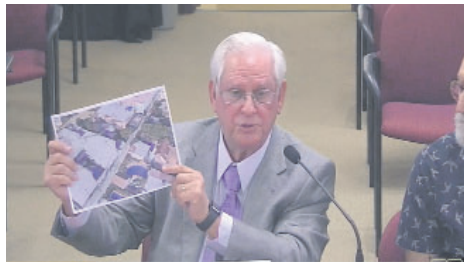


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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

☀️ Friday	83° 66°
☀️ Saturday	85° 66°
☀️ Sunday	86° 68°
☀️ Monday	85° 68°
☁️ Tuesday	85° 68°
☁️ Wednesday	84° 67°
☀️ Thursday	84° 66°

City Council Responds to Recent Power Outages in Trousdale Estates



Photo by Jamison Province

The City Council took up the issue of continued power outages at its July 16 meeting.

BY CLARA HARTER

The Beverly Hills City Council discussed the latest series of power outages in the Trousdale Estates and what steps can be taken to tackle this perennial problem at its July 16 regular meeting.

Outages on July 3 were caused by breakdowns in aging equipment in two electrical circuits, while some repairs were delayed

by flooding in an underground power vault, Public Works Director Shauna Epstein reported. Remedies discussed include creating a new above-ground power vault and adding an additional electrical circuit to the Beverly substation.

The information Epstein provided was based on a phone conversation that she, City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Mayor See **POWER OUTAGES**, page 15

Council Split Over Tree Removal at Historic Home

BY JOEY WALDINGER

During a July 16 study session, the Beverly Hills City Council was split over whether to review a Planning Commission decision allowing the removal of three heritage trees at 1001 N. Roxbury Drive, the former site of a historic home beloved by many residents.

If the plan goes forward, crews will remove two Coastal Redwoods and one London Plane Sycamore from the property, though they will also have to plant three replacement trees before the building permits are issued, according to a staff report. Of the 44 trees on the property, 30 are designated as “protected,” including the three slated for removal.

However, an attorney for Maple Leaf Ventures, LLC, filed a July 9 appeal of the Planning Commission decision, claiming it was not supported by evidence, violates the California Environmental Quality Act and that surrounding property owners were not properly notified of the June 26 Planning Commission hearing.

Although the council will have to hear that appeal before deciding on the Planning Commission approval, there was some disagreement about whether that approval should be reviewed at all.

While Mayor Lester Friedman, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Councilmember Mary

See **ROXBURY DRIVE**, page 15

BHUSD President Dr. Amanda Stern Seeks Second Term

BY JOEY WALDINGER

The field of candidates vying for three seats on the Beverly Hills Unified School District board has grown after Board President Dr. Amanda Stern and businessman Russell Stuart filed nomination forms with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk this week. Attorney Dela Peykar Ronen, who kicked off the race by announcing her candidacy last week, has also filed with the county.

After being elected in December 2020, Stern is the only incumbent currently in the race, and as the current board president, she hopes to build upon the experience she gained over her term to help the board tackle the district’s looming challenges.

“There’s more work to be done with our students, our families, as well as the



Photo courtesy of Dr. Amanda Stern
Dr. Amanda Stern

larger economic landscape of our district,” Stern said.

A native of New Mexico, Stern pursued her education in the Boston area, earning See **DR. AMANDA STERN**, page 15

Beverly Hills Hit With Two Robbery Incidents on Same Day

BY JOEY WALDINGER

Two separate robbery incidents on July 17 sparked car chases that stretched from Beverly Hills into Los Angeles and Culver City, with four people being arrested, including one who drove on the wrong side of the road with his baby in the car, while livestreaming.

The first chase began at approximately 10:03 a.m., when a Beverly Hills Police Department sergeant was flagged down regarding a situation between the driver

See **ROBBERIES**, page 7

Courier Calendar

JULY 19

**ODYSSEY THEATRE:
COMEDY NIGHT AT THE ODYSSEY
8 P.M.**

See some of the best comics in the country perform at the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble's "Comedy Night at the Odyssey" series on the third Friday of every month. Curated by writer, actor and comedian Kevin Flynn alongside Dana Gibson, the line-up on Friday, July 19 includes comedian Joe Bartnick (Netflix movie "Old Dads," Amazon special "A Killing in Chicago," Amazon, HBO); comedy writer Randy Kagan ("The Late Show with Craig Ferguson," Showtime, HBO); stand-up/twisted songwriter Henry Phillips ("John the Server Guy" on HBO's "Silicon Valley," cult film "Punching the Clown," YouTube cooking series "Henry's Kitchen") and Emmy-winning writer Danny Vermont ("RealTime with Bill Maher," HBO). Tickets are \$25. The Odyssey is located at 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. odysseytheatre.org

NOW - JULY 21

**VIBRATO GRILL JAZZ: THE SWING TONES, THE AMANDA CASTRO BAND AND BILLY VERA'S BIG BAND JAZZ
7 P.M., 7:30 P.M., 9:30 P.M.**

Vibrato Grill Jazz will host three shows from July 19-21. On July 19, The Swing Tones play modern and vocal jazz hits with harmonic singers and a big brass band. The Amanda Castro Band plays on July 20, featuring a fusion of vintage jazz, New Orleans jazz, swing and pop songs into a new musical experience. These shows are at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. with a cover of \$25. On July 21, Billy Vera, musician, music historian, Grammy winner and recipient of a Hollywood Walk of Fame Star, plays with his jazz big band. Reservations are available online. vibratogrilljazz.com

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 25 and features Tom Nolan Band playing rock 'n' soul. beverlyhills.org

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 and 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

JULY 24

**HOLOCAUST MUSEUM LA:
"THE BELLIS AFFAIR: A
CONVERSATION WITH JAY BELLIS"
4:30-5:30 P.M.**

Menachem Mendel Beilis (1874-1934) was accused of ritual murder in the Russian Empire in 1911. This two-year saga and trial gained worldwide attention. Even though Beilis was eventually acquitted, this case served as a catalyst for many Jews to leave the Russian Empire. During his incarceration, Beilis maintained that he had the task of clearing the name of Jewish people from the charge of ritual murder. Beilis eventually settled in the United States. This program will be led by his grandson Jay Beilis, who will share the story from the perspective of his family history, as well as the greater context of blood libel. This event is free. The Holocaust Museum LA is located at 100 The Grove Dr., Los Angeles. holocaustmuseumla.org

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Beverly Hills Pavilions to Be Sold Under Proposed Kroger-Albertson Merger

BY CLARA HARTER

A proposed merger between grocery giants Kroger and Albertson would remake the map of food markets across America including in Beverly Hills where two Pavilions are slated for sale.

The mega-merger was announced in 2022 but is facing legal pushback from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which alleges that the \$24.6 billion deal would unfairly eliminate competition, resulting in higher prices and lower-quality groceries for millions of Americans.

To quell FTC's concerns and resolve the lawsuit pending against them, Kroger is proposing selling off some 579 stores and facilities.

Locally, this includes the Beverly Hills Pavilions at 9467 W. Olympic Blvd. and the West Hollywood Pavilions at 8969 Santa Monica Blvd. At a state level this includes 31 Vons, 16 Pavilions and Albertsons and one Safeway.

The stores would be sold to smaller grocery store operator C&S Wholesale Grocers, which currently owns around 160 grocery stores. This includes chains such as Piggly Wiggly and Grand Union Supermarkets as well as many independently named stores.

It is not yet known how the two local Pavilions will be rebranded; however, C&S has issued a statement saying that current employees at newly acquired stores will keep their jobs.

Another interesting wrinkle is the fact that the property owner of the Beverly Hills Pavilions, Sammy Aflalo, submitted an application in April to redevelop the site into an eight-story, 110-unit building with ground-floor retail. This was submitted as a "Builder's Remedy" project, which allows developers to bypass local zoning if cities do not have a certified Housing Element.

Beverly Hills' Housing Element was approved in May and City Attorney Larry Wiener has said that the city is therefore no

See PAVILIONS, page 11

Planning Commission Revises Affordable Housing Guidelines and Approves Doheny Project



Real estate lawyer Murray D. Fischer presented plans for 232 South Doheny Drive at the Planning Commission meeting.

BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

In a meeting on July 11, the Planning Commission reviewed recent changes to the affordable housing guidelines. The commission held a study session to give feedback on the revisions and to discuss how the changes would impact those applying for and developing affordable housing. The changes will affect the occupancy priority list, which determines who is eligible and who is given priority to receive an affordable housing unit.

The current affordable housing guidelines were adopted by the city in 2016 in accordance with the Housing Crisis Act, the state density bonus, and Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. They include guidelines on how to apply for affordable housing and a priority list for those who meet the requirements. At the meeting, Associate Planner Christine Delostrinos presented a review of the 2023 affordable housing program. As she explained, the city's contracted affordable housing consultant, HouseKeys, was assigned to review the guidelines and the commission was asked to consider the group's recommendations. In the current plan, the city plans to provide units for 52 households, 45 of which will be for those who fall under the very-low-income limit. However, only eight of the 52 rentals are existing units. 15 of the units have been approved for entitlement and 29 are still under review. "The city anticipates continued growth of affordable housing units due to state housing law," said Delostrinos.

Changes to the affordable housing guidelines outline rules for developers who plan to construct these units. This includes a list of design standards that requires new affordable housing units to be comparable to market-rate units. For those who apply for affordable housing, the credit score and background check guidelines have been revised to comply with SB 267—which was approved by Governor Newsom on Oct. 11, 2023—and deny convicted felons. The guidelines for rent increases, pet fees and deposits, parking fees, renter's insurance,

utility allowances and security deposit protocols have also been revised.

For those who have applied or are planning to apply, the commission made amendments to the occupancy priority list, which has not been revised since 2019. At the meeting, the commission held a study session to discuss whether the current list meets the city's goals to provide housing for diverse populations. They also suggested defining displacement within the guidelines to be clearer on which households qualify. As Renters Alliance Founder Mark Elliot explained during public comment, a clear definition is important because many of the applicants don't understand their rights. "I urge you to recommend expanding the definition of displacement to include voluntary vacancy, pursuant to a buyout, or tenants who vacate voluntarily, for less than voluntary reasons," he said. This would include units with habitability deficiencies and hazardous conditions, including water leaks, peeling paint and visible mold. He also urged the commission to consider prioritizing affordable housing for households displaced by a fire. The commissioners all agreed to revise the definition of displacement to include these vacancies.

During the discussion, Demeter expressed concerns about some of the city's largest demographics eligible for affordable housing. As she explained, many of the applicants are non-native English speakers or are elderly citizens, who may struggle to complete the lengthy application process on their own. "I think we have to be really careful in that respect," said Demeter, who suggested a translation service for those who don't speak English fluently. For applicants who require individualized guidance throughout the process, HouseKeys has an outreach program that can help. "A part of HouseKeys' process is doing some community outreach," said Delostrinos. "When there is a unit available, they're going to conduct community outreach in collaboration with the developer or the property manager and from there that would be a

See PLANNING COMMISSION, page 11

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BHFD Hosts Largest Jr. Firefighter Camp in Its History



Photo courtesy BHFD Firefighter Paramedic Jimmy Weinstein

This year's Jr. Firefighter Camp hosted a record number of campers and prepared them for careers as first responders.

BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

Camp season is in full swing, and the Beverly Hills Fire Department (BHFD) has spent the week training the next generation of first responders. The department's Jr. Firefighter Camp officially began on July 15 and takes place daily through July 19. The week-long program,

which currently has the highest enrollment in its history, teaches young people about all the responsibilities of being a firefighter and prepares them for future jobs at the department.

"We hope that we're showing some of the younger students that this might be a process or a position they might want to hold in the
See **JR. FIREFIGHTER CAMP**, page 10

Boxer Ryan Garcia Charged with Alleged Beverly Hills Vandalism



Former world champion boxer Ryan Garcia was charged with misdemeanor vandalism on July 18 for alleged damage he inflicted on a room and hallway at the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills hotel.

Garcia, 25, was charged with a single misdemeanor count of vandalism causing \$400 or more in damage, according to the District Attorney's Office. The Porter Ranch resident was arrested around 5:15 p.m. June 8, when police were dispatched

to the hotel in response to a report of an "intoxicated person," according to Lt. Andrew Meyers of the Beverly Hills Police Department.

Investigators determined that Garcia was a guest at the hotel and had damaged a hotel room and part of a hallway, Meyers said. After he was booked at the BHPD jail, police said the 15-time national amateur champion complained of a medical issue and was taken
See **BOXER CHARGED**, page 7

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The Courier in Canada



Health and Safety Commissioner Cathy Baker recently returned from a trip to Canada. She took the Courier along when she visited Peggy's Cove Lighthouse in Nova Scotia, about an hour's drive from Halifax.

Bastille Day in Beverly Hills



On July 14, the city of Beverly Hills hosted a Bastille Day celebration at Beverly Canon Gardens. Pictured is Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman with France's Consul General Julie Duhaut-Bedos.

Theatre 40 Receives 23 Scenie Awards From Stage Scene LA

BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

On July 15, Beverly Hills' professional theater company, Theatre 40, was honored with 23 Scenie Awards. The awards were bestowed in categories that included comedy, drama, thriller, costumes, sound, lighting and direction. The winners are determined by Stage Scene LA, the online publication for Los

Angeles theater that's run by reporter and reviewer Steven Stanley. This year, they celebrated outstanding achievements in Southern California theater based on 154 productions from July 2023 to June 2024.

Next in the Theatre 40 lineup is "Balancing Act," which will open on Aug. 1. The play is written by Emmy award-winning writer Frank Salisbury, who worked on

multiple episodes of "General Hospital" and other daytime television shows. Publicist Philip Sokoloff told the Courier that this past year more tourists than ever attended productions. He looks forward to kicking off the 2024-2025 season with Salisbury's play and welcoming the Los Angeles theater community back in the hopes of receiving more awards next year.

"I'm looking forward to seeing Stage Scene LA come back and cover our coming season, which is full of artistic delights," he said.



Photos for Theatre 40 courtesy of Philip Sokoloff
Theatre 40 won an award for "Production of a Comedy in an Intimate Theater" for their production of "Doris and Ivy in the Home."



Theatre 40 won an award for "Ensemble in a Drama" for the cast who starred in their production of "The Half Light."



ROBBERIES, from page 1
of a Ferrari and a Mercedes Benz, BHPD Lt. Andrew Myers said. As the sergeant approached, the driver of the Mercedes “immediately fled.”

After a collision was reported near La Cienega and Olympic boulevards, officers tried again to stop the vehicle, but a chase ensued, Myers said. The suspect crashed again near Fairfax Avenue and Venice Boulevard, before fleeing on foot and being apprehended a short distance away, Myers added.

The suspect, Jaye Hardin, 19, of Los Angeles, was arrested by Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department officers and booked for

felony hit and run, evading a police officer, obstructing a public officer and robbery.

Although Myers said that police reports indicate Hardin attempted a robbery, he did not provide details, and could not confirm if a weapon was found in the Mercedes.

“It is an active investigation,” Myers said. “My understanding is the driver in the Ferrari felt he was going to be a victim of a robbery.”

Hours later, at approximately 2:55 p.m., at least two armed suspects robbed a driver in the area of Canon Drive and Charleville Avenue, stealing a Rolex watch, a ring and an iPhone before fleeing in a vehicle, according to a BHPD press release.

According to the press release, Hawthorne Police Department officers and an LASD helicopter chased the vehicle through Hawthorne until the suspects ditched the vehicle in the area of 74th and Hoover streets in South Los Angeles.

After fleeing on foot, one suspect was apprehended while another carjacked a victim and drove off before being apprehended as well.

Later, LASD deputies continued to pursue a third suspect, chasing a vehicle and then apprehending the suspect in the 3900 block of Shedd Terrace, Culver City, the BHPD stated.

News reports, however, provided more details, and a surprise ending.

According to City News Service, Henderson drove through downtown L.A.,

Hyde Park and Inglewood before entering Culver City, where he drove on the wrong side of the road and swerved through lanes to avoid deputies and other drivers.

Deputies eventually cornered him on a cul-de-sac in the Blair Hills neighborhood of Culver City, and NBC 4 video footage shows that after Henderson opens the driver door, a woman who appears to be his girlfriend exits from the backseat, holding their baby daughter. Henderson can be seen hugging the woman before surrendering to the authorities.

Henderson was booked for felony evading and seven felony warrants; Semaj Lopez, 24, of L.A., was booked for robbery; and Michael Smith, 19, of Lancaster, was booked for robbery. ●

BOXER CHARGED, from page 5
to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center for evaluation. He is scheduled to be arraigned Aug. 7 at the Airport Branch Courthouse. He faces up to a year in jail if convicted.

“While we are grateful no injuries were reported in this incident, reckless behavior that damages property shows a blatant and unacceptable disregard for the safety and peace of our community,” District Attorney George Gascón said in a statement. “Our office will work to ensure the responsible individual is held accountable.”

Garcia, who was born in Victorville, is 25-1

in his professional career with 20 knockouts. He was the World Boxing Council interim lightweight champion from Jan. 2-May 24, 2021, winning the title when he stopped Luke Campbell in the seventh round, but was stripped of it after withdrawing from a planned title defense against former World Boxing Association super featherweight champion Javier Fortuna to “manage his health and well-being.”

City News Service ●



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Summer Television and It's Ladies' Night— Oh What a Night! (Part One of Two)



Photo courtesy of Apple TV+

The cast of "Land of Women"

BY NEELY SWANSON

The content machine never stops, and this summer is no exception. Get ready for fabulous series premieres with women front and center.

"**Land of Women**," led by the incomparable and unfairly gorgeous Eva Longoria, is a guilty pleasure all the way. You've seen this one before. Beautiful, hard-working woman is deserted by [fill in the blank] husband who absconds with all their cash. But this is 2024 and Gala (Longoria) is not your typical lady in distress.

On the cusp of opening her chic wine store in Manhattan, Gala, a stunning, rich socialite, is in the limo with husband Fred when he suddenly remembers he forgot something and he'll meet her at the store. Gala's gala is a big success but there's no sign of Fred. What there is a sign of is two thugs who pressure her about his whereabouts. He's stiffed their boss of \$15 million, and that just isn't done. If they don't find Fred, they'll come after her, her mother and her daughter.

Terrified, Gala is on the flight side of the fight-or-flight scale and moves to gather up whatever resources she can and skedaddle. Packing up what little of value is left, she drives to her mother's retirement home. Julia (Carmen Maura, one of Pedro Almodóvar's muses) is an expert con woman; she's got a million scams going and doesn't want to leave. She's also on the slow descent into dementia, so she remembers little of what has just been said. Off they go. Next stop, pick up daughter Kate at college. Kate (Victoria Bazua) is having a grand old time

with her girlfriend and wants to stay put. Gala thinks quickly and whispers to Kate that Julia is dying and this is a last girls' trip to Julia's village in Spain.

One step ahead of the bad guys, they make it to the tiny, middle of nowhere village, but not until Gala creates an international incident with her reckless driving, upending a tractor pulling the town's harvest. Gala's natural elitism kicks in and she makes things worse for all of them and then has to eat a fair dose of humble pie when they are forced to hitch a ride with tractor driver Amat (Santiago Cabrera) into town. He tries to direct them to a B&B in the next village, but she's having none of that. Her mother owns a house in town, or at least she shares ownership with her sister, and that is where they'll be staying. But they haven't hit rock bottom yet. They discover that the house they thought was hers now belongs to Amat, who bought it from Julia's sister, the aunt Gala didn't know she had.

So there you have it, damsel on the run, duplicitous missing husband, chased by bad guys and runs into (literally and figuratively) an incredibly handsome man who she repeatedly alienates in the tiny village where she should be keeping a low profile. The characters, situation and premise are all there, right in the first episode, with each subsequent episode full of surprises. This is a trip you definitely want to take. Every subsequent episode brings with it new and interesting twists, each of which, if mentioned, would be a spoiler. So my advice is, watch this show.

In Spanish and English with English subtitles.

Now playing on Apple TV+ with new episodes dropping on Wednesdays.

"**Mastermind: To Think Like a Killer**" is a three-part documentary series about someone you have probably never heard of. Ann Burgess, Ph.D., psychiatric nursing professor and prolific author, is an unintentional superstar and groundbreaker. Her book entitled "Rape: Victims of Crisis," published in 1974, looked at rape from the standpoint of the victims, an unusual perspective at a time when most victims were blamed for the attacks, either because they dressed provocatively, walked alone at night or traveled in bad company. The courts allowed victim shaming and police often didn't treat rape as a crime. Burgess' book began to change that perspective because soon the FBI came calling. They were interested in her approach of looking not just at the crime but also at the victim. She gave seminars to agents, trying to change their mindset. Law enforcement officers, the majority of whom were men, needed to understand the severity of this crime from the victim's standpoint. Her presentations, enhanced

with graphic visual evidence, started to do just that.

In her long study, she was able to discover general patterns of behavior by rapists and this was immediately applicable to the work of the nascent Behavioral Science Unit (BSU) at the FBI headed by John Douglas and Robert Ressler. Ressler recognized that Burgess' methods of analysis and the patterns she saw could apply to the interviews they wanted to conduct with serial killers. She eventually became part of the interview team and spearheaded the team's outreach. Her analysis of patterned behavior was instrumental to the new art of profiling criminal behavior. She and the members of the BSU knew they needed to teach profiling techniques to a wider base of law enforcement. And yet, as fundamental to their work as she was, she was never an acknowledged part of the team. She continued because the work was important and a great deal of profiling methodology was thanks to her.

The excellent Netflix series, "**Mindhunter**" explores the FBI's BSU and the profilers who changed the hunt for serial killers. In the second season a woman, Wendy Carr, a Ph.D. in psychology, is introduced to aid in their interviews. Although the names were changed for this docudrama, their real-world counterparts were John Douglas (Holden Ford played by Jonathan Groff), Rob Ressler (Bill Tench played by Holt McCallany) and Wendy Carr (Ann Burgess played by Anna Torv). "Mastermind," an actual documentary, is an excellent counterpart to the "Mindhunter" docudrama. I found myself asking, however, why the writers of "Mindhunter" portrayed the Ressler and Douglas characters so close to their real-life personae but found it necessary to make the Burgess counterpart a confrontational psychologist who was often in conflict with "the boys." Nothing could have been farther from the truth, a blot on this otherwise outstanding docudrama series.

While working with the FBI in Quantico, VA., Burgess wrote prolifically on the subject of rape, victimology and homicide. "Mastermind" is a thrilling, must-see series with a down-to-earth relatable protagonist who is, in reality, larger than life. And as a final note, this 87-year-old superstar continues to teach at Boston College.

Now playing on Hulu. ●



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.

Exploring Novel Devices for Optimal Mental Health

BY EVA RITVO, M.D.

It is fascinating to think how far we have come since Socrates in the 4th century BC said, “know thyself.” In recent years, there has been a rapid proliferation of at-home devices that give us feedback about various biological processes occurring in our body in real time. We can now monitor our heart rate, oxygen saturation, sleep, EEG, blood glucose, muscle tension and more. We can use this information to see when we are falling out of our optimal state of well-being and identify daily stressors such as fatigue, dehydration or hunger that can be remedied.

Mike Dannheim, founder and CEO of the Sensie app and an expert in the consumer technology and wellness field, offers the following perspective: “These moments of anxiety or stress carry a gift and when we learn to embrace them and to look at them, our lives take on a whole new meaning. These signals are coming from us, by us, to guide us. Technology is helping us identify these sources of stress early on so they don’t become ingrained patterns of behavior or disease, and we can stay well. We are becoming increasingly aware of how much our whole body is part of mental health and these tools are giving us new ways of looking at the mind-body connection.”

We all know our biology affects our psychology. Think “Hangry.” If we properly identify the source, we can fix the problem rapidly with a snack. If we think our partner/boss/child is the issue, we can go far down the wrong rabbit hole and find it difficult to climb out.

Devices are also being designed to help us directly improve our mental state by providing immediate intervention. They can be used at home or on the go to reduce anxieties that have not yet progressed to disease states by stimulating the vagal nerves. These nerves make up our parasympathetic nervous system (PSNS), the calming part of our nervous system that allows us to “rest and digest” or “tend and befriend.” The PSNS counteracts our sympathetic nervous system (SNS) our “fight or flight” response which for many of us is in overdrive. Other devices provide calm-inducing vibrations or sounds, which work to alter your body on a cellular level and or alter your energy field.

Here are a few of the most popular monitoring devices designed to enhance mental health:

1. The Oura Ring ([ouraring.com](https://www.ouraring.com)) is a sleep and activity tracker that provides insights into sleep quality, recovery and overall health. It measures various physiological signals, including heart rate variability, body temperature and respiratory rate, to provide a comprehensive picture of the user's sleep patterns and readiness for the day ahead. Similar devices designed as wristbands include Whoop ([Whoop.com](https://www.whoop.com)), Apple Watch ([apple.com](https://www.apple.com)), Garmin ([Garmin.com](https://www.garmin.com)) and Fitbit ([fitbit.com](https://www.fitbit.com)). If you prefer a non-wearable device to monitor your sleep, Withings ([withings.com](https://www.withings.com)) products slide

under your mattress and allows you to see data on your smartphone or computer. As we know, sleep is the base of the wellness pyramid so correcting your sleep is key to mental well-being and is a good entry point for many exploring this new landscape. In the case of sleep trackers, Dr. Avinesh Bhar, founding sleep physician at SLIIP, reminds us that addressing restless sleep, reduced deep/REM sleep (common outputs seen with sleep trackers) is key to improving symptoms of depression and/or anxiety and often require medical interventions.

2. Hexoskin ([hexoskin.com](https://www.hexoskin.com)) smart shirts allow continuous cardiac, respiratory and activity monitoring and can be used for sleep or during the day. It is available to anyone and is being used by high level athletes, first responder and military personnel to help them manage stressful situations more effectively and build resiliency.

3. HeartMath ([heartmath.com](https://www.heartmath.com)) allows users to wear a heart rate monitor and see their heart rate in real-time. They train users to understand what a healthy coherent heart rate looks like versus an incoherent rate, and they provide online education to teach users how to control their heart rate.

4. Lief Therapeutics ([getlief.com](https://www.getlief.com)) offers a wearable device that tracks heart rate variability (HRV), a measure of the body's ability to respond to stress. The device provides real-time feedback on the user's stress levels. They offer guided breathing exercises to help users regain a sense of calm. The user can look at times of their day when HRV spikes and work to prevent that in the future days.

5. Sensie ([joinsensie.com](https://www.joininsensie.com)) is an AI app that uses advanced sensors in your smartphone to identify blind spots, self-process them and measure resilience. It is an innovative tool to measure the user's mental wellness by accessing data directly from the cerebellum via movement.

6. Muse ([choosemuse.com](https://www.choosemuse.com)) is a headband that uses electroencephalography (EEG) technology to measure brain activity during meditation sessions. It provides real-time feedback on the user's level of focus and calmness, helping them develop a more effective meditation practice.

7. Thyself ([Thyself.ai](https://www.thyself.ai)) listens to your voice on your computer and giving you real-time feedback on your level of stress based on tonality. While they are not therapists, they describe themselves as “emotional work companions”.

Devices that deliver direct therapeutic effects include the following:

1. Apollo Neuro ([apolloneuro.com](https://www.apolloneuro.com)) is a wearable band that delivers gentle soothing vibrations to help you recover from stress. It is worn on the wrist or ankle and delivers precise patterns of vibration that are designed to promote relaxation and improve sleep, focus, and overall well-being. The inventors describe it as “a wearable hug for your nervous system that uses silent, soothing vibrations to rebalance your body and mind.”

2. TouchPoint ([thetouchpointsolution.com](https://www.thetouchpointsolution.com)) provides similar devices that can be



Photo by Matthew Bielamowicz

An array of devices can provide us with real-time feedback.

placed on the shoulder, wrists, pockets or in socks and uses on the left and right side of the body and provides alternating vibrations to help decrease stress and anxiety.

3. Truvaga ([truvaga.com](https://www.truvaga.com)) is a handheld device that users can place on their neck to stimulate the vagus nerve and induce a calmer state. Our vagus nerve travels close to the surface of our neck so can be easily stimulated there.

4. Pulsetto ([pulsetto.tech](https://www.pulsetto.tech)) is a similar device you can wear around your neck. It also works by sending electrical impulses to your vagus nerve.

5. Sensate ([getsensate.com](https://www.getsensate.com)) provides a wearable necklace and earphones. It provides soft vibrations to the chest while the user listens to soundscapes providing an immersive experience.

6. Huso ([thisishuso.com](https://www.thisishuso.com)) delivers enhanced human toning sounds through headphones as well as pads placed on major acupuncture meridians. They use specific modulated frequencies that are balancing and harmonizing throughout the body.

While these wearable devices and apps show promise in supporting mental health, it's important to note that they should not be considered a substitute for professional medical treatment or therapy. For many, when used in conjunction with traditional interventions, they can provide valuable insights, promote self-awareness and possibly deliver quick short-term relief.

Some credit the devices with allowing

for detection of disease more rapidly like a 50-year-old woman who was wearing the Oura Ring and discovered a rapid heart during her sleep. She brought the data to her internist who ordered further testing, which diagnosed her thyroid disease. Many athletes like Matthew Bielamowicz, an avid climber, says, “I love my smartwatch and can’t imagine my life without it. I bring it on adventures all over the world to track my sleep, heart rate and recovery-including up to 18,500 feet of elevation above Everest Base Camp.” His mother adds that she is also grateful for the geo-tracking abilities as that helps decrease her anxiety.

With any technology, not everyone finds them useful or enjoyable. A friend humorously quipped, “I used a sleep app for a while, but it made me so upset when I didn’t get at least seven hours. If I was short by one minute, I would feel like I hadn’t slept at all. So, I decided it was making me nutty(er).” Concerns around data privacy and security should also be carefully considered when using wearable technology or apps for health monitoring.

As this technology continues to evolve, it is likely to play an increasingly important role in promoting accessible and personalized health care. Socrates also said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” It is up to each of us to discover for ourselves what that means in our modern and rapidly changing world. ●



Beverly Hills Courier columnist Dr. Eva Ritvo is a psychiatrist with more than 30 years’ experience practicing in Miami Beach. She is the author of “Bekindr-The Transformative Power of Kindness” and the founder of the Bekindr Global Initiative, a movement to bring more kindness in the world. She is the co-author of “The Beauty Prescription” and “The Concise Guide to Marriage and Family Therapy.” She is also the co-founder of the Bold Beauty Project, a nonprofit that pairs women with disabilities with award-winning photographers creating art exhibitions to raise awareness. Dr. Ritvo received her undergraduate and medical degrees from UCLA, and psychiatry residency training at Weill Cornell Medicine.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, August 8, 2024
TIME: 1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard
LOCATION: Meeting will be held in person at:
 Commission Meeting Room 280A
 Beverly Hills City Hall
 455 North Rexford Drive
 Beverly Hills, CA 90210
 Members of the public may also participate via teleconference;
 Details provided below

PROJECT ADDRESS: Citywide

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at a **REGULAR** meeting on **August 8, 2024**, will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider:

A DRAFT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU) REGULATIONS TO UPDATE MULTI-FAMILY STANDARDS AND ALLOW ONE ADDITIONAL DEED-RESTRICTED RENTAL ADU ON SINGLE-FAMILY PROPERTIES WITH A LOT AREA OF 13,000 SQUARE FEET OR GREATER, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

Staff requests the Planning Commission's feedback and direction on the following potential changes to ADU regulations consistent with Housing Element Implementation Program 10.4:

Multi-Family ADU Discussion

The City recently updated its multi-family ADU regulations (Beverly Hills Municipal Code §10-3-5001) to comply with minimum state law standards. To further achieve Housing Element goals, the Planning Commission will discuss potential amendments to incentivize multi-family ADU development, including, but not limited to:

- Removing barriers to constructing ADUs above existing garages; and
- Increasing flexibility for development standards such as:
 - o Height;
 - o Floor area; and
 - o Setbacks.

Single-Family ADU Discussion

The Housing Element requires the City to allow an additional ADU beyond state law requirements on single-family properties with a lot area of 13,000 square feet or greater, with at least one ADU deed-restricted as a rental unit. The purpose of this discussion item is to inform the Planning Commission of the required changes and initiate the necessary code amendments.

No new regulations will be adopted at this study session. If the Planning Commission wishes to move forward with the proposed changes to ADU regulations, staff will recommend that this item be continued to a specified future Commission meeting. Following the Planning Commission's review and recommendation, the draft ordinance will be considered for adoption by the City Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This ordinance has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. Staff anticipates that the Planning Commission will find the ordinance to be within the scope of and consistent with the Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Amendments to the Adopted 2021- 2029 City of Beverly Hills Housing Element (State Clearinghouse No. 2021090102), which was certified by the City Council on March 18, 2024. Furthermore, the ordinance is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to §15282(h) of the CEQA Guidelines and §21080.17 of the California Public Resources Code. These sections specify that the adoption of an ordinance regarding ADUs to implement the provisions of Government Code §65852.1 and §65852.2 is exempt from CEQA requirements.

How to Participate

In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate in, watch, or listen to the commission meetings through the following methods:

- **In Person:** Submit a speaker card to the Recording Secretary at the meeting.
- **Oral Comment:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 1 when prompted. You will be placed on a brief hold, and called upon to make a comment at the appropriate time.
- **Video Comment:** <https://beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/my/bevpublic>, enter passcode: 90210 when prompted.
- **Written Comment:** Email commentPC@beverlyhills.org
- **Audio Only:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 2 when prompted.
- **Watch LIVE:** BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable or www.beverlyhills.org/watchlive

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 11:30 AM on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the Planning Commission. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item number or topic in the subject line of the email.

In order to be read at the meeting, written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately three (3) minutes of speaking time. If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record.

Any written comments received by end of the day on Wednesday, July 31 2024 will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Wednesday, July 31, 2024, but prior the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission under separate cover.

According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Patrick Achis, Associate Planner** in the Planning Division at (310) 285-1129, or by email at pachis@beverlyhills.org. Copies of the project materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

Sincerely:
 Patrick Achis, Associate Planner



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please contact (310) 285-1126 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY) prior to the meeting for assistance. Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.

JR. FIREFIGHTER CAMP, from page 5
 future," BHFD Chief Gregory Barton told the Courier. He explained that past campers have gone on to get their EMT licenses and work at private ambulance companies. The camp is open to ages 10 through 15, so it's a great place for young people to discover a future career goal. And no matter what they end up pursuing later in life, the CPR and first aid training provide them with valuable skills that they can take with them anywhere.

Each day of the week-long program, this year's 30 campers have learned different firefighter jobs. Firefighter Paramedic Jimmy Weinstein leads the camp, helping participants learn by example. On day one, the attendees were initiated with a tour of the fire station and a fire engine orientation before they learned about fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, exit drills and fire prevention. Basic medical training took place on day two. On day three, the campers were able to handle a heavy fire hose, practice spraying water and attempt to run with it, giving them a better idea of what it takes to put out a fire. The firefighters rewarded campers by spraying them with a low-pressure hose to cool off after a hot day of activities. On day four, they learned about ladders, sawed through metal, held the jaws of life and toured a ladder truck. On the last day, the campers will get to go on a ride in the fire engine before heading back to the station for a graduation ceremony.

This year, campers enjoyed the focus on medical training, where they got to use real EMT equipment. "Education is a big thing for us and then their safety as well," Weinstein told the Courier. "We have some awesome equipment that we're allowing them to use, and they're having an awesome time."

Emily Moffit Fialho, a mom of Horace Mann Elementary School 5th grader Lara, described how much her daughter has already learned from the camp. Fialho enrolled her daughter in the Jr. Firefighter Camp so that she could learn about all the different duties involved in firefighting, since, as she explained, there is so much more they do than fighting fires. She also wanted them to learn CPR and first aid basics. "This camp has allowed for camaraderie and cooperation while having fun and learning vital emergency information," she told the Courier. "[On July 16] Lara came home in a leg cast, an arm splint and EKG nodes still on from a first aid training exercise and was so jazzed to have learned how to use them and how everything worked. [The campers] felt empowered this week and I bet they'll want to continue next year."

As Weinstein told the Courier, Jr. Firefighter Camp took place for a few summers before the COVID-19 pandemic caused it to go on hiatus. In 2023, BHFD decided to bring it back, and due to high demand, they increased the number of slots from 25 to 30 in 2024. "I think the kids can be more engaged and they like getting out and doing all the physical activity," said Weinstein. "I think we've got a good group of kids that want to be active or want to be out there and understand what it takes to be a firefighter— what firefighters do, and paramedics do." As he explained, the firefighters enjoy the camp just as much as the kids do. "These are firefighters that are taking time out of their day from going home to their kids and their families to help teach these kids and the youth here in our community what we do," he told the Courier. Because of popular demand, the camp is now being held annually, and Weinstein said he would love to expand it to allow even more participants in the future. ●

BEVERLY HILLS

VIRTUAL-ONLY

MULTI-FAMILY ADU COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Join Beverly Hills planners for an interactive virtual workshop to discuss potential changes to the multi-family accessory dwelling unit (ADU) regulations. Share your perspective on key standards such as height, floor area, and more. Your participation will be valuable community feedback for our Planning Commission and City Council. This session contains the same information presented in the July 8 in-person workshop.

WORKSHOP DETAILS

Date: **WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024** | Time: **3 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

Location: Virtual participation via Zoom

Access the webinar: <http://www.beverlyhills.org/CDO Outreach>

- o Password: 90210
- o Phone: (833) 548-0276
- o Meeting ID: 844 6491 8768

The workshop concludes with a live Q&A session led by City staff.

✉ For further questions, please contact longrange@beverlyhills.org.

Scan the QR code or visit beverlyhills.org/adu to participate in the City's community survey on multi-family ADUs.

PAVILIONS, from page 4

longer subject to the Builders Remedy. At this time, it's unclear whether the proposed redevelopment plan is able to move forward or how it would be impacted by the pending Pavilions sale.

The sales of all 579 stores are contingent on the FTC approving the deal as part of Kroger's bid to purchase Albertsons.

The FTC filed its lawsuit to block the merger in February and an administrative hearing by the FTC is scheduled to start July 31.

The proposed merger represents approximately 20% of the U.S. grocery market and would affect one out of six grocery laborers if approved, according to statistics from USDA and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In a press release issued after the lawsuit was filed Henry Liu, Director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition, expressed his concerns about the merger, which comes on the heels of an already significant rise in the cost of groceries nationwide.

"Kroger's acquisition of Albertsons would lead to additional grocery price hikes for everyday goods, further exacerbating the financial strain consumers across the country face today," said Liu. "Essential grocery store workers would also suffer under this deal, facing the threat of their wages dwindling, benefits diminishing, and their working conditions deteriorating."

Kroger, for its part, has said the merger is necessary to allow it to compete with non-unionized discount groceries like

Costco and Walmart. In a statement issued in April, Kroger Chairman and CEO Rodney McMullen said that the proposed deal to sell off stores will address the concerns raised by federal regulators.

"We have reached an agreement with C&S for an updated divestiture package that maintains Kroger's commitments to customers, associates and communities, addresses concerns raised by regulators, and will further ensure that C&S can successfully operate the divested stores as they are operated today," McMullen said, adding that all "frontline associates" at divested stores will retain their jobs and benefits.

"Our proposed merger with Albertsons will bring lower prices and more choices to more customers and secure the long-term future of unionized grocery jobs," he continued.

Meanwhile, many grocery union members have continued to voice their concerns about the merger, regardless of the proposed deal to sell off stores.

Five United Food and Commercial Workers Union locals, including two California chapters of the UFCW union 324 and 770 released a statement last week in opposition to the merger.

"We remain focused on stopping the proposed mega-merger for the same reasons we have stated since it was first announced over 20 months ago—because we know it would harm workers, it would harm shoppers, it would harm suppliers and communities, and it is illegal," stated the union locals. ●

PLANNING COMMISSION, from page 4
great opportunity for potential applicants to speak with HouseKeys and see what the options are if they need help or assistance."

When it comes to prioritization, Beverly Hills prioritizes households of senior citizens more than other cities in the Los Angeles area. Currently, every placement in the city's affordable housing units is a senior. "I think generally the priority occupancy lists are usually developed to prioritize households where the city sees there's a specific need for housing for that type of household," said Senior Planner Chloe Chen, adding that this played a role in developing the current priority list in 2019. "We do recognize that there is a larger senior population within the city, and we'd like to provide that option."

The city also prioritizes households with students in the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD), if the student is in 10th grade or below. Because it can take several years to receive housing, a student above 10th grade may no longer be attending a BHUSD school by the time the family is approved for or granted affordable housing, as Vice Chair Jeff Wolfe explained. The commission agreed to keep these households on the priority list, which they condensed to be clearer for applicants. All their recommendations will be shared at the next City Council meeting for approval.

Later at the meeting, the commission reviewed a request for a permit for the construction of a five-story, nine-unit multi-family residential apartment building on

232 South Doheny Drive. The construction would replace an existing single-family home and include eight market-rate units plus one affordable unit for a very-low-income household. However, despite the addition of an affordable housing unit, residents expressed concerns over changes to their neighborhood. A letter from Sami and Lauren Ibrahim described concerns about less available street parking and an increase in trash left in alleyways. However, real estate lawyer Murray Fischer reassured the commission that the developers have taken waste management into consideration and their intention with this project is to improve quality of life in the neighborhood.

The commissioners were not concerned about the developers' ability to ensure proper waste management and parking. After some negotiation about details of the proposed building, including the layout of certain balconies, the request for a permit to begin construction with a 50% density bonus permit was unanimously approved among the three commissioners in attendance, Demeter, Vice Chair Jeff Wolfe and Chair Terri Kaplan. Commissioners Gary Ross and Lou Milkowski were not present at the meeting.

"We did hear the residents who wrote us. And we do know that there are changes," said Demeter. "And with the times, and with the different regulations that we have to follow coming from the state, we have certain flexibility—very, very, very little—but we do try to understand." ●

Milkowski Recognized for Service to City



At its July 16 regular meeting, the Beverly Hills City Council honored Lou Milkowski with a plaque commemorating his "distinguished and devoted" public service as a member of the Rent Stabilization Commission from 2020-2023. Milkowski also received a formal certificate welcoming him to the Planning Commission, which he has served on since earlier this year.

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Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Fully aware that the people around you will rub off on you in some way or another, you're very careful about your company, seeking the audience of those you admire. You'll be welcomed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Life is nuance, and people are complex. You'll watch loved ones closely, and their unpredictable behavior will intrigue you. You'll see uncommon beauty in common things, and this is your superpower and a daily practice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You seek and find the truth today. Your objective eye will help those you share it with, as long as they are people who have asked for it. Of course, there are many who don't want the truth, but they might want it later, so log your thoughts.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). We are not born knowing how to see. At first everything blurs together, then there are delineations, and later names for separate objects. You continue to find new ways of viewing the world, evidenced by today's insights.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The truth can be delivered and taken in different concentrations and some of them are laughter-inducing. There are certain instances when seriousness is the only appropriate tone, but they are few and far between.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Legacy is tricky in a sense. Someone learning about a legacy often gets the whole picture at once, so it's condensed and impressive. But someone building a legacy does this through small daily actions and interactions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To fight the flow of life is to struggle against something much bigger than any individual. Even so, there's no reason to agree to everything life offers. Today you'll dodge in and out of the currents to find the one that's moving in your preferred direction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are many things that can restore you when you need it -- a serene walk, a heart-fortifying phone call, or just a nap. Taking time to recharge will make all the difference in your energy, attitude and mood.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's one of those days when your mind seems to have a mind of its own. Don't

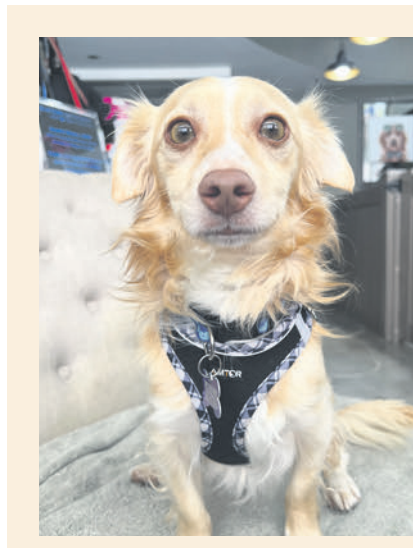
blame it for wandering off from the task at hand. It's simply trying to find greener pastures, and maybe you should follow it to them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You feel like you already know enough to execute the task, and you're right. Even though you don't want or need anyone to tell you what to do next, it will still be wise to collaborate, if only because it will be more fun.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your senses will be left wanting, and that's

a good thing. It gets you in touch with your appetites, which help you figure out what you need or how you can best contribute to your own happiness and well-being.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When people use words like "transparency," "authenticity" and "integrity" a little too often, it makes you nervous. You're correct to be suspicious. It's like saying, "Trust me." It's something the trustworthy usually don't think to say.



This is Biscotti, the featured adoptable dog of the week. He is a 3-year-old, 10-pound Papillon mix in search of a new family. To inquire about Biscotti, please contact Kim Sill at Shelter of Hope at 310-770-3571.

shelterhopepetshop.org



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DR. AMANDA STERN, from page 1

a master's degree in human development from Harvard and a doctorate in school development from the University of New England before moving to Beverly Hills in 2004.

An author and school psychologist, Stern also runs a private practice administering student disability assessments, and she said that interacting with students across the Los Angeles area has allowed her to see "the larger picture" of how policies, finances and district resources all impact classroom learning.

"I am very much aware of how the guiding philosophies behind an educational environment or school district ... reach our students, and it's very important to set the standards high and to continue to understand how different problems of modern living are always ... impacting our learners and our families," Stern said.

If elected to a second term, Stern said she would continue to take a "30,000-foot view" of how the district operates.

"We are moving [toward] a great place, but we still need to continue to look at the whole environment in its totality," Stern said. "Every single part plays a role in our ultimate vision, and that is educational excellence."

For most of her first term, Stern worked with her board colleagues to navigate the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and oversee the ongoing construction projects. And while the district continues to recover from the pandemic and the board provides construction oversight, Stern wants to take a closer look at other initiatives, including boosting math achievement, she said.

Stern wants to foster professional development opportunities around math, and work with parents and students to drive home how important basic math concepts are to STEM careers, she said. She also wants to keep a close eye on the district's mental health resources, and make sure "they are

being used in the most efficient and efficacious manner," she said.

Many of the problems facing BHUSD are affecting school districts nationwide, including declining enrollment, Stern said. Enrollment stabilized in 2023/24 after years of decline, and though Stern expects the trend to continue next year, she hopes to see the numbers rise.

Housing affordability continues to prevent new families from moving into the district, and the city's private schools attract families who would otherwise enroll in BHUSD, she said. In light of these challenges, it is crucial to highlight the district's strengths, she said.

"We have so much to offer, and we just have to continue to analyze how we can make our school district visible to everyone, so that they understand that even though it's difficult to perhaps secure housing in this district ... the benefits outweigh some of those difficulties," Stern said.

Chronic absenteeism is another nationwide problem that Stern wants to tackle, she said. Though it's hard to pinpoint what exactly caused this problem, it accelerated during the pandemic, and schools can combat it by being more imaginative with how students learn, Stern said.

"We're going to look at flexible ways to really keep children engaged and learning and motivated, to guide themselves and be organized and succeed in ways that they want to succeed," Stern said.

Just as the pandemic largely defined Stern's first term, it also defined her campaign, forcing her to get out the vote online. This time around, Stern is eager to meet the community in person, and she is excited to launch her campaign.

"I just have been speaking to my supporters, and soon we'll get some information out about some exciting events," she said. ●

POWER OUTAGES, from page 1

Lester Friedman and Councilmember Craig Corman had with representatives from Southern California Edison (SCE) last week.

According to Epstein, the first outage began at 8 a.m. on July 3 and affected 1400 customers, the majority of whom had their power restored by 11:40 a.m. It was caused by a failed piece of equipment in an underground vault for the Playboy electrical circuit, Epstein reported.

Another outage took place later that day due to a bad underground cable in the vaults of the Hilton electrical circuit. In this case, 1,000 customers experienced an approximate 12-hour power outage beginning at 10:50 p.m., while a handful of customers experienced a 26-hour outage.

"The Hilton circuit was a much more significant outage and what really took long for this [to be repaired] was the fact that the vaults that they needed to go fix were submerged with water, so they needed to take the time to extract the water before they could do the work," she said.

In the meeting with SCE, councilmembers and city staff learned that SCE does not have a system for tracking the age of its equipment.

"One of the most revealing things, at least for me, was the fact that they don't have a replacement program for aging infrastructure, and that's not just in Beverly Hills, that's systemwide," said Friedman.

Corman concurred with this concern and expressed a desire to work with SCE to develop a better way to preempt when equipment needs upgrades.

"If we could ever get them to do a proactive program of replacing aging equipment on a progressive basis, that would be desirable," he said. "Whether we have the ability to get them to do that is another issue."

Two other possible solutions discussed were to create an above-ground vault for the Hilton electrical circuit and to add an

additional circuit to the electrical system running from SCE's Beverly substation. Councilmembers expressed their support for both ideas.

An above-ground vault wouldn't necessarily prevent future outages, but it would allow power to be restored in a timelier manner as groundwater would no longer need to be drained before maintenance is performed.

The addition of an extra electrical circuit could help prevent future outages by providing an alternative source of electricity to customers when another circuit encounters an issue.

SCE has not committed to installing this additional circuit, but representatives told the city that the company is currently exploring the idea. If the project goes forward it will not be completed until 2027.

The ongoing challenge the council faces in addressing these outages is that SCE holds control over the running of the city's electrical grid. Council has repeatedly put pressure on SCE to address failures in the city and members reiterated their commitment to doing so in Tuesday's meeting.

"I think one thing that is for certain is we must keep the lines of communication open and keep the pressure on, because it does seem like keeping that focus is, right now, the best tool we have," said Councilmember Mary Wells.

Previous outreach efforts by the city have prompted SCE to install more tie lines, which connect electrical circuits and spread power across a greater area. Since then, the Trousdale Estates has seen a decrease in the frequency of outages.

In 2023, former Mayor Dr. Julian Gold created the Mayor's Citywide Electrical Resilience Ad Hoc Committee to explore ways to improve the city's electrical infrastructure and create more electrical independence. Friedman has committed to continuing this work throughout his term. ●



Photo by Bianca Heyward

The former home at 1001 N. Roxbury Drive

ROXBURY DRIVE, from page 1

Wells were not in favor of "calling up" the Planning Commission's decision before hearing the appeal, Councilmembers John Mirisch and Craig Corman said the council should look closer at the project's merits because the property has such rich cultural value.

The property was formerly home to a regency revival house built in 1941 by master architect Carleton Burgess, and it was demolished in 2022 after a heated public campaign to save the historic residence.

StubHub Co-Founder Eric Baker purchased the home for more than \$39 million in 2020, and in 2021, Baker requested that the city issue a certificate of ineligibility, certifying that the home does not have historic value and paving the way for it to be raised.

Corman, who served on the Planning Commission before being elected to the council, said the council should be careful about reviewing commission decisions, which can erode the public's trust in commissions. He also noted that the property owner has claimed

there is no need for the council to call up the matter because of the pending appeal.

"I believe our decision to call up a matter is not dependent on the existence or absence of an appeal petition," Corman said. "It should be decided on the facts, and in particular on whether we either wonder whether an error might have been made, or whether the matter in question has such special importance to the entire community that the community should be given every opportunity to weigh in."

He recognized that while only two community members spoke during the study session and during the June 26 Planning Commission meeting where the tree removal was approved, items frequently attract more public comment when they move from a commission to the council's formal agenda, and he has already received multiple calls about the tree removal.

"For all these reasons, I would call up the tree removal permit decision, and furthermore, I believe we should assiduously vet every aspect of the project as it moves forward," Corman said.

Mirisch, who asked to discuss the matter during the study session, seconded Corman's statements, and said that as a matter of principle, he believes the council must approve a project before approving the removal of trees on the property.

In 2022, Mirisch was the sole councilmember to dissent from a council decision affirming that the regency revival house was not historic.

Ellis Raskin, attorney for Maple Leaf Ventures, agreed that the matter should be called up by the council. He said that the city has lost substantial portions of its urban forest in recent years, and the project, which calls for replacement trees that would take decades to mature, "is a significant loss on the community and city."

Raskin declined to identify the owners of Maple Leaf Ventures.

Nazarian encouraged the property owners to find a solution that reflects the community's concerns, but at the end of the day, she said it's their property and they should be allowed to build accordingly.

"I support and appreciate these incredibly amazing trees," Nazarian said. "I'd like to see the largest possible trees be replaced instead of them, and I know that there are steps being taken for that."

Friedman added that he is "loathe" to call up a Planning Commission decision that was unanimously approved, and said the appeal renders the issue basically moot.

The appeal decision is scheduled for Sept. 10. ●

Public Notices

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SUMMONS (CITATION JUDICIAL) CASE NO: 23SMCV00763

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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

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.

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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

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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 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)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF CARA WILLIAMS D.O.B 06/25/1925

Notice To Creditors, the decedent, CARA WILLIAMS, who lived at 312 S. Rexford Drive, #1, Beverly Hills, CA 90212 died 12/09/2021.

All Creditors and contingent creditors of the above-named decedent, are notified that all persons having claims against the decedent are forever barred unless presented to the Superior Court, at 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or to Michael Malak, 1500 Fathom Drive, Oxnard, CA 93035 proposed personal representative or both the probate court and the personal representative within the later of four months after the date of publication of this notice.

A claim form may be obtained from the court clerk. For your protection, you are encouraged to file your claim by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Attorney For Estate: Michael Malak,
1500 Fathom Drive, Oxnard, CA 93035

BHC Publish Dates: 07/19/24, 07/26/24, 08/02/24

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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

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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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 20241433258 The following is/are doing business as: **1) WORLD'S FAIR COMMUNICATIONS 2) WORLD'S FAIR COMMS 273 S. Spalding Dr. Beverly Hills, CA 90212;** WORLD'S FAIR COMMUNICATIONS, LLC 273 S. Spalding Dr. Beverly Hills, CA 90212; The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on JUNE 2024: **World's Fair Communications, LLC., Craig Radow, Managing Member;** Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: July 5, 2024; Published: July 19, 26, August 2, 9, 2024 LACC N/C

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).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

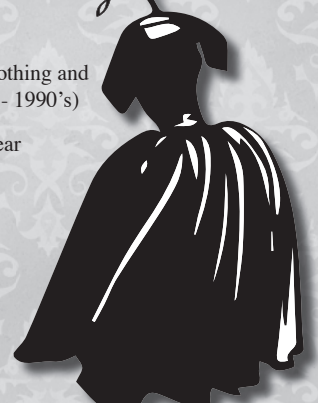
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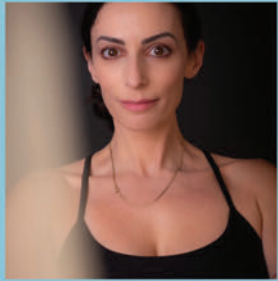
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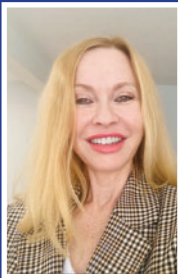
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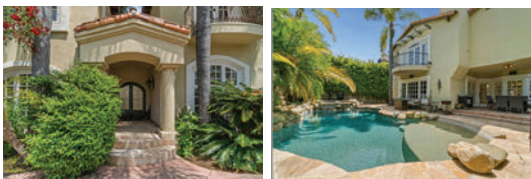
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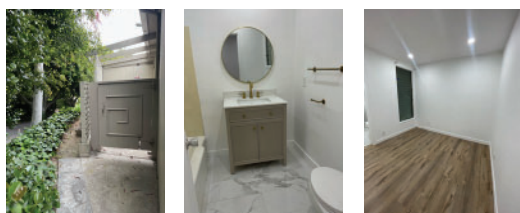
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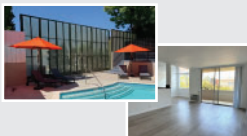
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2 BDRM + 2 BA.



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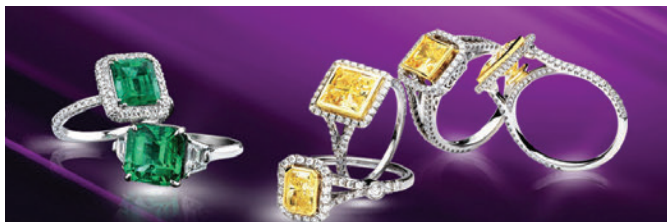
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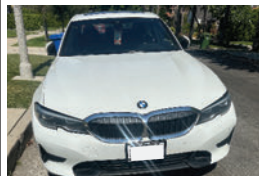
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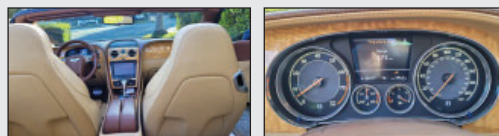
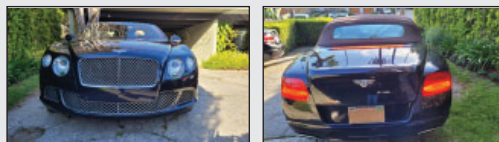
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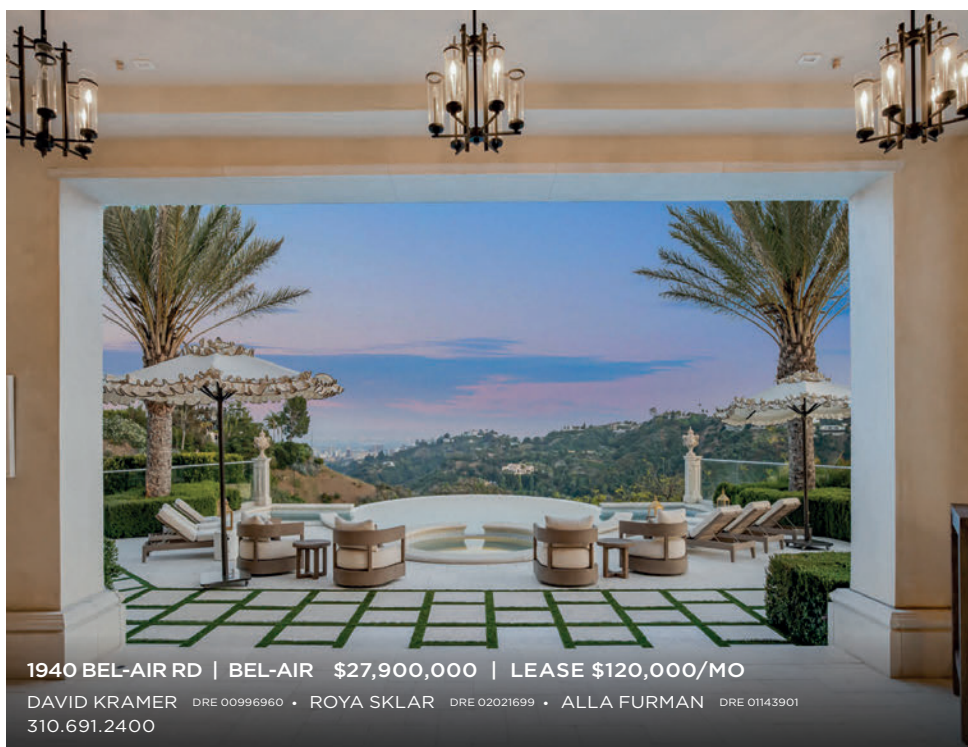
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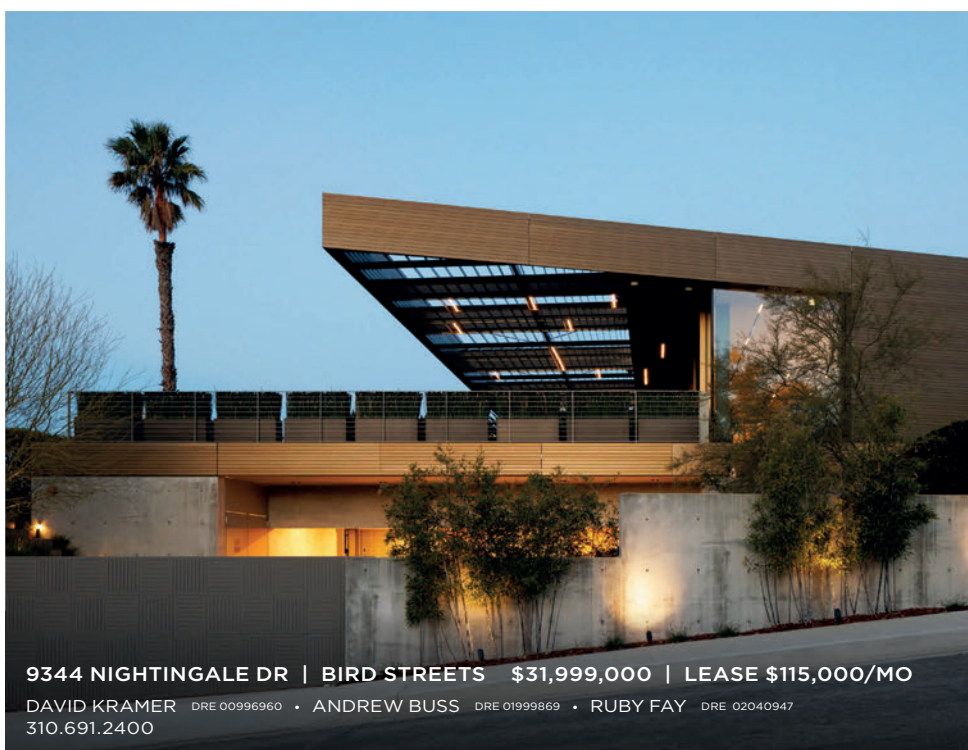
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