ever, we require a cohesive team with a profound understanding of our community’s intricacies, capable of making informed decisions with a keen eye on future consequences.”

Tiffany Davis is the founder of an event production company and believes her skills in event management, communication, budgeting and revenue generation will be an asset to the council. She has held leadership roles on the NEXT Committee and Chamber of Commerce.

“I want to inspire everyone to care about this city as much as I do and be involved and be engaged,” she told the Courier. “That is how Beverly Hills will be the best it can possibly be.”

Robin Rowe is a software developer and investment manager with experience in coding, AI and innovation development. He was a

See **NINE CANDIDATES**, page 14

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Good Shepherd Celebrates Guadalupe Feast Day Mass



Photos by Eric Licas

Members of the Beverly Hills City Council join staff and volunteers of The Church of the Good Shepherd for a group photo following the house of worship's Centennial Mass on Dec. 12.

BY ERIC LICAS

The thump of a guitarron and blare of a trumpet filled the pews along with Catholics and non-Catholics alike at Church of the Good Shepherd in Beverly Hills on Dec. 12, as they do every year on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The religious holiday coincides with the anniversary of the house of worship, and this year they celebrated 100 years in service.

Partly in recognition of the church's history in the community, the Beverly Hills City Council declared the date of their anniversary "Faith Day." It is intended to be "a day to pause, reflect and celebrate faith in spirituality, humanity and community," council members wrote in a proclamation signed Dec. 11, the night before Church of the Good Shepherd's Centennial Mass.

Good Shepherd is the oldest religious building in the city. Over the years it has served as a hub for charitable work in the community, with a food truck delivering warm meals to the homeless as just one example of their efforts to aid people in need. They also work closely with local faith-based organizations of any religion or denomination to help foster cultural

exchange and tolerance.

The Dec. 12 mass commemorated a religious holiday that Catholics believe marks the appearance of the Virgin Mary before a young indigenous man in Mexico named Juan Diego. The Beverly Hills congregation celebrated the occasion with a bilingual service featuring mariachi bands and Aztec dancers decked out in traditional garb.

"That's one day that we see all denominations, all races, the rich and the poor inside the church to celebrate [the Virgin Mary]," said Michelle Anglade, Good Shepherd's secretary of the past 40 years and a classically trained violinist who performs with the mariachi bands during the special service. "And if they don't celebrate her, they want to see what we're doing and what the Lady of Guadalupe is about. She welcomes everyone."

All five members of the Beverly Hills City Council were in attendance, as well as Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath. They were joined by hundreds who packed the roughly 500 seats of the historical building who sang, offered flowers to an altar to the Virgin Mary, and exchanged gestures of peace. ●



Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, Mayor Dr. Julian Gold and members of the Beverly Hills City Council embrace during The Church of the Good Shepherd's Centennial Mass on Dec. 12.

Councilmember Lili Bosse Attends Menorah Lighting



Photo courtesy Candice Tahour

Councilmember Lili Bosse, an alumna of the Hillel Hebrew Academy in Beverly Hills, returned to the school this week to address students at a menorah lighting.

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'Mix and Mingle with the Courier' Launches a New Holiday Tradition

The Dec. 5 "Mix and Mingle with the Courier" was a huge success, bringing together more than 100 invited guests to Tatel on Canon Drive. In addition to a Casa del Sol tequila tasting and delicious tapas-style appetizers, the evening provided a special opportunity for community members to enjoy some much needed holiday cheer. All photos by Orly Halevy



From left: Vice Mayor Lester Friedman, Courier Publisher Lisa Friedman Bloch, Mayor Dr. Julian Gold, Councilmember Sharona Nazarian and Courier Publisher John Bendheim



From left: David Maltzman, Jessica Rodriguez, John Bendheim, Sarah Horvet, Frank Mottek and Olivia Wagner
See 'MIX AND MINGLE,' page 8

BEVERLY HILLS FARMERS' MARKET

CLOSED

DECEMBER 24 & 31

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The Market will return on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

beverlyhills.org/farmersmarket

Cookie Baking Contest Winners



This year's Cookie Baking Contest at the Beverly Hills Farmers' Market attracted 28 participants and a distinguished panel of judges that included Mayor Dr. Julian Gold, Councilmembers John Mirisch and Sharona Nazarian, Recreation and Parks Chair Myra Lurie and owner of Uzzi's Cookies, Uzma Majid. Winner of the Best-Looking Cookie in Beverly Hills and \$50 worth of Beverly Hills Farmers' Market money was awarded to Zane Covington with his Chocolate Christmas Tree Star Cookie. Third place for the Best Tasting Cookie and \$50 worth of Beverly

Hills Farmers' Market money was awarded to Esther Bronowicz for her Double Chocolate Peppermint Cookie.

Second place for the Best Tasting Cookie and \$100 worth of Beverly Hills Farmers' Market money was awarded to Ruby Matenko for her Oatmeal blueberry Chocolate Chunk Cookie. First place, along with the title of Best Tasting Cookie in Beverly Hills and \$200 worth of Beverly Hills Farmers' Market money was awarded to Lisa Licht for her Chocolate Chip Cookie.



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'MIX AND MINGLE,' from page 6



From left: Jason Somers, Jonathan Bloch, Taylor Van and Evan Meyer



From left: Nooshin Meshkaty, Peter Ostroff, Lisa Friedman Bloch, David Mirharooni (behind), Alissa Roston, Amie Sherry, Jordan Bloch (behind), Yar Meshkaty and Myra Demeter



Mara Bloom and Stacia Kopeikin



Lisa Friedman Bloch, Councilmember Sharona Nazarian and Courier COO/Executive Editor Ana Figueroa



Courier Advertising Directors Rod Pingul and Dina Figueroa



Jordan Parker and Courier writer Clara Harter



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‘All of Us Strangers’—Eternally



Photos courtesy of Searchlight Pictures

Andrew Scott as “Adam” and Paul Mescal as “Henry”

BY NEELY SWANSON

“All of Us Strangers,” an enigma of a movie directed and written by Andrew Haigh based on “Strangers,” a novel by Taichi Yamada, will leave you off balance from its quiet, almost tedious start to its ending that may be only a beginning. Sound complicated? It is.

Adam, alone in his high-rise apartment overlooking the vast expanse of London in the background, sits at his typewriter in contemplation, writing “Exterior suburban house. 1987,” the opening for his next screenplay. Ill at ease, he squirms, wipes his brow, and like anyone who has ever experienced the writer’s block of knowing what you want to express and not knowing how to say it, he delays, walks around and fills the page with nothingness. There’s a knock at the door. Peculiar, because the high rise is essentially empty. Cautiously, he opens the door. Henry, a neighbor from downstairs, has noticed him and has brought up a bottle of scotch as an entrée and an outrageous statement, “There’s vampires at my door” as a come-on. Adam politely sends him on his way.

Adam returns to the personal angst of not knowing how to even start his process. Shuffling through some old souvenirs—a game, some photos, clothes—he hits upon an idea. Maybe returning to his childhood home will hold the answers. To the suburban train

he goes, countryside flashing before him, so close and so far from London. Walking from the station toward his childhood home, he hesitates, knocks on the door and it’s answered. But it can’t be. She’s flesh and blood, not some ethereal presence, looking no older than him, his mother smiles from ear to ear. She just knew he’d come back someday, she tells her son; they have so much to catch up on. They sit, chat and she asks all the obvious questions, especially “Does he have a girlfriend?” Summoning up the courage, he hesitatingly informs her that he’s gay (Henry would call it “queer”). Clearly, she’s disappointed in his answer but even more, she has all the questions and fears that someone being told this in 1987 would have had. And that’s the first hint, besides her youthful appearance, that Adam has been given a window into a past that he didn’t experience. Adam, now in his 40s, was orphaned at the age of 12 when his parents died in a car accident. She’s not a ghost. They’re having a real-world conversation about real-world topics that tie her 1987 self to his 2023 reality.

Shaken, he returns home, changed in inexplicable ways. When meeting Henry a second time, he’s more open to a friendship. Getting to know each other, physically and emotionally, their relationship is established in Adam’s apartment. There is a desperation

to Henry and a natural aloofness to Adam that must be overcome. Henry has the air of someone on the constant lookout for love; Adam, one could guess, has never looked, as they explore their burgeoning relationship in the kind of nightclubs with the kind of drugs Adam would never have considered in his staid past.

Overshadowing all for Adam, though, is that encounter with his mother. He is compelled to return in hopes of seeing his father who was away that day. This time he is greeted by both parents. It’s obvious that his mum has told his dad about their visit. Jovially, Dad embraces Adam and jokingly acknowledges that he probably already knew about Adam’s “proclivities” because no matter how hard he tried, Adam couldn’t throw a ball to save his soul.

The conversations are both deep and shallow, skirting emotions while at the same time embracing them. Adam has so many “whys” that were never answered because his time with his parents was so brief. Intriguingly, Haigh has constructed a scenario fraught with meaning and hope. What if you were given the opportunity to go back in time and ask all the questions you had at the time; to confront parental decisions, both those that were made and those that should have been? What would your adult self have wanted to know from

your childhood parents?

This is all Adam’s story—who he is, who he isn’t, who he can’t be and why—and inexorably he’s continually drawn back to his childhood home and his parents, frozen in the time before they would die in a car accident and stunt the emotional growth of their son to a life of all the “what ifs” and “if onlys.”

As he grows closer to Henry, a new experience for him, Adam wants to introduce him to his parents. Henry, adept at all the mannerisms of casual relationships and drug-enhanced experiences, is truly upended by Adam’s belief in his access to his dead parents. Even his parents believe that it’s time for Adam to move on, make connections in his own world and leave them behind once and for all. But is he capable of doing that? What is he truly and what is Henry?

Enigma is truly the operative word because the key to everything is in the last moments of the film when you will second guess everything you’ve seen and what it meant to you because it may mean something different to someone else. Everything, almost literally everything, is a metaphor. The empty apartment high-rise, the parents resurrected from their untimely demise, and Adam’s tentative first love affair all have secondary meanings, all of which you



Jamie Bell and Claire Foy

must discover on your own. Is the ending uplifting? Chilling? Depressing? Or is it a beginning? Who is alive, and what does alive mean? Hell may not be other people, but it may actually be purgatory.

Cinematography by Jamie D. Ramsay is almost transparent, focused as it is on Adam's contemplative expressions. London, filmed from afar, is muddled and almost indistinct, purposely so. Instead, he and Director Haigh focus so many of their shots on the face of Adam, its angles, its beauty, its confusion.

Although the beginning of the film seems rather tedious, actually it is really tedious and tiresome with its never-ending closeups of an agonizing Adam, it begins to pick up slowly with the introduction of Henry as the irritant to Adam's placid existence. Henry is initially introduced in off-center camera angles, sometimes out of focus and other times hyper clear in contrast to the soft focus of Adam. Adam's train rides to and from his childhood home are filmed such that the background passes at hyper speed, much like a time traveler would experience.

Haight's cast is superlative. As the parents, Jamie Bell ("Billy Elliot") and Claire Foy ("The Crown") make credible a couple who accept at face value that they have received a visit from their now-grown son

who was 12 when they died. They show all the discomfort one expects from parents who never asked the hard questions and failed their son before dying too soon. They are the sympathetic characters on which the foundation of the film is built and their naturalism has you believing that there could be the possibility of being frozen in time. Listen carefully because they hold the key to the how and why Adam has found them.

Paul Mescal's ("Aftersun") Henry is crazed, superficial and needy. His character propels Adam to a hitherto unknown emotional depth while ultimately detaching himself at the same time.

The film lives or dies, however, with Andrew Scott as the controlled Adam who gradually gives over to emotion for the first time. He makes you believe what he is seeing and ultimately unlocks the key to the purgatory he has been inhabiting. Scott has the ability to draw you in and hold your attention just with a small vocal inflection or his eyes filled with amazement.

To some, the languorous rhythm will be off-putting, but patience and perseverance will pay off as you gather up the clues left like Hansel and Gretel crumbs and find your way to a surprising end.

Opening December 22 at the AMC Century City. ●



Andrew Scott



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.

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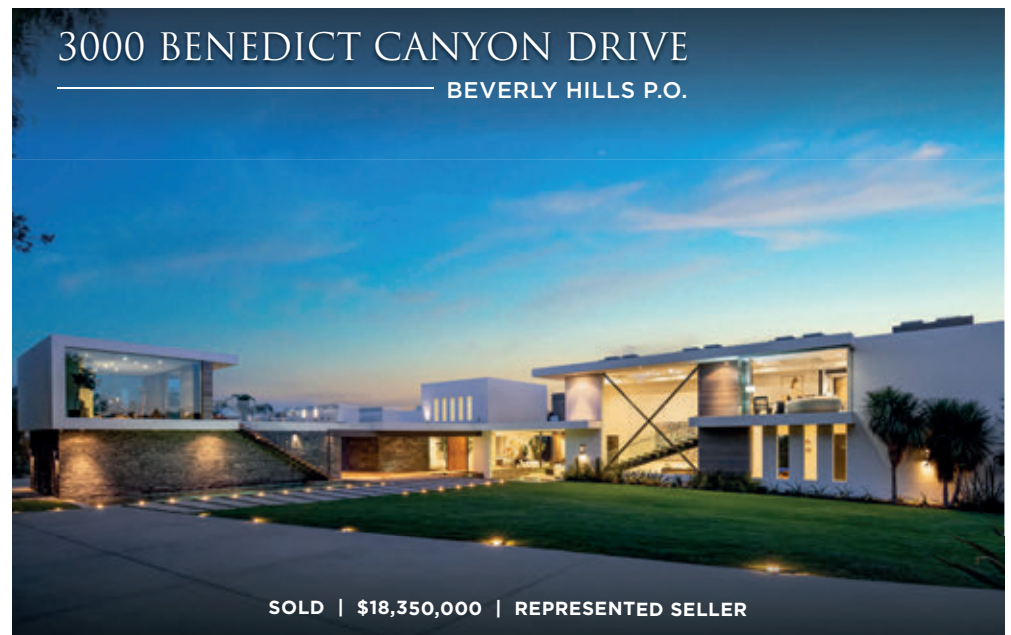
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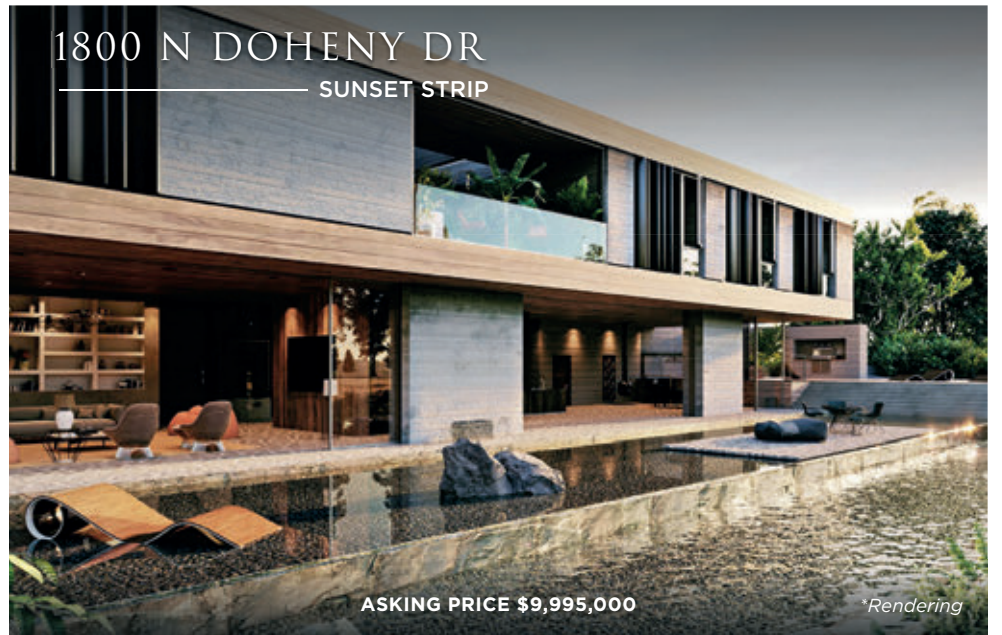


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NINE CANDIDATES, from page 4
 member of the City of Beverly Hills Technology Committee.

All registered voters in Beverly Hills will receive a vote-by-mail ballot during the first week of February, Ahmed said. They may vote

BEVERLY HILLS COUPLE, from page 1
 chased the robber. They managed to steer him in the direction of a nearby Beverly Hills Police station, where he was promptly taken into custody.

Afterward, the Nissels got cleaned up and then carried on with their plans to attend services at Young Israel.

“Not only did it not stop me, but it also motivated me,” Raphy Nissel told the Courier on Dec. 12, after speaking at a ceremony celebrating the sixth night of Hanukkah in front of Beverly City Hall, not far from where the attack happened. “I decided to continue living as if nothing happened. Otherwise, it would be a victory for evil.”

He was joined by all five members of the Beverly Hills City Council, Rabbis Kalman Topp, Yosef Cunin and Marvin Hier, as well as news media and a handful of community members. They watched Nissel light the menorah, openly displaying his faith and that of the local Jewish community.

“After this terrible act of hate, you rose up and went back to shul and showed exactly who we are,” Council Member Lili Bosse said during the ceremony. “Anybody who tries to think we are going to cower, that we are not going to be prideful that we are Jewish, watch we will grow even stronger and we will be even more united.”

She and other members of the council pledged zero tolerance for crimes targeting Jewish people. They also joined Nissel in calling for vigilance against antisemitism, especially as ongoing conflict in Gaza raises tension amongst communities around the world.

The attack on the Nissels quickly gained national attention after relatives described it in a post on social media, which was shared by Gov. Gavin Newsom. For some, it was a reminder that they must be on the lookout for antisemitism, even in a place with as

in person at a vote center, mail their ballots, or drop them off at a VBM Drop Box. Vote centers will begin operating 10 days before the election and will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day, March 5. ●

influential of a Jewish community as Beverly Hills.

The man accused of attacking the Nissels was later identified as 44-year-old Jarris Jay Silagi. Investigators do not believe there was any prior connection between them.

Silagi was held in Los Angeles County Sheriff’s custody at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility in lieu of \$1.31 million bail. He has since been charged with second-degree robbery, elder abuse and multiple assault-related allegations. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted as charged.

“I’m sure the judicial system does what it has to do,” Nissel said. “But, whether they give him one year or 10 years, it’s not going to make the world, and certainly not me, any better.”

Although prosecutors did not immediately charge Silagi with a religion-motivated hate crime, Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón did acknowledge the antisemitic circumstances of the case.

“I unequivocally condemn the violent attack inflicted upon those peacefully observing their faith,” Gascón said in a statement. “Such acts of antisemitism have no place in our community, and we continue to be committed to ensuring justice prevails and holding the defendant accountable.”

Meanwhile, Nissel said he’s ready to move forward from his ordeal, but not without acknowledging that the language used during the attack was rooted in persistent stereotypes of the Jewish people.

“People should know it happened,” he said. “It could happen in broad daylight. We should be vigilant when we’re on the street...but this is for the short term. In the long term, everyone should learn how to tolerate each other, learn how to disagree peacefully, to keep your position but don’t think you’re the only one who is right.” ●

BH Rotary Club Holiday Party

The Rotary Club of Beverly Hills celebrated with its annual holiday luncheon at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Dec. 11.



Photos by Gidas Peteris

Rotarians in attendance included (from left): City Clerk Huma Ahmed, Frances Bilak and Gaby Alexander.



The colorful decor added to the festive spirit of the event.

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

STYLE
 Holiday 2023

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OUTDOOR DINING REGULATIONS, from page 4

The new regulations are detailed and extensive, and they were approved after roughly two hours of public comments and council questions that spanned diverse topics including the change in fees and the different application processes.

While most business representatives who attended the meeting lauded OpenBH for buoying businesses throughout the pandemic and were broadly supportive of the new regulations, they said the continued OpenBH rules were now impacting businesses and they encouraged the council to move quickly in enacting the new rules.

Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Johnson asked the council to establish uniform requirements for sidewalk signage, and Alex Kahn, a commercial landlord, said some of his tenants have been “negatively affected” by neighboring restaurants with tall parklets.

Much of the council’s discussion centered on the implementation of the new regulations. Councilmember Sharona Nazarian indicated that she and Councilmember Lili Bosse had worked hard to make it easy for restaurants to comply.

“We were very thorough, and we tried to make the transition as easy as possible,”

Nazarian said.

Under the new regulations, there are two pathways for restaurants to be approved for open-air dining. The quickest path is through a ministerial review in which applicants must meet predetermined requirements. Ministerial reviews can be expedited even further by the purchase of a “Kit-of-Parts,” which is a preapproved set of parklet elements, Nazarian added.

Applicants whose plans deviate from the ministerial review standards will have to undergo a discretionary review process in which the Director of Community Development reviews and decides on the request, according to a staff report. The Director of Community Development may send the applicant to the Planning Commission for additional review, which will cause additional delays.

A ministerial review without a Kit-of-Parts could take up to three weeks to be approved, while an applicant using a Kit-of-Parts could be approved in one week. Applicants undergoing a discretionary review could be approved in as little as two or as many as 16 weeks, depending on whether the application is referred to the Planning Commission.

The council also debated the nine-month

“glidepath” during which all restaurants with OpenBH permits will be able to apply for new permits under the new regulations.

Bosse said it would be unfair for some restaurants to keep their permits for nine months before deciding not to reapply while other businesses spend money and effort to go through the application process.

In response, City Planner Masa Alkire said the city could require restaurants to submit an application within two months before “starting enforcement actions.”

Nazarian and Bosse were supportive of this recommendation, and Friedman said “I’m OK with the glidepath if there is an application within [60 days] because if not, I think it’s a free ride ... for people not to make a decision.”

There are currently 38 businesses in the city with OpenBH permits, 21 of which have parklets.

Councilmember John Mirisch said he does not mind the nine-month glidepath if restaurants with OpenBH permits are not

impacting neighboring businesses. Mirisch also said that the fees for participating restaurants are “very generous,” but are “somewhat of a compromise.”

Alkire said that fees would rise for businesses in parts of the Golden Triangle. “In most other areas of the city, the fees go down.”

Under the new regulations, sidewalk dining fees range from \$1-\$1.75 per square foot per month, while parklet fees range from \$1.50-\$2 per square foot per month.

The new regulations also impose new parklet design standards for keeping a clear path of travel on sidewalks, ensuring umbrellas and other barriers do not obstruct pedestrians and maintaining an appropriate distance from property lines. The regulations also stipulate that open-air dining permits must be renewed every five years.

The council voted unanimously to approve the new regulations, which will take effect following a second reading scheduled for January. ●



Hamid Omrani

HAMID OMRANI, from page 1

Omrani, for example, has not spent time serving on a commission. Instead, he emphasizes the importance of his years appearing before them as he has shepherded numerous projects through the approvals of the Design Review Commission, Architecture Commission, Planning Commission and City Council.

When it comes to being an effective City Council member, he told the Courier, he considers the most important factor to be the professional skills one brings to the table.

“I have been deeply involved in numerous projects and community affairs advocating for the integrity of our community for current and future generations,” he said in his campaign announcement. “My involvement with city staff, events and initiatives has equipped me with a wealth of experiences to bring to the City Council.”

He believes his extensive development experience to be precisely what the council needs as it struggles to meet the state’s ambitious housing requirements.

The city is currently at risk of losing local zoning control as its plan to create capacity for over 3,100 new units by 2029, as mandated by the state, has yet to receive approval from the Department of Housing

and Community Development (HCD).

Omrani has reviewed the requirements and developed his own plan for the city to come into compliance with HCD’s demands.

“My vision revolves around intelligent planning, repurposing underutilized structures, and identifying areas where positive outcomes can be achieved for property owners, the city, and the community at large,” he said in his campaign announcement. “I believe in creating win-win situations where state mandates are met, and everyone involved reaps the benefits.”

He welcomes anyone who would like to hear more details to visit his corporate headquarters and chat in person.

Omrani received his master’s degree in Architecture and Urban Planning at Tehran University. He moved to Los Angeles in 1980 to escape the Iranian Revolution.

He has been a proud member of the Beverly Hills community for over 40 years and known for the opulent “Persian Palace” style homes he has designed for many of its residents. In 1995, he served on Mayor Vicki Reynolds’ Economic Advisory Committee.

In addition to his desire to promote intelligent development, he seeks to bolster public safety. He wants the city to not only continue investing in the latest policing technology, but also invest in hiring more officers to serve as boots on the ground.

Omrani is also interested in establishing a community college in Beverly Hills, which he said would help bring more young people into the aging city. He seeks to leverage the high concentration of wealth, talent and knowledge in the community to create a top-notch educational institution.

“In the face of rapid changes worldwide, our community must adapt with caution, thoughtfulness and a studious approach,” he said. “Beverly Hills is not just a location; it is our home.”

“We must collectively exercise the same diligence and care as we would in our own family homes.” ●

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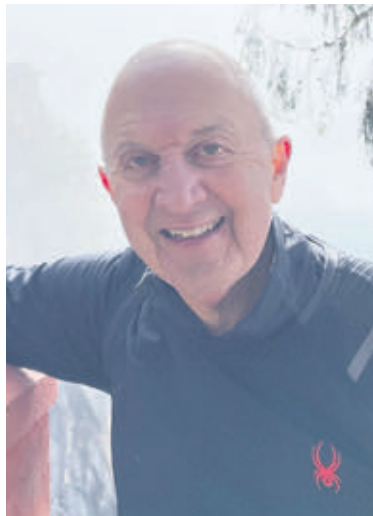
Birthdays



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December 15



HOWARD GOLDSTEIN
December 15



PETER OSTROFF
December 15



LARRY WIENER
December 15



CALVIN BERMAN
December 17



MITRA BERMAN
December 17



DR. JOHN WINTERS
December 18



BERNICE BALSON
December 20



Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Lucky endeavors include making things of beauty, enhancing your living space and supporting the talents of those around you. What nurtures your creative intelligence will add sparkle to your life and relationships.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's no need to push ahead. It would be like running toward your destination from the inside of a Concorde. Trust that progress is inevitable. The move is no move. Conserve your energy; you'll need it later.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're playing a game that's not unlike poker, if poker lasted for several days. Keep some of those cards close to the vest. Don't be in a rush to divulge. The mystery is working for you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In time, you'll understand what's wonderful about today's weirdness. Each relationship brings a gift to your life, though with some, you have to wait to open the package, and even then, it may not be immediately apparent

what exactly the gift is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Be patient with new habits. The status quo is like a seasoned muscle builder. The newbie who just started showing up at the gym last week is no serious rival. It will take many reps to get in the game. Keep lifting.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A collaboration that starts out just fine will get even better as you go. Right now, you're building mutual trust. You'll go in with a light heart, find what's useful and leverage it to the benefit of all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you keep some of yourself a mystery, people fill in the blanks with their own imaginings. Because of this, you may become bigger than life to them. You will be dancing with people's perceptions of you today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The behaviors of others can surprise you, though today no behavior will be more baffling to you than your own. Your reactions reveal emotion or talent you didn't know you had.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Gratefulness stirs in you as you think about what others have done for you. Relax and receive a moment.

You don't want to diminish the pleasure of giving by reciprocating too soon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Past experiences, particularly those related to personal relationships, still influence your emotions. The resurfacing of old feelings will give you pause. This is a prime opportunity to rid yourself of some baggage.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Commit to a process. It will reduce

the number of decisions you have to make. You'll simply get on the path and keep going. You may start and stop, spin and fall, but eventually you'll get there.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Concern yourself with having a good time and you will accomplish it, to the benefit of yourself and everyone around you. You'll balance a caring heart with material and ego necessities.



This week's eligible puppy for adoption is Attina. She is a 4-month-old, 15-pound golden retriever mix in need of a new home. To meet Attina, please contact Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.

shelterhopepetshop.org



Photo by Joey Waldinger

Maria Shriver, journalist and former California First Lady, said the new initiative will address longstanding inequities in women's health outcomes.

FIRST LADY, from page 1

with them. And these gaps are even greater for communities that have historically been excluded from research ... including women of color and women with disabilities."

To close these gaps, the White House has instructed federal health agencies to review their women's health programs and make policy recommendations to the White House by Dec. 28, Biden said. She added that Dr. Carolyn Mazure, a women's health researcher at the Yale School of Medicine, is leading the initiative.

Biden announced the initiative during a press conference with Shriver and United States Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, following a tour of Cedars-Sinai facilities including the Barbara Streisand Women's Heart Center and the Center for Research in Women's Health Sciences.

Shriver said that disproportionately poor health outcomes amongst women, and especially amongst women of color, are a direct result of decades of women's exclusion from medical research.

"The President and First Lady understand that we cannot treat women medically if we do not have the answers that only research can provide," Shriver said. "Answers as to why women make up two-thirds of all Alzheimer's cases, or two-thirds of the cases of MS or 80% of autoimmune diseases. Answers as to why Black and brown women are two to three times more likely to die of pregnancy-related complications than white women. The bottom line is that we can't treat women or prevent them from being sick in the first place if we have not invested in funding the necessary research."

According to Becerra, the initiative is part of a pivot across the medical profession toward personalized care for each patient. However, he acknowledged that medical care for women, even when it is tailored to a specific patient, is limited by a lack of research.

"You can ask the question, 'OK, I'm going to give you my personal information, and that's going to really help [guide the treatment]. But what was that basic research here that underlines the treatment you're going to give me,'" Becerra said. "Who was in the clinical trials that helped you determine what that pill should contain, and how do you know you've calibrated it ... to fit my needs?"

Various agencies have already begun compiling recommendations for the White House, and Becerra said the initiative will take a fresh look at issues unique to women, like menopause, as well as issues like cardiovascular disease that impact women differently than men.

"We intend to deliver on the recommendations ... that will show concrete actions that we will take to advance women's health research," Becerra said.

In an interview with reporters, Becerra said the research will combat unequal health outcomes for Black and brown women by including a diverse pool of participants. Though he acknowledged that some Black and Brown women might be skeptical of new research, given the history of medical malpractice against those populations, he encouraged "Americans of all stripes" to participate.

"If you don't, then people like you will have to depend on pills and medicines that are based on people that aren't like you," Becerra said.

While the initiative was not a direct response to the fall of *Roe v. Wade*, a Supreme Court ruling that protected access to abortion, the ensuing restrictions on reproductive health have highlighted the importance of protecting women's health, Becerra added.

"What you're seeing is now this confluence of interests to try to get us to where we should have been a long time ago when it comes to women's health," Becerra said. ●



Photo courtesy Unite Here Local 11

Union picketing in Beverly Hills

LOCAL HOTELS AND UNION, from page 1 California have worked out deals with Unite Here. Representatives for the Fairmont Century Plaza, located just west of the city's border with Century City, were also among those in ongoing negotiations with the union.

"This new contract will allow me to spend more time with my kids, and retire with dignity," Beverly Hilton housekeeper Ana Cortez wrote in a statement from the union.

The union had been in contract discussions with 60 southern California hotels, and had initially proposed an immediate \$5 per hour raise and two \$3 bumps over the following two years, for a total increase of \$11 hourly. An early counteroffer from the Coordinated Bargaining Group negotiating for dozens of Los Angeles and Orange County-area hotels put forth a \$2 per hour raise upon contract ratification and a \$1 per hour raise in 2024. Under previous contracts, union members earned between \$20 to \$25 per hour, Hernandez said.

As many as 96% of Unite Here members voted to authorize rolling strikes on June 8. In July, clusters of employees began participating in walkouts, each lasting several days at a time.

In Beverly Hills, rows of hotel employees with red shirts, placards, drums and bullhorns gathered on scheduled strike days outside of the city's three unionized hotels. A giant inflatable rat dubbed "Scabby" loomed over Santa Monica Boulevard, near Wilshire Boulevard, warning people against crossing picket lines as workers marched up and down the street shouting "no contract, no peace," and other slogans.

The demonstrations garnered supportive honks from motorists, media attention, and even a live performance from Rage Against the Machine guitarist Tom Morello, who joined employees walking out of the Waldorf Astoria on Sept. 29. But they also drew complaints from nearby residents, which became

the basis of a lawsuit the city of Beverly Hills filed against Unite Here in August.

The city's lawsuit requested an injunction curbing picketing between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. It accused union members of ignoring instructions to bring down noise levels during early morning demonstrations, hiring "contract protestors," and claimed they had "aggressive confrontations" with hotel staff.

Union officials argued that noise complaints were the result of what they described as an illegal road closure by the Beverly Hilton. In a letter signed by Petersen and addressed to the City Council on Nov. 15, they claimed barriers erected by the Beverly Hilton along Merv Griffin Way forced picketers to demonstrate in the area of Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevards, closer to residential areas.

"As a consequence of that, we weren't picketing there or inside the driveway," Petersen said in an interview with the Courier Nov. 16. "We were out there where, apparently, neighbors were upset. Well, this all goes back to the hotel and their illegal closure and the city's complete, I would say discriminatory, negligent [oversight]."

Petersen went on to say he believed authorities have unfairly targeted striking employees with legal action. He noted that union members have been cited for activities as benign as setting up a temporary canopy to protect picketing workers from the summer heat.

Outside of demonstrations, the union had also been circulating a petition filed in July that would require hotels in Beverly Hills to pay their employees \$30 per hour. If it gets signed by 10% of the city's registered voters by Sunday, Jan. 21, residents may wind up voting on the matter.

Updates on the progress of the petition were not immediately available. ●

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Fun and Games

SUDOKU AND PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR 12/08/23 ISSUE on page 20

SUDOKU
12/15/23 ISSUE

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3								

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THURSDAY, DEC. 14

L.A. CHARGERS @ LAS VEGAS
5:15 PM PRIME VIDEO (LV -3)

SAUTURDAY, DEC. 16

MINNESOTA @ CINCINNATI
10:00 AM NFL NET (CIN -3)

PITTSBURGH @ INDIANAPOLIS

1:30 PM NFL NET (IND -2 1/2)

DENVER @ DETROIT

5:15 PM NFL NET (DET -4)

SUNDAY, DEC. 17

N.Y. JETS @ MIAMI
10:00 AM CBS (MIA -9)

HOUSTON @ TENNESSEE

10:00 AM CBS (TEN -2)

TAMPA BAY @ GREEN BAY

10:00 AM CBS (GB -3 1/2)

N.Y. GIANTS @ NEW ORLEANS

10:00 AM FOX (N.O. -6)

SUNDAY, DEC. 17

ATLANTA @ CAROLINA
10:00 AM FOX (ATL -3)

CHICAGO @ CLEVELAND

10:00 AM FOX (CLE -3)

KANSAS CITY @ NEW ENGLAND

10:00 AM FOX (KC -9)

SAN FRANCISCO @ ARIZONA

1:05 PM CBS (SF -14)

WASHINGTON @ L.A. RAMS

1:05 PM CBS (LAR -7)

DALLAS @ BUFFALO

1:25 PM FOX (BUF -1 1/2)

BALTIMORE @ JACKSONVILLE

5:20 PM NBC (BAL -3 1/2)

MONDAY, DEC 18

PHILADELPHIA @ SEATTLE

5:15 PM ABC/ESPN+ (PHI -4)

Week 15 Spread by: Danny Sheridan

*Check your local listings for games schedules. All times PST.

THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE 12/15/23 ISSUE

FREESTYLING

BY TRACY BENNETT / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Tracy Bennett is a digital-puzzle editor for The Times. She manages Wordle and helps with the crossword. In this themeless puzzle, she took a bold grid pattern with lots of white squares and in each corner positioned a marquee answer — “something new or that had an appealing sound or cluing potential.” Then she built out from there. FYI, those starting points were 23-, 48-, 50- and 87-Across. — W.S.

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|---|---|---|---|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Sarcastic response to an unsurprising development</p> <p>14 That makes two of us!</p> <p>21 Gold-rush camp that became a state capital</p> <p>22 Carrier out of Kuala Lumpur</p> <p>23 Hormone-therapy product</p> <p>24 They're seen on the flags of Bhutan and Wales</p> <p>25 Alexanders I-III</p> <p>26 Legal claim</p> <p>27 Retailer headquartered in Freeport, Maine</p> <p>29 “___ Up Offa That Thing” (1976 hit)</p> <p>30 “Will be,” in Spanish</p> <p>31 Map out</p> <p>32 The Stepford wives in “The Stepford Wives,” it seems</p> <p>33 Host city of the 2022 FIFA World Cup</p> <p>34 ___ Vogue</p> <p>35 Acronymic devices in atomic clocks and radio telescopes</p> <p>36 Part of a woodworking joint</p> | <p>37 ___ the Lucky Rabbit, character in early Disney shorts</p> <p>40 Much sketch comedy</p> <p>41 “Media impressions,” “influencer marketing,” etc., informally</p> <p>42 Emulate</p> <p>43 Diamond division</p> <p>44 Sore spots for kids?</p> <p>45 QB-protecting group</p> <p>46 Difficult</p> <p>47 San ___, capital founded in 1521</p> <p>48 Super-sillyous?</p> <p>50 Apocalyptic scene</p> <p>55 What nocturnal polysomnography may detect</p> <p>56 Mainstay of a sci-fi defense system</p> <p>57 Canal inspector</p> <p>58 Most serious, in law</p> <p>59 It's a question of timing</p> <p>60 Metric weight units</p> <p>61 Actor Wilson of “The Office”</p> <p>62 Month that goes by fast?</p> <p>66 “Jeepers!”</p> <p>67 Stops over in France?</p> <p>68 Billionaires and such</p> <p>69 Badly injured</p> <p>70 Elegant and refined</p> <p>71 See 81-Across</p> <p>72 Given the name</p> <p>73 Peacock show?</p> <p>74 What a token may resemble</p> | <p>75 Pleased as punch</p> <p>76 Abandon without warning</p> <p>77 Figure in the Hindu trinity</p> <p>81 With 71-Across, participant in some fertility treatments</p> <p>82 Picks to win</p> <p>83 “The Handmaid's Tale” ailer</p> <p>84 First Nations group of the Great Lakes region</p> <p>85 “Let's Make a Deal” option</p> <p>87 Prompt from the chronically forgetful</p> <p>90 Accessibility concern</p> <p>91 Walk in place?</p> <p>92 Leafs</p> <p>93 Set of books with maps, perhaps</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOWN</p> <p>1 Stimulates</p> <p>2 “Siddhartha” author</p> <p>3 Where sacrifices may be made</p> <p>4 Planet Earth</p> <p>5 Actress Mireille ___ of TV's “Hanna” and “Lucky Hank”</p> <p>6 Trail behind</p> <p>7 Made scents?</p> <p>8 Lasting for an immeasurable time span</p> <p>9 How legal papers may be signed</p> <p>10 Die-hard fan, in modern lingo</p> <p>11 Turner of American history</p> | <p>12 Wrapped around</p> <p>13 Mark who was the world's highest-paid actor in 2017</p> <p>14 Military trainees</p> <p>15 Turkish money</p> <p>16 Port city in Algeria</p> <p>17 Badger</p> <p>18 Having equal angles</p> <p>19 Like some golf courses</p> <p>20 They may need fillings</p> <p>28 Snooze</p> <p>31 Who said, “Football is not about one or two or three star players?”</p> <p>32 Rough fabric with a loose weave</p> <p>33 Investigators: Abbr.</p> <p>34 Leave hurriedly, in quaint usage</p> <p>35 Capital on the island of Luzon</p> <p>36 Passage from one party to another</p> <p>37 “Va-va-voom!”</p> <p>38 It cuts the cheese (but not the mustard)</p> <p>39 Got some shut-eye?</p> <p>40 Pulitzer-winning poet Gary</p> <p>41 Rang, as a bell</p> <p>42 Use a divining rod</p> <p>43 Like some decals</p> <p>44 Compulsory payments of old</p> <p>46 List of ranked favorites</p> |
|---|---|---|---|

ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>47 Purchase at a sports stadium</p> <p>49 Seasonal Russian cottages</p> <p>50 Intruded, with “in”</p> <p>51 Items usually sold in boxes of 25</p> <p>52 Mountaintop homes</p> <p>53 Enough to go around</p> <p>54 Utopias</p> <p>56 Played the rat</p> <p>58 Outschemed, in a way</p> | <p>60 Period from 1945 to 1953</p> <p>62 Evergreen tree with fragrant bark</p> <p>63 Indian dish of potatoes and cauliflower</p> <p>64 Putt-putt</p> <p>65 Loads</p> <p>66 “Carmina Burana” composer</p> <p>67 Landed</p> <p>69 Units of RAM, for short</p> | <p>70 Character defamation</p> <p>72 Family emblems</p> <p>73 They're found beside exclamation marks on keyboards</p> <p>75 Inkling</p> <p>76 Coup group</p> <p>77 Sweet stuff in asparagus (if you read it backward)?</p> <p>78 Many a Shiite</p> <p>79 It may be raised in an argument</p> | <p>80 Auntie ___ (pretzel chain)</p> <p>82 Pasta-recipe instruction</p> <p>83 Inkling</p> <p>84 Largest of the lagomorphs</p> <p>86 Flag thrower, informally</p> <p>88 Time to get back to work: Abbr.</p> <p>89 Otherworldly sorts, for short</p> |
|--|---|--|--|

Police Blotter

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



ARSON

12/1/2023, 2:12 a.m. at 700 Block of ALTA DRIVE

12/1/2023, 1:06 a.m. at 700 Block of ALTA DRIVE

ASSAULT - SIMPLE

12/4/2023, 10:49 a.m. at 400 Block of N. ROXBURY DRIVE

12/2/2023, 10 a.m. at 300 Block of FOOTHILL ROAD

BURGLARY - COMMERCIAL BUILDING

11/26/2023, 10:20 p.m. at 9200 Block of OLYMPIC BLVD.

BURGLARY - FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

12/12/2023, 2:30 a.m. at 200 Block of S. ARNAZ DRIVE

12/11/2023, 6:30 p.m. at S. ROXBURY DRIVE / GREGORY WAY

12/8/2023, 2:30 p.m. at 300 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

12/7/2023, 4:30 a.m. at 9300 Block of CHEROKEE LANE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (ACCESSED GARAGE ONLY)

12/8/2023, 2:30 a.m. at 400 Block of N. PALM DRIVE

BURGLARY - BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (NO ONE HOME)

12/8/2023, 6:01 p.m. at 1100 Block of SCHUYLER ROAD

12/6/2023, 12 p.m. at 1700 Block of ANGELO DRIVE

12/4/2023, 5:30 a.m. at 9600 Block of OLYMPIC BLVD.

12/2/2023, 7:40 a.m. at 600 Block of N. OAKHURST DRIVE

12/2/2023, 4:15 p.m. at 400 Block of WALKER DRIVE

DUI ARREST

12/11/2023, 8:48 p.m. at S. ROBERTSON BOULEVARD / OLYMPIC BOULEVARD

12/7/2023, 9:50 p.m. at WILSHIRE BOULEVARD / WHITTIER DRIVE

12/3/2023, 11:42 p.m. at S. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD / N. BEVERLY DRIVE

HATE INCIDENT

12/8/2023, 6 p.m. at DAYTON WAY / N. ELM DRIVE

12/7/2023, 4:20 p.m. at 200 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

12/6/2023, 12 a.m. at 200 Block of S. LA CIENEGA BLVD.

12/1/2023, 5 p.m. at 100 Block of S. HAMEL DRIVE

ROBBERY

12/10/2023, 9:17 p.m. at BRIGHTON WAY / N. CANON DRIVE

12/10/2023, 2:18 p.m. at CHARLEVILLE BOULEVARD / S. MAPLE DRIVE

12/10/2023, 9:47 a.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

THEFT OF AUTO PARTS

12/8/2023, 9 p.m. at 100 Block of S. SWALL DRIVE

THEFT - GRAND

12/9/2023, 1:11 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

12/7/2023, 4:45 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

12/4/2023, 5:58 p.m. at 300 Block of S. LA CIENEGA BLVD.

12/1/2023, 6:01 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

12/1/2023, 11:45 a.m. at CLIFTON WAY / N. STANLEY DRIVE

THEFT - GRAND (FROM VEHICLE)

12/7/2023, 4:30 p.m. at N. CAMDEN DRIVE / ELEVADO AVENUE

THEFT - PETTY

12/10/2023, 8:04 p.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

12/10/2023, 3:51 p.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

12/9/2023, 4:52 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

12/8/2023, 6:29 a.m. at 9000 Block of OLYMPIC BLVD.

12/7/2023, 4:25 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

12/6/2023, 6:07 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

12/5/2023, 8 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

12/4/2023, 8 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

12/4/2023, 6:30 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

12/3/2023, 8:34 p.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

12/2/2023, 2:46 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

12/1/2023, 2:30 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

11/30/2023, 10:05 p.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

11/30/2023, 7:13 p.m. at 300 Block of S. RODEO DRIVE

11/30/2023, 12:22 p.m. at 400 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY (FROM VEHICLE)

12/12/2023, 6:15 a.m. at 1100 Block of LOMA VISTA DRIVE

VANDALISM

12/11/2023, 4:30 p.m. at 200 Block of S. BEVERLY DRIVE

12/11/2023, 3:10 p.m. at 100 Block of N. WETHERLY DRIVE

12/11/2023, 9:30 a.m. at 9000 Block of OLYMPIC BLVD.

12/9/2023, 4 p.m. at 400 Block of N. REXFORD DRIVE

12/6/2023, 8:33 p.m. at 100 Block of N. ROBERTSON BLVD.

12/3/2023, 5:48 p.m. at 400 Block of S. ROXBURY DRIVE

12/3/2023, 11:47 a.m. at 200 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

12/1/2023, 8:31 a.m. at N. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD / WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

11/30/2023, 7:14 a.m. at 9500 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

Public Notices

OBITUARIES

Pauline Romano 1928-2023



Pauline Romano (nee Dahbany) died peacefully on November 29, 2023, at age 95 at her home in Beverly Hills. She was born in Brooklyn, NY on June 6, 1928 and moved to Los Angeles at age 10. She attended Fairfax High School and UCLA.

While still in college, she and her husband, Joseph Romano opened up their first linen store on Hill Street in downtown Los Angeles. As they steadily gained some success, they turned their attention to become full-time retail partners. In 1960 they moved the store to Santa Monica, California and named it Europa Company. They ran their home furnishings store for 47 years and eventually closed it to concentrate on real estate development. They worked side by side and raised a family of 4 children, Ted, Janet, Laurie and Susie. Pauline was an adventurer in life and in business.

She loved to travel the world, ski, play paddle tennis at their home in Beverly Hills and swim. She enjoyed going to the LA Philharmonic and Hollywood Bowl every summer with her husband, children and grandchildren. Most of all, she loved her family and her community. She was generous, philanthropic, an amazing cook and a consummate hostess.

Pauline had an infectious smile and was welcoming to everyone. She was especially dedicated to supporting Temple Beth Am and was a founding member of the Sephardic Hebrew Academy and the Sephardic Women's Division of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation.

She is survived by the love of her life Joseph (Pepe) Romano to whom she was married for 74 years, her son Ted Romano, daughters Janet Morris, Laurie Sasson (Marc) and Susie Romano Steinberg (Randy), and grandchildren Andy, Alyssa, Sara, Sophia, Scarlett, Remy and Adam.

Memorial contributions may be made to Maps Charities www.mapscharities.org, or Temple Beth Am www.tbala.org.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS for the BURTON WAY RESURFACING PROJECT within the Cities of BEVERLY HILLS and LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

BIDS - Sealed proposals for the **BURTON WAY RESURFACING PROJECT** at various locations within the Cities of Beverly Hills and Los Angeles, California, will be received up to the hour of 2:00 p.m. (Pacific Time), on Friday, **January 19, 2024**, via Planetbids. Bid results will be sent to all bidders through Planetbids and the award of the contract will be made during a subsequent meeting of the City Council.

Refer to webpage: <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/39493/bo/bo-detail/111842>

SCOPE OF THE WORK - The work to be done shall consist of furnishing all the required labor, materials, equipment, parts, implements, supplies, and permits necessary for, or appurtenant to, the construction and completion of the project indicated above in accordance with the Standard Drawings and the Specifications prepared for this project. In general, the project consists of asphalt pavement (grind and overlay), curb ramp replacements, bus pad installation, replacement of existing pavement striping and markings with the current Caltrans standard striping, removal of existing striping and markings as applicable, placement of thermoplastic and traffic-rated paint, and installation of new bikeway striping. The proposed improvement is along Burton Way from Crescent Drive to Robertson Boulevard. Some project locations will require the work to be performed at night, on weekends, or with other working hour restrictions.

Copies of the Specifications and Proposal Form may be inspected and downloaded from the City's webpage (<http://www.beverlyhills.org/tags/bids/>). Then click on the link "PLANET BIDS".

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE - The preliminary cost of BURTON WAY BIKEWAY IMPROVEMENTS for this work has been prepared and the said estimate is **\$1,778,000.00**.

PRE-BID MEETING AND SITE VISIT - An optional pre-bid conference will be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 10:00 am in Conference Room 217 of the City of Beverly Hills Public Works Building located at 345 North Foothill Road, Beverly Hills, California, 90210. No allowances for cost adjustment will be made if Bidders fail to adequately examine the premises before submitting a proposal.

CITY CONTACT - Any questions or requests for information can be directed to the project manager, **Christine Chung, P.E.**, at cchung@beverlyhills.org.

CONTRACTORS LICENSE - In compliance with Public Contract Code Section 3300, the City has determined that the Bidder must possess at least one of the following licenses: "A"

THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BID OR ALL THE BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY OR IRREGULARITY IN ANY BID, BUT IF THE BIDS ARE ACCEPTED, THE CONTRACT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT WILL BE LET TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE.

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).

PUBLIC NOTICES

T.S. No.: 23-9490 Loan No.: *6356 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, SECURITY AGREEMENT AND FIXTURE FILING (WITH ASSIGNMENT OF RENTS AND LEASES) DATED 2/18/2022. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a DEED OF TRUST, SECURITY AGREEMENT AND FIXTURE FILING (WITH ASSIGNMENT OF RENTS AND LEASES) described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the DEED OF TRUST, SECURITY AGREEMENT AND FIXTURE FILING (WITH ASSIGNMENT OF RENTS AND LEASES), with interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: 1141 Detroit St, LLC,

PUBLIC NOTICES

A California Limited Liability Company Duly Appointed Trustee: PRESTIGE DEFAULT SERVICES, LLC Recorded 3/1/2022 as Instrument No. 2022037109 in book ---, page --- of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale: 12/21/2023 at 10:00 AM Place of Sale: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$8,247,725.74 Property being sold "as is - Where is" Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1141 N DETROIT STREET WEST HOLLYWOOD CA 90046 A.P.N.: 5531-009-008 THE BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT, IN ITS DISCRETION, TO EXERCISE ITS RIGHTS AND REMEDIES IN ANY MANNER PERMITTED UNDER SECTION 9604 OF THE CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL CODE, OR ANY OTHER APPLICABLE SECTION, AS TO ALL OR SOME OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY, FIXTURES AND OTHER GENERAL TANGIBLES AND INTANGIBLES MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE DEED OF TRUST, SECURITY AGREEMENT AND FIXTURE FILING (WITH ASSIGNMENT OF RENTS AND LEASES), GUARANTEES, UCC'S, SECURITY AGREEMENTS. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free

PUBLIC NOTICES

and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. All checks payable to Prestige Default Services, LLC. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (916) 939-0772 or visit this Internet Web site www.nationwide-posting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 23-9490. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: 11/20/2023 PRESTIGE DEFAULT SERVICES, LLC 1920 Old Tustin Ave. Santa Ana, California 92705 Questions: 949-427-2010 Sale Line: (916) 939-0772 Tina Suihkonen, VP of Operations and Compliance NPP0443700 To: BEVERLY HILLS COURIER 12/01/2023, 12/08/2023, 12/15/2023

SUDOKU ANSWERS 12/08/23 ISSUE

3	8	9	6	7	2	4	1	5
2	7	5	8	4	1	3	6	9
4	1	6	5	9	3	7	2	8
7	3	2	1	5	9	8	4	6
8	6	1	4	2	7	9	5	3
9	5	4	3	6	8	2	7	1
6	4	8	7	3	5	1	9	2
5	2	3	9	1	4	6	8	7
1	9	7	2	8	6	5	3	4

PUZZLE ANSWERS 12/08/23 ISSUE

B	A	E	S	A	R	C	A	D	I	A	S	B	A	R	R	O
R	U	N	T	T	O	O	S	O	O	N	B	E	A	N	I	E
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W	E	L	L	E	A	R	N	E	D	I	T	S	B	A	L	L
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A	M	U	O	N	U	N	H	I	T	C	H	R	O	T	C	T
E	L	I	A	R	E	I	N	H	A	I	D	A	H	L	I	A
S	E	N	D	S	D	N	C	I	M	D	B	A	B	I	E	S
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T	I	P	P	I	B	L	O	X	I	B	I	B	H	O	S	L
I	N	S	O	N	G	N	O	T	I	P	U	T	A	H	U	T
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O	V	A	H	A	I	T	I	G	A	S	P	F	R	E	R	E
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A	N	T	E	N	N	A	S	I	C	A	N	O	T	E	Z	R
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January 14th 6.30-7.30pm
Beth Jacob Congregation
"Teaching Teens about
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**Q&A WITH
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08
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Mike Manesh
Attorney at Law

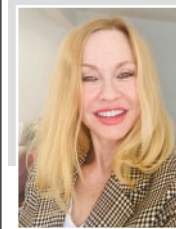
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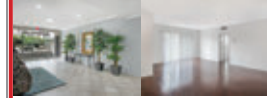
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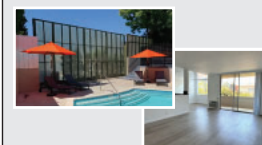
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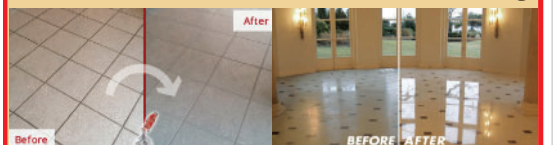
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