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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

☀️ Friday	81° 64°
☁️ Saturday	80° 63°
☀️ Sunday	79° 63°
☁️ Monday	79° 62°
☀️ Tuesday	78° 62°
☁️ Wednesday	79° 62°
☀️ Thursday	80° 63°

Council Upholds Approval of Eight-Story Building at 9229 Wilshire Blvd.



Rendering courtesy of SPF:architects

Rendering of planned eight-story, mixed-use building at 9229 Wilshire Blvd.

BY CLARA HARTER

On July 9, the Beverly Hills City Council upheld the approval of an eight-story, 56-unit building at 9229 Wilshire Blvd., despite residents' complaints that the massive structure is out of character with the surrounding neighborhood.

Council members sympathized with residents' worries about how the project will

impact privacy, traffic, noise and quality of life, but said that their hands were tied by state housing law.

"This project is too large, but it's a legal project," said Mayor Lester Friedman. "Yes, we have a job to reflect the values of our community, but we also have the responsibility to follow the California law. We can't go against it, because if we do and there's a

See 9229 WILSHIRE BLVD., page 9

BHUSD Tackles Challenges Ahead of School Year

BY JOEY WALDINGER

Following a wide-ranging discussion about class sizes across the district, the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Board of Education on July 10 agreed to add a new Transitional Kindergarten (TK) class at Horace Mann Elementary School and discussed adding a fourth-grade class at El Rodeo Elementary School.

The fourth-grade class at El Rodeo has been the subject of numerous parent concerns, who have complained about behavioral issues and large class sizes. There are currently three planned fourth-grade sections at El Rodeo, each approaching 29 students, though Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy said enrollment numbers fluctuate, and it is hard to predict if spaces will open by the start of classes.

The board largely agreed that without adding more seats, parents might be forced to enroll their children at schools far from where they live or take elementary age siblings to two different schools, which goes against the district's aims of keeping students in their "home schools" and promoting sustainability.

Ensuring families can bring their children to schools near their homes will keep BHUSD competitive against private schools, Board President Dr. Amanda Stern said.

See BHUSD, page 7

Ronen Announces BHUSD Board Candidacy

BY JOEY WALDINGER

Attorney Dela Peykar Ronen has announced her candidacy for the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Board of Education, kicking off the race to fill three seats on the board.

Former Board Member Mary Wells vacated her seat after being elected to the Beverly Hills City Council in March, and incumbent Board President Dr. Amanda Stern, whose term expires in December, told the Courier she plans to run again. Board Member Noah Margo does not plan to seek reelection after his term expires in December, he said.

Ronen has lived most of her life in the city, after immigrating from Iran at the age of 5. A graduate of Hawthorne Middle School and Beverly Hills High School, Ronen continued



Photo courtesy of Dela Peykar Ronen

Ronen said she wants to increase academic excellence in the Beverly Hills Unified School District.

to live in Beverly Hills while attending law school at USC. After getting married, she and her husband lived for a few years near

See RONEN, page 7

Arts and Culture Commission Discusses 2024-2025 Work Plan and Upcoming Events

BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

On July 9, the Arts and Culture Commission held a meeting to discuss its 2024-2025 work plan, which will be proposed and voted on in August. The commission assessed what was successful in the previous plan and what determined changes can be made to better utilize their resources, including the Fine Art

See ARTS AND CULTURE, page 10

Courier Calendar

NOW - AUG. 4

HAMMER MUSEUM:

“REFASHIONING: CFGNY AND WATARU TOMINAGA”

TUES.-THURS., SAT.-SUN. 11 A.M.-6 P.M. FRI. 11 A.M.-8 P.M.

“Refashioning” presents two project spaces from transdisciplinary artists and fashion designers Concept Foreign Garments New York and Wataru Tominaga. Featuring garments, accessories and textile works, the exhibition examines the ways in which these two practices—one based in New York, the other in Tokyo—challenge preconceived notions of gender and identity, and in particular what the artists describe as “vaguely Asian” aesthetics. These site-specific interventions consist of preexisting and new work that explores how fashion can be approached as a medium with a unique capacity to reveal sociopolitical histories that are quite literally waged on the body. Admission to The Hammer is free. It is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles.

hammer.ucla.edu

NOW - AUG. 4

LACMA: “DINING WITH THE SULTAN: THE FINE ART OF FEASTING”

MON.-TUES., THURS. 11 A.M.-6 P.M.

FRI. 11 A.M.-8 P.M.

SAT.-SUN. 10 A.M.-7 P.M.

The act of coming together to partake of a meal is a practice shared by all cultures. “Dining with the Sultan” is the first exhibition to present Islamic art in the context of its associated culinary traditions. It includes some 250 works of art related to the sourcing, preparation, serving and

consumption of food, from 30 public and private collections in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East—objects of undisputed quality and appeal, viewed through the universal lens of fine dining. The exhibition stimulates not only the eyes but also the appetite, reminding visitors of the communal pleasure of food—both its taste and its presentation. It provides much-needed information on the enormous class of luxury objects that may be broadly defined as tableware and demonstrates how gustatory discernment was a fundamental activity at the great Islamic courts. Tickets are free for members, L.A. County residents after 3 p.m. Mon.-Fri., and for those 17 and under. Tickets for adults are \$20, and \$16 for seniors and students with ID.

lacma.org

NOW - AUG. 22

CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS:

“CONCERTS ON CAÑON”

SUMMER CONCERTS SERIES

6-8 P.M.

The city of Beverly Hills presents its annual “Concerts on Cañon” summer concert series. “Concerts on Cañon” is a weekly summer concert series every Thursday through Aug. 22, with an array of music including classic rock, jazz, Caribbean, Brazilian, Persian and more. The next installment of the series is on July 18 and features Joyce Partise playing Brazilian Bossa Nova.

beverlyhills.org

NOW - AUG. 25

ODYSSEY THEATRE:

“DESIGN FOR LIVING”

FRI., SAT. 8 P.M.

SUN. 2 P.M.

Odyssey Theatre Ensemble presents “Design for Living,” a witty and charming romantic comedy by Noël Coward that was banned in 1930s London for its risqué content and bawdy themes. Otto loves Gilda. But... so does Leo. Gilda loves Otto... but she also loves Leo. And what’s going on between Otto and Leo? Filled with Coward’s scintillating dialogue, “Design for Living” is an emotional, dramatic, hilarious and scandalous love triangle. Or as the threesome’s longtime friend Ernest Friedman calls it, “a three-sided, erotic hotch-potch.” It’s a revolving door of passion, treachery and never-ending Champagne. Can love prevail against the norms of society? Tickets are \$20-\$37 on Sat.-Sun. Friday showings are pay-what-you-can. Odyssey Theatre is located at 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles.

odysseytheatre.org

NOW - SEPT. 2

LA BREA TAR PITS:

“SUMMER OF SLOTHS”

Now through Labor Day, visitors can enjoy special programming at La Brea Tar Pits that celebrates the science and wonder of sloths. This summer, visitors can participate in unique self-guided tours, witness the Ice Age coming to life in “Titans of the Ice Age,” and even touch a fossil. Sloths are iconic symbols of Ice Age Los Angeles and La Brea Tar Pits. The giant and slow-moving creatures that once inhabited

L.A. have a chill and laid-back charm that resonates with Angelenos. Three different types of sloths have been found at the Tar Pits: the Shasta, the Jefferson’s and the Harlan’s ground sloth; all much bigger and more intimidating than modern-day sloths. Building on the success of the Museum’s popular 2023 Sloth Soirée, visitors can also look forward to a sloth meet-and-greet on July 26. Excavator tours run Mon.-Fri. at 1 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. “Discoveries From the Tar Pits” screens daily at 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors, and \$7 for children 3-12 years old. The La Brea Tar Pits is located at 5801 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles.

tarpits.org

JULY 15

BOOK SOUP: “ELVIS, ROCKY AND ME...”

THE CAROL CONNORS STORY” BOOK

SIGNING

7 P.M.

Academy Award, Golden Globe, Emmy, Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter Carol Connors will hold a special book signing at Book Soup to sign and discuss her new book “Elvis, Rocky and Me: The Carol Connors Story.”

In the book, co-written by Steven Bergsman, Connors describes her relationships with entertainment legends, including Elvis Presley. She writes candidly about being a trailblazing female in the music industry.

Among her many achievements, Connors co-wrote the “Rocky” theme song, “Gonna Fly Now,” described by AFI as one of the most important movie songs of all time. She also penned the classic love song, “With You I’m Born Again,” which became a hit recording by Billy Preston and Syreeta.

Join Connors and many celebrity friends such as Diane Warren, Talia Shire and Pat Boone, among others, who will be on hand to celebrate her book.

Book Soup is located at 8818 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood.

booksoup.com

JULY 21

FESTIVAL BEVERLY HILLS

12-6 P.M.

Festival Beverly Hills is set to make a summertime comeback on July 21. Presented in collaboration with the City’s Community Services Department and Arts & Culture Commission, the Farhang Foundation and the Consulates of Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Senegal and Tobago and Trinidad, this year’s Festival Beverly Hills promises to be a vibrant showcase of over 13 diverse cultures around the globe through art, music, dance and food. In addition, an arts and crafts activity area and gastro-worthy food trucks will provide experiences in taste and tradition represented by an array of cultures. The festival is held in Beverly Gardens Park.

beverlyhills.org



Photo by Jamison Province

An art piece by CFGNY, part of “Refashioning: CFGNY and Wataru Tominaga,” on show at The Hammer until Aug. 4



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BHPD Arrests Three for Conspiracy to Commit Burglary



BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

The Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) arrested three suspects for conspiracy to commit burglary on La Cienega Boulevard on June 28, just 40 minutes after a robbery occurred on Wilshire Boulevard. Police originally thought that the suspects were also involved in the robbery but determined that they were not.

The three men who were arrested were driving a vehicle with stolen license plates. The vehicle also contained evidence that led police to think that they were planning a burglary. "They were charged with criminal conspiracy

for burglary from an auto vehicle," BHPD Lt. Andrew Myers told the Courier. "The case was sent over to the DA's office and was rejected." The suspects' names and ages have not been released.

The original robbery occurred when a vehicle with three suspects approached another vehicle on the 8400 block of Wilshire Boulevard. One of the suspects yielded a firearm and all three demanded the victims' property. The victims then fled the scene in their vehicle and called BHPD, which is still investigating. ●

Property Owners Task Force Committee Prepares for Sporting Events in L.A.



The Property Owners Task Force met on July 9.

BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

On July 9, the Property Owners Task Force Committee Liaisons met with the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Commission (LASEC) to discuss a possible partnership with the city. In anticipation of a sizable lineup of sports events in Los Angeles County from now until 2028, LASEC President and CEO Kathryn Schloessman, who addressed the committee via Zoom, discussed the group's plans to prepare local communities for upcoming events such as the FIFA World Cup in 2026 and the Superbowl in 2027. During the meeting, she urged the committee to partner with LASEC to provide inclined support.

In the summer of 2026, FIFA's World Cup will bring 48 soccer teams from three countries and 16 cities around the world to LA. The event will consist of eight matches over five weeks and will be the biggest World Cup to date. As Schloessman explained, it will drive attention to local attractions, culture and dining and will be an important opportunity to highlight all that the region has to offer. "I think what people need to focus on is the before, during and after events," she said. Aside from hotels, this also provides an economic opportunity for surrounding communities. She predicts that the total economic impact of this event will be upwards of \$594 million.

Shortly after the World Cup, soccer, globally referred to as football, will be replaced by American football as LA prepares for the Superbowl. In 2027, SoFi Stadium will host the sporting event for the second time in five years. Fans from around the country will fly into the city, driving tourism and providing another opportunity for economic growth. According to Schloessman's presentation, the event brought in \$477 million in total economic impact in 2022. This was a result

of not only the game, but also community engagement events before and after the Superbowl. "It's really important that people understand that these events create tremendous community impact," Schloessman said.

Through their Business Connect program, LASEC drives tourism towards diverse local businesses owned by women, minorities, veterans and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Through their Professional Development program, the commission provides opportunities to students who are interested in careers in the sporting events business. They also support LA communities through their legacy programs. "What's different about these legacy programs is using the media visibility that we get around these international events— which is huge—to shine a light on the organizations that are already doing good work in our region," said Schloessman. Lastly, she touched on sustainability and making sure that the event staff takes care of the communities around them. LASEC hosts cleanup days to lessen the environmental impact that these events leave behind. The commission is interested in partnering with Beverly Hills to promote these programs in the years leading up to the events and is asking the city for inclined support by providing security and other local efforts. "This has to be a group effort," she explained. "One team, one mission."

Later in the meeting, the Property Owners Task Force Committee discussed updates to retail queuing, especially in areas with heavy foot traffic such as Rodeo Drive. Retail queuing refers to the use of ropes and other blockers to distinguish where shoppers can line up on the sidewalks outside of retail businesses. The update outlined the proposed permitting process to be able to set up a queue outside of a store. In order to receive a permit, a business must
See TASK FORCE, page 9

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BHPD National Night Out Returns Aug. 6



Photo by Ryan Torok

Beverly Hills law enforcement will participate in National Night Out.

The public is invited to join the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) for the eagerly awaited return of National Night Out. This year's event, scheduled for Aug. 6, will shine a spotlight on the BHPD's motor unit, recognizing its role in keeping the community safe and secure.

National Night Out is a distinguished campaign that fosters police and community partnerships and promotes neighborhood camaraderie. The evening's program will include a motor demonstration, displays from various BHPD departments, including the SWAT Team, Real Time Watch Center Drones, Mobile Command Center, Beverly Hills Fire Department, and various other departments of the city of Beverly Hills. Food trucks, games and family-friendly activities

will also be on hand.

"National Night Out is always an event our community looks forward to," said Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman. "It's the perfect opportunity to see what our incredible public safety team does day in and day out, and we invite everyone to come and meet all the men and women working to keep Beverly Hills safe."

Admission to National Night Out is free, and free parking will be available at the Civic Center Parking Garage after 5 p.m. The event will take place from 5-8 p.m. on Aug. 6 on the 400 Block of N. Rexford Dr., in front of the Beverly Hills Library and BHPD.

The motor demonstration will take place at 6 p.m. For more information, visit beverlyhills.org/NNQ.

Italian Military Band Performs in Beverly Hills



Photos by Ryan Torok

Attending the July 3 performance at Beverly Gardens Park were (from left): Larenza Errighi, Consul of Italy in Los Angeles, Councilmembers Mary Wells, Craig Corman and John Mirisch, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, Mayor Lester Friedman, Rt. Hon. Guido Crosetto, Minister of Defense, H.E. Mariangela Zappia, Italian Ambassador to the USA, Raffaella Valentini, Consul General of Italy in Los Angeles and Claudia Conte, journalist.

In support of the Italian Consulate, the city of Beverly Hills was one of several cities to host a special musical performance by the Carabinieri Cadet Legion Military Band to welcome the Amerigo Vespucci, the "Most Beautiful Ship in the World," to the port of Los Angeles. The band performed for the community at Beverly Gardens Park on July 3, in the presence of Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman and council members, Italian

Minister of Defence, Guido Crosetto, the Ambassador of Italy to the U.S., Mariangela Zappia and other city officials and Italian dignitaries. Friedman along with the Consul General of Italy, Raffaella Valentini gave opening remarks. The Amerigo Vespucci's stop in Los Angeles is one of several stops on the ship's world tour, which began in Genoa in 2023 and will return home in 2025.

Summer Gardening Workshops Taking Place at Greystone



Gardening classes begin on July 14.

The Beverly Hills Community Services Department is hosting a new series of gardening workshops this summer at Greystone Demonstration Garden. The classes are scheduled to kick off with "How to Make Your Own Herb and Spice Mix" on July 14, followed by "Pickle Party" to learn the art of pickling on July 28, "How to Make Your Own Herb and Spice Mix" on Aug. 4 and "How to Grow a Pollination Garden" on Aug. 25. The cost for the series of four workshops is \$45 or individual classes are \$15 (\$36 or \$12, respectively, for Beverly Hills residents). Participants should register early to secure a spot at beverlyhills.org/bhrec.

Those individuals who love gardening are encouraged to sign up for the Greystone Demonstration Gardening Club where volunteers meet to help maintain the Greystone Demonstration Garden and the grounds around it, including Pollinator Hill. The Gardening Club members will meet on July 12 and Aug. 17, from 9-10:30 a.m. for the summer club meetups. Pre-registration is required for all classes and the Gardening Club. The address of Greystone Demonstration Garden is 905 Loma Vista Drive, Beverly Hills. All classes are on Sundays from 10-11:30 a.m.

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Ringo Starr Spreads 'Peace and Love' Message on Birthday

On July 7, legendary Beverly Hills resident Ringo Starr celebrated his birthday with a special appearance at his "Peace and Love" statue in Beverly Gardens Park. He was joined by his wife Barbara Starkey and family and friends including Joe and Marjorie Walsh, Fred Armisen and more. Starr was honored with a multi-tiered, star-adorned birthday cake. And at precisely noon, the group gave their traditional "Peace and Love" salute in tandem with 34 other celebrations across the globe.



Photo by Scotty Ritchie

Chief Gregory Barton Installed as New BH Rotary Club President



Photo by Gidas Peteris

Beverly Hills Fire Department Chief Greg Barton was installed as the new President of the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills on July 8. The Courier will profile the Chief's philanthropic plans for the year in an upcoming issue.

From the North Pole to Cabo, Travels with the Courier

Courier readers are avid travelers, as demonstrated by the images below. At left, the Courier was spotted near the North Pole, as Sharon and Joel Krischer enjoyed a cruise on Silversea's Silver Wind from Longyearbyen to Tromso Norway. Beverly Hills residents were also reading the Courier when they traveled to the wedding celebration of David Block (son of Alan Block) and Sarah Berson at Baja Luna in San Jose Del Cabo. Pictured in the photo at right are (from left): David Wellisch, Joanie Wellisch, Alan Block, Jan Block, Mayor Lester Friedman, David Block, Sarah Block, Joe Samuels, Susie Siegal Heller, Galina Samuels, Simone Friedman and Frank Heller.





The BHUSD Board of Education agreed to add a new TK class at Horace Mann Elementary School.

BHUSD, from page 1

“We want to remain attractive and desirable to our families,” Stern said. “If you ... invested in a house, and you can set your sights on the school down the street, and you can’t go there because it’s full or whatever, I think that that it would be very unfortunate and very unfavorable for our district,” Stern said.

Board Member Judy Manouchehri said this could be especially important in the coming years, as she predicts enrollment to grow after the opening of the new El Rodeo campus and the investments in shade structures and other renovations at Horace Mann.

“We had a build it and they will come mentality, and now they’re coming,” Manouchehri said. “I think that it would be really good for our trajectory, our growth and our stability, for families to know that we prioritize the neighborhood feeling.”

Board Member Noah Margo, however, cautioned that opening additional grade sections—and hiring additional teachers—could set a costly precedent. If the district were to add another fourth-grade class at El Rodeo, the parents of those students could have similar complaints next year, when the class sizes increase again, he added.

“The reason that years ago, those policies were put in place was ... to protect the finances,” Margo said. “Because if we don’t have something in place, and we can always just add another classroom ... the more we do it, the more it’s going to hurt our pocketbook.”

Behavioral problems have also been a consistent complaint among fourth-grade parents, and there was some disagreement among the board during an earlier discussion about contracts for five mental health and behavioral professionals totaling almost \$600,000.

Given the high sum, on top of investments the district has already made in mental health support, Board Member Rachelle Marcus said she wanted to know if there was an overarching plan to address students’ ongoing behavioral problems.

Margo said that approving these contracts would be trying to solve the behavioral issues by “playing whack-a-mole,” and the board should take a closer look at data and

statistics before deciding on a way forward.

“Why are we a data-driven district only when it’s convenient for us,” Margo said.

Bregy said the district has collected “qualitative” data about students’ social and emotional wellness, but it could provide more specific information over the course of the year.

“In behavior, we say we want direction, not perfection,” said Stern, a board-certified educational psychologist. “There are so many complex variables that you can’t just say, ‘Oh, you do this and boom, the behavior is over,’ because we’re dealing with humans. We’re dealing with multiple factors.”

Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Laura Collins-Williams said that each of these professionals play valuable roles in the district’s respective mental health offerings, and they have had measurable impacts beyond just the fourth-grade class.

She said that students with “death dates” on which they had planned to commit suicide received enough support to graduate, while students also receive support for issues at home including substance abuse, divorce and grief.

“We are making an impact, and to not have these services in place would put children and families in jeopardy,” Collins-Williams said.

In response to a question from Margo about the district’s therapy services, Collins-Williams said there is a “referral system” in which she determines a student’s need and then speaks with a therapist to devise a treatment plan.

Margo said there are likely many BHUSD students who receive outside therapy and do not know how to access the district’s services. He worried that eligible students are being prevented from getting help from the district.

“I am detecting some inequity in this in some areas,” Margo said. “It’s not necessarily a bad thing, but I’m concerned about its sustainability.”

The board voted to approve all five contracts, with Margo dissenting on each. ●

RONEN, from page 1

Beverly Grove and near Westwood, before returning to Beverly Hills to raise their three children, one of whom is attending Hawthorne while the other two go to El Rodeo Elementary School.

She told the Courier that the strength of the community has been essential to her professional and personal success.

“I had amazing teachers from when I was a kid that I still get lunch with,” Ronen said. “Now experiencing that all over again through the eyes of my kids, it’s my turn to give back. I feel not just an obligation, but a pride to do that.”

Ronen is running on a platform of Excellence in Education, as she looks to restore BHUSD’s standing as one of the country’s preeminent school districts. Though she acknowledges the district’s reputation has slipped since she was a student, due in part to outdated facilities and the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been recent strides she wants to push further.

She cited the Pathways for Success program, which gives middle and high school students opportunities to gain real-world experience in fields ranging from fashion design to medicine, as a prime example. If elected to the board, Ronen plans to find new community relationships, offering students even more pathways to explore.

“I think it’s the right opportunity now to really focus on that, and really focus on seeing how those pathways can be best implemented, with the goal that we’re going to be the top tier,” Ronen said.

As AI continues to evolve, Ronen sees the technology as another opportunity for innovation, though district officials also must stay on the cutting edge on how to reduce AI’s potential harms, she said. She says that her career as a trust and estates attorney positions her to lead this charge.

“My background ... with estates and people’s trusts, is finding ways to stay innovative, and I think that has to be implemented ... when we’re dealing with AI and tech,” Ronen said. “I think it’s also really, really important to be with people who understand that, and they’re willing and ready to do the work and research to keep up with it.”

Five Beverly Vista Middle School students were expelled in March for making and

disseminating AI-generated nude pictures of their classmates, landing the district in the national conversation about AI’s potential dangers in the classroom.

Ronen also said that improved facilities are essential for maintaining the kind of community that makes BHUSD stand out, and she would again draw on her legal experience to ensure the district’s construction projects remain on time and within budget.

She said that in recent years, the district has made significant improvements to be more transparent about its construction spending and signing better contracts, and Ronen said she was committed to staying this course and being open with the community if setbacks happen.

While Ronen lauded BHUSD board members and the district’s construction staff for moving fast to open the new El Rodeo Elementary School campus, she thinks the district needs to put an equal priority on finishing work at Beverly Hills High School.

According to a May 2024 construction update, the modernization of buildings B3 and B4 is underway, Building C and the drop-off area are in the pre-construction phase, and construction officials are working on the planning and design of the South Site Athletic Facilities and the Grand Lawn.

“When we have a situation where we feel like we’re under construction still, it’s hard to get that high school to feel like home,” Ronen said.

Ronen has run for a seat on the board before. She filed nomination papers two years ago, but quickly withdrew after realizing that campaigning was a much more involved process than she realized.

This time around, Ronen feels much more prepared for the campaign. She has spoken to people who served on the board about their experiences and served for the past year on the Beverly Hills Education Foundation, where she learned about the intricacies that make the district thrive.

“It gave me the confidence to think, ‘OK, if I can help here, then maybe I can help in other parts as well,’” Ronen said.

The election is scheduled for Nov. 5, and residents can file nomination forms with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk starting July 15. ●

The City of Beverly Hills appointed Zale Richard Rubins to the Recreation and Parks Commission at the June 2 City Council meeting.



Pictured (from left): Councilmember Craig Corman, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, Rubins, Mayor Lester Friedman, Councilmember John Mirisch and Councilmember Mary Wells

'Janet Planet' - A Universe Apart



Photos courtesy of A24

Sophie Okonedo and Julianne Nicholson

BY NEELY SWANSON

"Janet Planet," written and directed by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Annie Baker, rotates around the mother-daughter relationship between Janet and 11-year-old Lacy. It's complicated, loving, and as sweet and sour as those bonds can be.

It's 1991 and the beginning of summer vacation when we meet Lacy as she sneaks out of her camp cabin to make a 911 call to her mother. "If you don't come get me, I'll kill myself" or words to that effect expressing her extreme displeasure at having to endure one more Kum Ba Yah moment. Lacy, an awkward pre-teen with glasses, freckles and a pubescent nose too large for her face, is convinced that no one likes her and that she doesn't fit in. Janet, her mother, knowing her daughter all too well, disengages temporarily from current boyfriend Wayne and heads out to the camp. False alarm. Lacy has found friends and wants to stay. Nope. She made her bed and will have to sleep in it at home, with Janet and Wayne.

Lacy is in the pre-adolescent or possibly the beginning of a long quest to find herself. Mom, on the other hand, is still searching. "Janet Planet" is broken up into three parts, all Janet-related. The first concerns Wayne, part of Janet's never-ending stream of inappropriate or barely viable partners who last only long enough for Lacy to pass judgment. As disposable as a tissue, his only real value, as fleeting as could be, was his daughter Sequoia, Lacy's age and totally engaging.

The one afternoon Lacy spends mall-grazing with Sequoia is the sum total of her interest in Wayne. Soon, like so many before him, he's out the door.

Taking Lacy to a quasi-Renaissance Fair production, Janet is surprised and happy to run into an old friend, Regina. Regina's and Janet's orbits intersected long ago. Regina, an actress, is now attached to a quasi-hippie commune, having followed its leader, Avi, into romance, enlightenment and, now, disengagement. As exuberant as Janet is cautious, she soon moves into their lovely abode in the woods, bringing excitement, creativity and fresh air into Lacy's stuffy environment. Lacy's inner world, as exemplified by the mini-puppet theater she arranges and rearranges in her room, is happily expanded as she trades solitude for imagination. That her mother soon tires of Regina's energy, critical observations and spirit was an inevitability. It is, perhaps, this rupture that opens Lacy's eyes to her mother's inability to couple introspection with action. Certainly, their personalities were polar opposites but Janet, possibly fearing a connection, sends Regina on her way, ironically trading her in for Avi, leader of the commune and Regina's former lover.

In a moment of self-awareness, Janet reveals that she has one formidable but counterproductive talent. She can make men fall in love with her. As Lacy comes to realize, this does not seem to yield positive results as Janet's choices generally produce nothing of substance; certainly not for Lacy.

The more things change, the more they remain the same. Janet, somnolently falling in and out of love, still cocoons Lacy in her limited solar system. Lacy, entering a new phase of life that will include middle school and puberty, slowly begins to carve out her own universe, but always keeping her mother tethered to her as a lifeline. Transiency has obviously always been a part of their lives and, based on this particular summer, will continue to be so.

Baker has made a pleasant little film about mother-daughter relationships with quiet, engaging characters. The movie may be entitled "Janet Planet," but it is more "Lacy's Universe." Nothing major happens; the chapters all elucidate the strengths and weaknesses of Janet as seen through Lacy's prism. It is an especially good dissection of the pre-pubescent period in a young, introspective, intelligent and insecure 11-year-old. Although Janet constantly proclaims herself to be rather plain, this only highlights her insecurities and need to have constant male companionship to give the lie to her self-image. Janet is a lovely if not stunning beauty, and her seeming ability to deemphasize the physical is a positive aspect of her parenting. Lacy is plain, a plainness that shows no sign of improving with age. Her creativity and self-confidence will be her lifesaver as she enters the hell awaiting her in middle school. Her 11th summer has highlighted both her mother's strengths and weaknesses and gradually allowed Lacy to carve out her own space.

Baker feels the story is "about falling out of love with your mother." I would disagree. Over the summer, Lacy has been able to see her mother in a more clear-eyed manner. Lacy leads the way in the strengthening of some bonds and the loosening of others. She matures over time, forgiving Janet her co-dependencies and appreciating the focus she still has for her daughter. Janet and Lacy undergo a reversal of roles, in a manner of speaking. Lacy, thanks to her mother's benign neglect in some cases, is able to sever the ties of childhood and enter into a different relationship that is based on mutual need.

This is a very cast-dependent film and Baker was very lucky in the actors she chose. The men, Will Patton as Wayne and Elias Koteas as Avi, brought a necessary blandness to their roles. Ordinarily this might seem to be a criticism, but in this case it's not. They effectively highlighted the needs and weaknesses of Janet's personality. Neither brings anything to the relationship and that is strictly by design. They are exemplars of Janet's constant need for a placeholder. As Regina, the remarkable Sophie Okonedo lights up the screen with her exuberance and joyful smile. Entrancing and opening up Lacy to more possibilities, it's clear that her association with Janet was doomed from the start. Her chapter in the film is the most interesting and engaging. Banishing her from their lives said more about Janet than her gravitation toward uninteresting men. Losing Regina was an important step in Lacy's development

and view of her mother.

Julianne Nicholson as Janet was pitch-perfect. Playing down her natural beauty, she uses inner silence to define her character. Her preternatural calm washes over her personality, yielding an earthiness that establishes who she is or, even, who she'd like to be. It is possible, but unspoken, that her acceptance of her daughter's needs may actually be part of her own narcissism. Regardless, Nicholson inhabits Janet so that we can see the good while accepting the not so good (there is, actually, no bad here).

But it is the extraordinary Zoe Ziegler as Lacy who is the very personification of adolescence in all its neediness, selfishness,

self-awareness, insecurity, hidden secrets and closeted creativity. Ziegler is the engine of this film; "Janet Planet" is, or should be "Lacy Sun" because it is around Lacy that everything revolves. Ziegler, in her feature debut, shows amazing range and an ability to display emotion without histrionics. The very definition of watchable, she steals her scenes quietly, drawing you closer and closer into her realm.

"Janet Planet" could have used more judicious pruning, something that writers/directors often resist. As it is, this is a good film that could have been a much better one.

Now playing at the Laemmle Royal. ●



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.



Zoe Ziegler

NEWS

9229 WILSHIRE BLVD., from page 1
lawsuit, then the city has to pay for defending a lawsuit."

The project was approved by the Planning Commission in a Feb. 8 meeting and subsequently appealed by local resident Aria Ahdoot, who alleged that the commissioners erred in waiving the story requirement for the building.

"It is imperative that we uphold the integrity of our zoning regulations and prioritize the well-being of our community over the interests of developers," wrote Ahdoot in his appeal letter. "I implore you to listen to the concerns of residents and reject this ill-conceived project."

While zoning regulations around the project site only allow for a maximum of three stories, the developers are planning an eight-story building with ground-floor retail space. This is made possible by a state density bonus law that allows projects with a certain number of affordable units to deviate from local zoning restrictions. In this case the project is reserving six of its 56 units for very low-income households.

Ahdoot also alleged that the city improperly granted the project an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act and raised concerns that the planned indoor residential amenity space could be converted into an ADU.

Staff analyzed these complaints, but found they held no legal grounds for denying the project and recommended that council uphold the Planning Commission's approval.

Many residents who live near the project site attended the meeting and shared their worries for their neighborhood.

"We're concerned about the height, we're concerned about the size, and we're concerned about the traffic flow and the accidents that may happen," said Fred Blum, who lives in an adjacent property. "Please decrease the height and size and create a project that fits with what we have in this area."

Council members thanked the residents young and old for coming out to the meeting and sharing their fears.

"These are very challenging moments for us as council members because we want to thank you all for coming out and we want to support your concerns, but unfortunately times are changing and these are not changes or regulations that we who are sitting up here have brought on our community," said Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian.

Nazarian encouraged several of the younger public speakers not to be discouraged by council's decision and to continue being civically involved and advocating for the changes they want to see in their community.

"Layla, Sophia, Asher and Adam, I want to encourage you all to please get involved," she said. "We want to see you involved and more active in our community, because it's leaders like you that will be able to change these laws in Sacramento."

Councilmember Mirisch made a similar plea, calling on residents to bring their

concerns to state legislators and advocate for the return of local control over zoning.

"If you don't like these policies, you can vote out the Sacramento politicians who are implementing them and elect new ones who happen to believe in community," he

said. "You can also consider supporting the Our Neighborhood Voices initiative, which would restore urban planning to cities and communities by enshrining local land use planning in the state constitution." ●

TASK FORCE, from page 4

submit a compliance form, encroachment agreement with the city and a certificate of insurance. Once issued, the permit is valid for one year and can be renewed. This would ensure that sidewalk obstructions are accounted for and regulated.

However, some members of the committee weren't thrilled with the ability to set up a queue in front of a store. Some members of the audience complained about aesthetic effects, particularly on Rodeo Drive. City Councilmember Craig Corman suggested that instead of physical queuing, businesses should offer virtual queues to eliminate safety hazards on sidewalks. "When people are in queues they're not shopping or going to other stores; they're waiting in line" he said. "We [Corman and

his fellow Councilmember John Mirisch] advocate the use of these new app based virtual queueing systems, where people can put their phone numbers in, and they get texts when their place in line comes up." Some of the businesses on Rodeo Drive already utilize these apps, as he explained, which are free and require no permits. Additionally, the permits are not required if no ropes or barricades are used, so businesses are free to line customers in front of their stores without the use of equipment.

The City Council agreed to allow retail queueing on a permanent basis at a meeting on July 2, where they received support from the Rodeo Drive Committee. They are currently developing application forms and will notify businesses when they are required to comply. ●

www.beverlyhillscourier.com



Lily Henley will perform at the festival.

ARTS AND CULTURE, from page 1
Fund. During the meeting, the commission also announced new details about Festival Beverly Hills and other upcoming events.

As Recreation Services Manager Matthew Brown explained, the work plan encompasses five items that the commission prioritizes throughout the year, including the Fine Art Acquisition and Festival Beverly

Hills. These two items are considered core functions of the commission and will remain part of the upcoming work plan. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the work plan also included the Beverly Hills Artwalk, the visitor kiosk and an art portal. For the 2024-2025 work plan, however, the commission saw room for improvement. According to Arts and Culture Program Associate Brandy Scott,

the Beverly Hills Artwalk on July 7 was canceled due to low enrollment, prompting a discussion of whether this needs to be a monthly event, or whether it should remain free. The commission ultimately decided that the Artwalk should be removed from their list of priorities.

Additionally, the commission decided to merge the visitor kiosk and the art portal into one item, leaving room for two new items in the work plan. Commissioners will each propose two new items to be considered and voted on at the next meeting on Aug. 8.

In another round-up of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Senior Recreation Supervisor Paul Paolone gave an update on the Fine Art Fund. In the past few months, the fund's revenue has grown significantly, increasing from \$2,223,862 in May to \$2,275,613 in June. This fund is used for conservation of art pieces around the city.

In honor of National Parks and Recreation Month, the commission also discussed events they will host later this month along with the Recreation and Parks Commission, including their biggest event of the year, Festival Beverly Hills. The festival, which will take place on July 21 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., will highlight 15 different cultures from around Los Angeles and Beverly Hills through food, dance, storytelling and other activities. At the meeting, Recreation Supervisor Corrina Lesser was excited to announce some of the performers and a few of the food trucks that will be featured. Changui Majadero, Lily

Henley, Kooban Ensemble, Ballet Folklorico and Halau Hula will provide entertainment on two of the three stages at the festival. Food vendors will provide a diverse blend of culinary offerings including Chef Mojdeh Eghbal's Iranian food, Creamy Boys New Zealand soft serve, Acai Me More, Creole Kings and the Vivi's Gourmet provided by the Colombian Consulate.

This year, as Lesser explained, the city of Beverly Hills will be partnering with multiple consulates to provide a rich cultural experience. "We will be seeing performances and collaborations from the Colombian Consulate, El Salvador, Senegal and Trinidad and Tobago," she said.

Other events taking place this month include the Ipalpiti Festival at Greystone Mansion on July 24, a performance from Shakespeare by the Sea on July 25, a dog park open house on July 28 and National Night Out on Aug. 6, which will close off the 400 block of Rexford Drive to showcase police and community partnerships and to celebrate neighborhood camaraderie with booths, food trucks and a live DJ. Applications for the fall art show are also due this month by July 26.

A full list of events and information can be found on the Arts and Culture Commission's new <https://www.beverlyhills.org/215/Arts-Culture-Commission> which, as Brown explained, was redesigned to provide easier navigation for the community, and easier access to resources. ●

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The Wellness Scene from Mexico to Costa Rica



Photo courtesy of ZihFit

The cliffside rooms of ZihFit

BY CAROLE DIXON

Wellness travel continues on a post-pandemic upswing, and mental well-being is now part of many excursions. Christian Tripodi and Kori Zornes, founders of Revamp Retreats, a company that organizes retreats and courses around the world for yoga teachers and other wellness experts, shared in a recent report that in 2024 there is more awareness and trust in the power of slowing down, along with more clients willing to pay for premium experiences that include connection, community and nature. Programs that spark people to lead healthier lives when they return home seems to be the priority.

From crashing waves on the Pacific Coast of Mexico to jungle sounds in the Costa Rican Rainforest, here are two newer destinations dedicated to modern wellness (with two unique uses for cacao) that can help you reach these goals.

ZihFit in Zihuatanejo, Mexico

When you think of heading down to Mexico for a break, tacos and tequila usually spring to mind, but this will be a different kind of journey, more of a physical and nurturing spiritual experience immersed in nature and Indigenous ceremonies, but no less fun and in many cases more rewarding.

ZihFit is nestled into an eight-bedroom cliffside villa overlooking the sleepy

Zihuatanejo fishing bay. Almost two decades ago, J. Ben Bourgeois, the Los Angeles-based art collector and event producer for top global brands and institutions, such as The Wallis and the city of Beverly Hills, hired one of Mexico's top architects, Zozaya Arquitectos, to create a private modern estate with sophisticated local artisan artifacts.

Blending his event experience with wellness to create a sanctuary that celebrates personal growth, Bourgeois opened ZihFit earlier this year. ZihFit's six-night curated retreats weave in locavore cuisine and daily curated exercise regimens from LA-based fitness programmer, Brazilian-American Eduardo Penteadó, who led Bourgeois on his own fitness transformation when he turned 60.

Penteadó changed Bourgeois' life and now he is sharing his story with the world. "The biggest surprise is how positively this [retreat] has affected our guests," Bourgeois told the Courier. "That propelled us to do more, but this is not boot camp. We make it comfortable and luxurious, but you can really push your mind and your body here."

Unlike other wellness retreats, this one embraces the ancient Mexican culture and authentic Indigenous traditions of the region with a sacred cacao ceremony and the transforming Temazcal "sweat lodge." "These rituals are not just practices but are powerful means to inner healing,

emphasizing the importance of having a connection with Pachamama, Mother Earth," says Penteadó.

The connection to nature can also be found in the property designs. Spanning 20,000 square feet, Casa Fiesta has sleek, modern lines, neutral palettes and locally sourced materials such as stone, tiles and wooden accents. Most of the eight rooms are separated by walkways and winding staircases leading to three different parts of the grounds for privacy—which you will need when taking an outdoor shower. The main open-air living-lounge area has an infinity pool and picture-postcard views, but if you are feeling adventurous, a "grotto" pool carved into the hillside on the lower level feels like a hidden secret once you find it.

Your time at ZihFit is split between two compounds or "Dos Fiesta," and a staff of 12 between "the Casa" and "the Playa." The private beach club, Playa Fiesta, was constructed by Andrés Saavedra who also designed the THOMPSON Zihuatanejo, and includes a dramatic cave-style entryway with a small water Labyrinth in the center of the polished concrete flooring, leading to an open-air vista right on the sand, with a large lap pool and plenty of hammocks hooked up to coconut trees swaying the salty breeze.

Mornings at Casa Fiesta begin with a 6 a.m. chime awakening at your door,

followed by sunrise yoga sessions on one of the decks. After breakfast, the group is transported to "the Playa" where you will do most of your daily activities. This includes a two-hour beach walk, a range of fitness and dance classes from high-intensity Tabata and Zumba to bachata and salsa dancing, and an evening one-hour sunset beach walk.

Along the way, a private chef whips up a total of 1,500 calorie meals per day that were conceived by nutritionist Sara Verboonen, which include four electrolyte-heavy mocktails per day made with on-site coconut water, mango with lemon and rosemary and hibiscus-infused water to name a few.

This is not a deprivation diet either—you can drink caffeinated coffee or tea and have a few carbs along the way. The food is surprisingly filling utilizing fresh local fruits and veggies, along with seafood and Mexican favorites from mahi mahi ceviche and guacamole with baked tortilla chips to mushroom enchiladas in a green sauce topped with pico de gallo. Other satiating menu favorites included lentil soup, vegan paella, fish-stuffed Poblano peppers and shrimp skewers with red onion and zucchini.

Every afternoon, post-lunch, full-body massages take place in a private outdoor area that range from soothing head and
See WELLNESS SCENE, page 12

WELLNESS SCENE, from page 12

neck treatments to lower back and hip adjustments or table stretching. This is a key element in the recovery process during your stay and a welcome break.

Experts from the local community are brought into the daily programs for the welcoming group drum-singing ceremony and a blissful, blindfolded floating pool sound bath that fosters both letting go and listening to your inner voice. “Now more than ever, individuals seek to reconnect with themselves,” said Penteado. “We have worked with the local community to create authentic shamanic and spiritual experiences.”

On the final day, the group gathers around one last time in a circle for a heart-healthy “drink of the gods” ceremony. A spiritual healer leads the group in a meditative chant while copal (incense for the gods) is burned. After a personal smudging, everyone drinks a concoction with cinnamon, chili, vanilla, sugarcane and pure cacao—a superfood with magnesium and calcium. The drink offers a bit of euphoria and an endorphin kick—especially after not having anything decadent for the whole week. The ceremony ends after more mindful practices lying on a yoga mat, then awakened by chimes.

This is a great program for people wanting to kick-start a wellness plan, or to add a little spice to your existing one. It is also a great team-building retreat for corporations who are looking to whisk away C-Suite executives. “We are on this journey together,” said Bourgeois. “This is not competitive and it’s a boutique setting where we can all gather around the table for meals.”

“We are open to all levels of fitness, and we encourage everybody to be a better version of themselves each day they are here,” said Penteado. “Come with an open heart and an open mind and let the retreat guide you. Everyone has a different experience.”

If you do push it too far out of your comfort zone, there is a doctor on call and Penteado can always guide you through personal stretches to work out any kinks - or whip out the Theragun. “This is a safe place,” Penteado told the Courier. “We encourage you to show up, and maybe you will break through some fears.”

Rates for the six-night sojourn are \$7,900 per person (meals, massage, yoga and activities, laundry and round-trip airport transfers included). Private four-night retreats can be customized as well. zihfit.com

Origins Lodge in Costa Rica

Another Latin American spot that takes wellness—and cacao—seriously is at Origins Lodge in Costa Rica. This sustainable holistic haven is enshrouded in the dense jungle setting of Upala with only seven luxury villas amidst 111 acres of verdant rainforest and the cascading Oro waterfall. All this can be reached in just 1 1/2 hours from Liberia Airport in Alajuela.

Each accommodation is an eco-lux tree house featuring a private deck with a warm plunge pool heated by a wood stove. As you soak or lounge on the daybed, the expansive jungle view is the closest thing to an African safari you will experience on this side of the world. Cicadas lull you

while colorful Toucans perch on trees that also swing with howler monkeys, against a chorus of croaking frogs.

For another type of submersion, the Lake Tii Spa Suite offers a traditional cacao treatment where the actual beans grown on the property are used. You start by sipping a hot ceremonial cacao beverage to cleanse the chakras and let the energy flow before the body exfoliation with cacao and coffee beans for detoxification. Then you are covered in volcanic clay and wrapped in anisillo leaves. The finale is a soothing cacao-coffee moisturizing massage.

As for dining, your multi-coursed meals will be served at the open-air El Sato restaurant overlooking the infinity pool and jungle vista. The kitchen staff can pluck much of the fruits and veggies for the seasonal menus from the on-site organic gardens where 250 different species of local plants and medicinal herbs grow freely. Costa Rican chestnuts and l’araza, a fruit used in juice or marmalades, are among the bounty. Fifteen beehives provide Mèlipona honey that is considered the best in Costa Rica surrounded by 10 lakes where fish such as tilapia and sardines are sourced.

This is the only culinary program in the region that is overseen by European Chef Yann Berger, who has worked in many Michelin-star restaurants from France to Norway. While this area is not typically known for its cuisine, Chef Berger is changing that with his vision of sustainable, healthy fine dining and Central American cuisine blending Portuguese and Spanish influences. His traditional carnitas pork dish is influenced by Nicaraguan cooking, and he is also a master of soups made with fresh veggies from the garden, plus his showstopping mushroom risotto is made without cream. “I think we should go to the forest, not the pharmacy,” he told the Courier. “You can bring me any produce and I know what to do with it after I taste it.”

Beans, rice, and corn are grown locally in abundance and can be found in many of the dishes, but signature staples include sweet potato pancakes, coffee ground smoked trout, roasted pumpkin with papaya, avocado and grilled pistachio, roasted rack of lamb with plantain puree and lemon grass braised chayote, and quinoa stuffed tomato, cooked cabbage in ginger and red wine with passion fruit sauce. You can have wine with dinner, but rum is the national drink of choice, and the rustic wooden bar also overlooks the jungle where drinks are mixed with fresh mint from the garden.

While the dining here is a draw, there are plenty of trails to hike on the property after a meal, including a nocturnal walk near the pond. At sunrise, head to the yoga pavilion surrounded by jungle flora for a class. During the day, a trek to the waterfall on the property, followed by horseback riding, paddle-boarding, kayaking, or rafting on the Nicaraguan River will keep you active.

This property is great for a group buyout or anyone looking to escape with a digital detox and plenty of natural distractions. Due to popular demand, Origins is expanding to add a family-friendly second location on the grounds for group travel in 2025.

Double rates start at \$2,416 for a two-night minimum. originslodge.com •



Photos courtesy of Origins Lodge

The Origins Lodge restaurant



The Origins Lodge room

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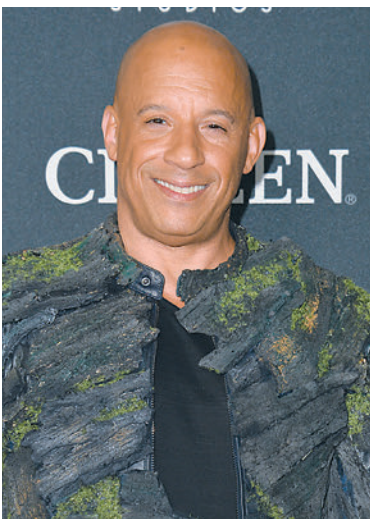
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Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your reputation is an asset. You don't think about it as being this because it was long ago established and now it only needs to be preserved. Still, anything that lifts your reputation is worth the attention, effort and money that goes into the process.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll appreciate boundaries and respect matters of intimacy. People are different in private than they are in public. The discrepancy is one to consider, ponder, respect and, in some cases, remedy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Live for yourself; otherwise you don't have a self to give to someone else. But that is not all. You have a natural tendency to push the boundaries and rules of partnership. Call out the infractions. Don't stop being you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Any influence you have will come from dealing in what is. There are things we wish were true, things we are trying to make true, and there is just truth -- some call it reality. The more you love what is, the more you love yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your inspiration

is often in small things, but today it's big and obvious instead. You'll be witness to a talking-to like the locker room speech before the big game or the backstage huddle before show time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's plenty of greed in the world. You're hoping to keep yourself out of the category. Wanted items will be displayed with obvious price tags, some of which are above your current spending limit. Peruse. Think about it. Shopping isn't always buying.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Accomplished people will inspire your own accomplishment. Once you establish a bond of communication, the rest will come easily. Shared enthusiasms will include, but not be limited to, the aesthetic, epicurean or athletic.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Wind chimes tell you when the action is moving and how. They indicate a force that can't be seen. People will be like chimes, sounding out and moving according to influences unseen to you, but you respect that those influences are real, and that makes the difference.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Warmth radiates through your friendship sector. Old friends figure into the mix. Even if you've known someone

for years, there are still new things to learn about them. You'll share such tenderness now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Anything you do to make your home more comfortable will bring luck to your realm. Invite a special someone to kick back with you. You'll be spoiled with affection from another earth sign (Taurus or Virgo).

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). "Who cares?" sounds like a dismissive question, but it can actually be an earnest

way to get to the heart of what you're doing, especially if what you're doing is art or commerce. "Who cares?" will speak to the relevance and social usefulness of an endeavor.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Restraint and refinement are the themes. You'll show up to life as though it as a formal dinner. You'll dress right, break the ice appropriately and be ready for high-level conversation. Then you'll dance.



Meet the eligible dog for adoption this week, Rawlee. He is a 3-year-old, 20-pound golden spaniel in need of a new family. If interested in Rawlee, please contact Kim Sill at Shelter of Hope at 310-770-3571.

shelterhopepetshop.org

Police Blotter

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



ARSON

7/8/2024, 12:15 a.m. at 8800 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED

7/7/2024, 1:40 a.m. at 600 Block of N. PALM DRIVE

6/30/2024, 2 a.m. at 1100 Block of LOMA LINDA DRIVE

6/26/2024, 6:48 a.m. at 8900 Block of CLIFTON WAY

ASSAULT - SIMPLE

7/9/2024, 3:15 p.m. at N. CANON DRIVE / N. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD

7/5/2024, 9:45 a.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

7/4/2024, 9:30 p.m. at 9600 Block of SUNSET BLVD.

7/1/2024, 7 a.m. at 300 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

BURGLARY - COMMERCIAL BUILDING

7/2/2024, 9 a.m. at 9100 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

BURGLARY FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

7/2/2024, 7 p.m. at 400 Block of S. CAMDEN DRIVE

6/29/2024, 6:13 p.m. at 400 Block of N. CAMDEN DRIVE

6/28/2024, 10 p.m. at 200 Block of S. LA CIENEGA BLVD.

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (COMMON AREA)

6/26/2024, 1:29 p.m. at 100 Block of N. HAMILTON DRIVE

DUI ARREST

7/6/2024, 2:21 p.m. at WILSHIRE BOULEVARD / N. REXFORD DRIVE

7/3/2024, 1:08 a.m. at N SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD / N. REXFORD DRIVE

7/1/2024, 3:18 p.m. at S BEVERLY DRIVE/ CHARLEVILLE BOULEVARD

6/29/2024, 3:58 p.m. at GREGORY WAY / S. BEVERLY DRIVE

ROBBERY

6/28/2024, 10 p.m. at WILSHIRE BOULEVARD / N. STANLEY DRIVE

SHOPLIFT ROBBERY

6/29/2024, 10:59 a.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

THEFT - GRAND

6/29/2024, 2:18 p.m. at 400 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

6/28/2024, 11:05 a.m. at 9900 Block of S. SANTA MONICA BLVD.

6/26/2024, 3:30 p.m. at 400 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

THEFT FROM COMMERCIAL BUILDING

7/5/2024, 12:31 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

THEFT - GRAND (FROM VEHICLE)

7/6/2024, 8:30 p.m. at 300 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

7/3/2024, 5:50 a.m. at 200 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY

7/8/2024, 12:44 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

7/7/2024, 3:46 p.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

7/7/2024, 1:54 p.m. at 100 Block of N. MAPLE DRIVE

7/7/2024, 12:59 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

7/6/2024, 5:40 p.m. at 400 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

7/5/2024, 3:57 p.m. at 400 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

7/4/2024, 12:10 p.m. at 9400 Block of OLYMPIC BLVD.

7/3/2024, 1:26 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

7/3/2024, 2 a.m. at 400 Block of S. CAMDEN DRIVE

7/2/2024, 6 p.m. at 400 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

7/1/2024, 9 a.m. at 300 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

6/30/2024, 8:52 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

6/27/2024, 5:30 p.m. at RODEO DRIVE / DAYTON WAY

6/26/2024, 5:07 a.m. at 100 Block of N. CARSON ROAD

VANDALISM

7/6/2024, 2:38 p.m. at 700 Block of TRENTON DRIVE

7/5/2024, 12:50 p.m. at N. DOHENY DRIVE / WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

7/3/2024, 3:49 p.m. at 200 Block of SPALDING DRIVE

Public Notices

COURIER CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024135868 The following is/are doing business as: **CABRELLA SHIPPING INSURANCE SOLUTIONS** 7164 Melrose Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90046; CABRELLA, LLC 7164 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90046; The business is conducted by: **A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY** registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on: **CABRELLA, LLC, Benjamin Meskin President**; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: June 25, 2024; Published: June 28 July 5, 12, 19, 2024 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024124600 The following is/are doing business as: **HEIRLOOM APRON** 5737 KANAN ROAD SUITE 690 AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301; ANNETE DUKE 5737 Kanan Road Suite 600 Agoura Hills, CA 91301; LORETTA MARKS 5737 Kanan Road Suite 600 Agoura Hills, CA 91301; The business is conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP** registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on JUNE 2024: **Loretta Marks, General Partner**; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: June 10, 2024; Published: June 14, 21, 28 July 5, 2024 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024143180 The following is/are doing business as: **MOBILEVUE 9194 W. OLYMPIC BLVD. #292 BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212**; ALLEN ASHKENAZI 1129 S. Oakhurst Dr. #204, Los Angeles, CA 90035 The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL** registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on January 2024: **Allen Ashkenazi, Owner**; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: July 5, 2024; Published: July 12, 19, 26, August 2, 2024 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024143331 The following is/are doing business as: **SAVE-ON INSURANCE SERVICES INC.** 10835 SANTA MONICA BLVD. SUITE 209, LOS ANGELES, CA 90025; Save-On Insurance Services, Inc. 10835 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 209, Los Angeles, CA 90025 The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION** (AI #ON 1487476) registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on September 1990: **Save-On Insurance Services, Inc. Kamran Tavakoli, President**; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: July 5, 2024; Published: July 12, 19, 26, August 2, 2024 LACC N/C

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024143044 The following is/are doing business as: **1) KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY** **2) KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY** **3) FORWARD BEVERLY HILLS INC.** **4) KELLER WILLIAMS BEVERLY HILLS** **5) KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY - BEVERLY HILLS** **6) KW BEVERLY HILLS** **7) FORWARD BEVERLY HILLS** **439 N. CANON DR. SUITE #300 BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210**; Forward Beverly Hills, Inc. 439 N. Canon Dr. Suite #300 Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION** (AI #ON 2641875) registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on February 2004: **Forward Beverly Hills, Inc. David Bailey, President**; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: July 5, 2024; Published: July 12, 19, 26, August 2, 2024 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024143041 The following is/are doing business as: **1) TEAM ECHEVERRIA** **2) M.E. PROPERTIES TEAM** **439 N. CANON DR. SUITE 300 BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210**; Forward Beverly Hills, Inc. 439 N. Canon Dr. Suite #300 Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION** (AI #ON 2641875) registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on June 2022: **Forward Beverly Hills, Inc. David Bailey, President**; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: July 5, 2024; Published: July 12, 19, 26, August 2, 2024 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024143038 The following is/are doing business as: **L.A. OWL GROUP** **439 N. CANON DR. SUITE 300 BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210**; Forward Beverly Hills, Inc. 439 N. Canon Dr. Suite #300 Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION** (AI #ON 2641875) registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on July 2023: **Forward Beverly Hills, Inc. David Bailey, President**; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: July 5, 2024; Published: July 12, 19, 26, August 2, 2024 LACC N/C

T.S. No.: 9462-6439 TSG Order No.: 230536865 A.P.N.: 4333-004-013 **NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE** YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/22/2017. 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

PUBLIC NOTICES

YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NBS Default Services, LLC, as the duly appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded 12/01/2017 as Document No.: 20171388923, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, executed by: SHAHRIAR DAVIDESFAHANI AND JANET NABATIAN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, as Trustor, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable in full at time of sale by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and state, and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. Sale Date & Time: 07/09/2024 at 10:00 AM Sale Location: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766 The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 349 SOUTH LA PEER DR, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness

DEPOSITION SUBPOENA FOR PERSONAL APPEARANCE CASE NO: 19CV06268

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY: Randy Quaid, Pro Se Evgenia "Evi" Quaid, Pro Se P.O. Box 119 Bristol, VT 05443 Tel: (802) 453 - 7250 Email: eliza.george@mail.be Attorney: PRO SE

THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE COURT IS: SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA (ANACAPA DIVISION) 1100 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: R. SCOTT TURICCH, et al. **DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:** RANDALL QUAID, et al.

TO PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, TO: WARREN GRANT, 602 WALDEN DR., BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210

YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR IN PERSON TO TESTIFY AS A WITNESS in this action at the following date, time and place:

Date: August 2, 2024 **Time:** 9:00 AM **Address:** VIA ZOOM This deposition will be recorded stenographically (videotape)

At the deposition, you will be asked questions under oath. Questions and answers are recorded stenographically at the deposition; later they are transcribed for possible use at trial. You may read the written record and change any incorrect answers before you sign the deposition. You are entitled to receive witness fees and mileage actually traveled both ways. The money must be paid, at the option of the party giving notice of the deposition, either with service of this subpoena or at the time of the deposition. Unless the court orders or you agree otherwise, if you are being deposed as an individual, the deposition must take place within 75 miles of your residence or within 150 miles of your residence if the deposition will be taken within the county of the court where the action is pending. The location of the deposition for all deponents is governed by Code of Civil Procedure section 2025.250.

DISOBEDIENCE OF THIS SUBPOENA MAY BE PUNISHED AS CONTEMPT BY THIS COURT. YOU WILL ALSO BE LIABLE FOR THE SUM OF \$500 AND ALL DAMAGES RESULTING FROM YOUR FAILURE TO OBEY.

Date issued: July 3, 2024 **Signed:** N. Murpy, Deputy Clerk BHC - Published: 07/12/24, 07/19/24, 07/26/24, 08/02/24

PUBLIC NOTICES

of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made in an "AS IS" condition, 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 said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$2,086,428.81 (Estimated). Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. **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 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 outstand-

PUBLIC NOTICES

SUMMONS (CITATION JUDICIAL) CASE NO: 23SMCV00763

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS: SAM HAKIM; S2 SQUARED PROPERTIES, LLC, NETTLE 1031; and DOES 1 to 50, inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: MARIA ZEGARRA

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles 1725 Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: Irving Pedroza, Esq. D'Egidio & Pedroza, APC 7801 Mission Center Court, Suite 240 San Diego, CA 92108 State bar No: 297735

Date: 12/13/2023 By: David W. Slayton, Clerk • K. Neal, Deputy Judicial Officer: H. Jay Ford / Judge Beverly Hills Courier • Published 06/28/24, 07/05/24, 07/12/24, 07/19/24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CASE NO: 24SMCP00277

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME To all interested person(s): Petitioner: **Luke David McEachran** current residence address: **8258 Hollywood Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069** filed a petition with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St. Santa Monica, CA 90401. **Santa Monica Courthouse, on June 4, 2024** for a

Decree changing names as follows:

Present Name: **Luke David McEachran**
Proposed Name: **LUKE DAVID**

The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: **Date:** July 26, 2024 **Time:** 8:30 AM **Department:** K The address of the court is: **1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401**

Reason for name change: Petitioner is already known by his proposed name wishes to be known by his proposed name in all personal/business affairs.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. **Signed: Luke David McEachran**

Judge of the Superior Court: Lawrence H. Cho
Clerk: David W. Slayton **Deputy:** M. Elder
Dated: June 4, 2024
Published: 06/21/24, 06/28/24, 07/05/24, 07/12/24
BHC-R28602

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).

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

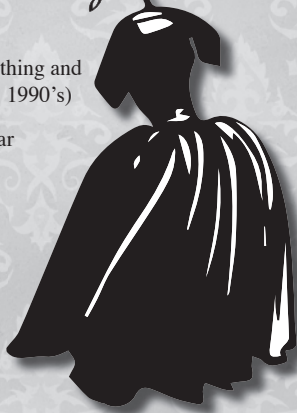
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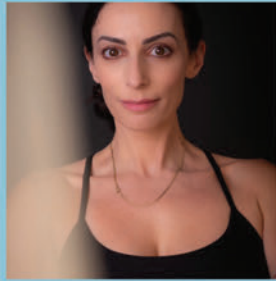
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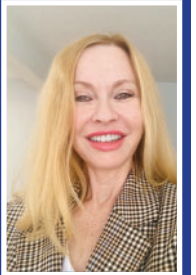
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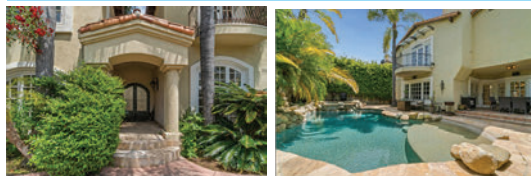
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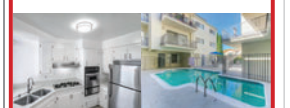
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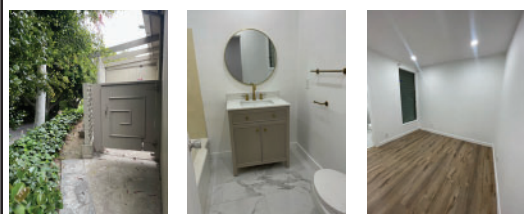
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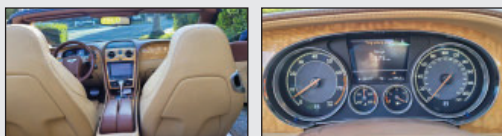
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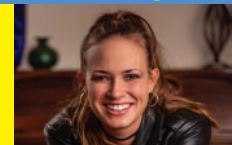
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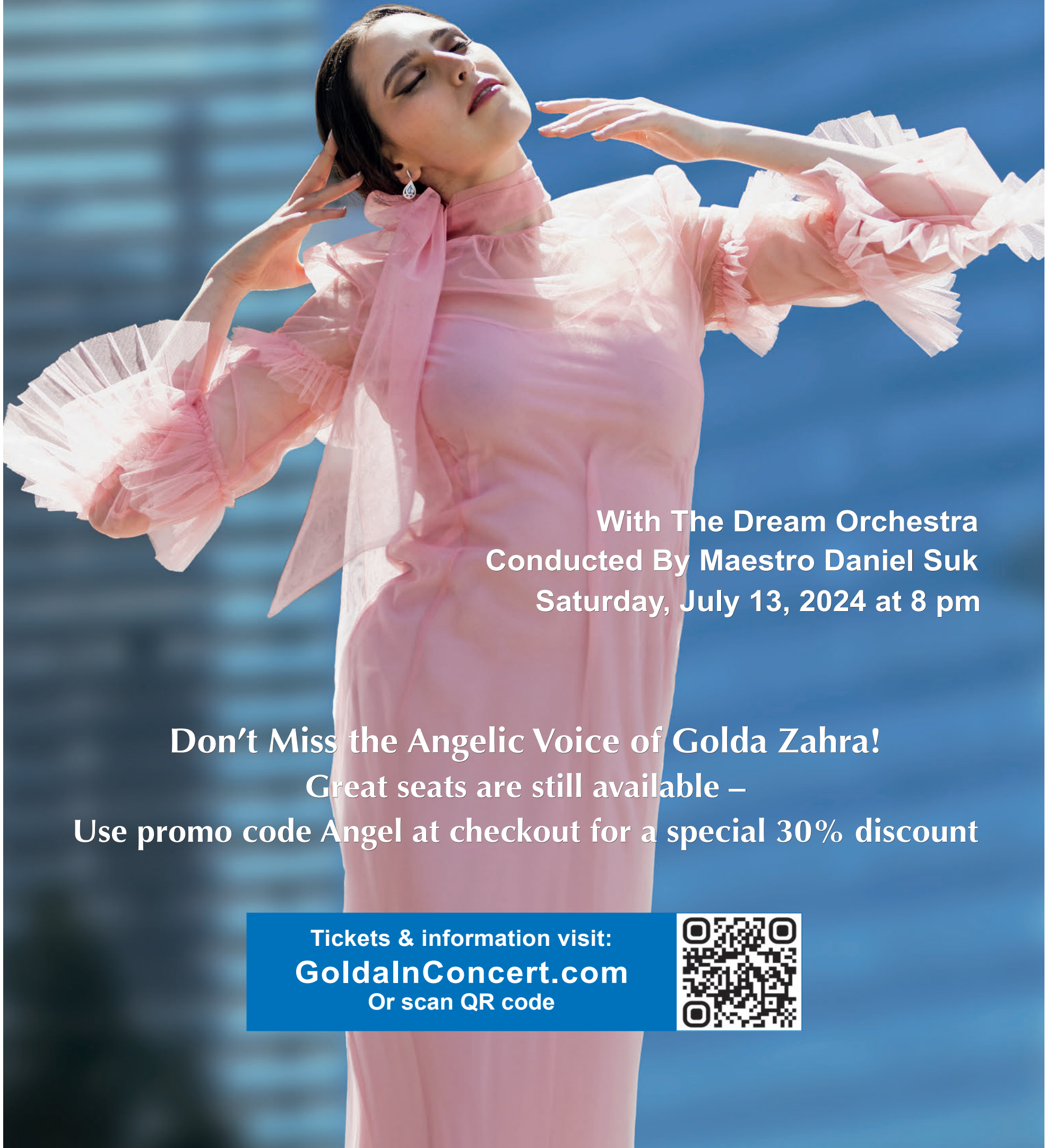
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