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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

☁️ Friday	79°   65°
☀️ Saturday	84°   67°
☁️ Sunday	83°   66°
☀️ Monday	81°   64°
☁️ Tuesday	81°   64°
☀️ Wednesday	82°   63°
☀️ Thursday	81°   63°

## BHPD Celebrates National Night Out



Photo by John Bendheim

National Night Out on Aug. 6 was a big success.

BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

On Aug. 6, residents gathered for National Night Out on a warm, breezy Beverly Hills evening on Rexford Drive, cast in the setting sun's golden glow. The Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) hosted the event to educate the community about the work they do to combat crime through different divisions of the department such as the Special

Weapons and the K-9 Units. This was also an opportunity for residents to learn about other programs in the city such as the Beverly Hills Education Foundation (BHEF), City Planners and Just in Case BH. But perhaps most importantly, it was a chance for the community to gather outside, enjoy food and family fun, and spend time together.

"National Night Out is a national See NATIONAL NIGHT OUT, page 15

## Two Suspects At Large After Beverly Wilshire Armed Robbery

BY JOEY WALDINGER

Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) officers are investigating an Aug. 7 armed robbery at TheBLVD restaurant at the Beverly Wilshire, a Four Seasons hotel.

According to BHPD Lt. Andrew Myers, two suspects approached a patron in the restaurant's patio in the 9500 block of Wilshire Boulevard at approximately 6:41 p.m., when one suspect brandished a firearm and the other removed a watch from the victim's hand.

After taking the watch, which the victim valued at \$1 million, the suspects fled in an awaiting Toyota, and no injuries were reported, according to a statement from the BHPD.

Officers in the Real Time Watch Center are actively reviewing security footage and

investigating the incident, and anyone with information is encouraged to contact the BHPD at 310-550-4951.

"[The department] is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our community and will continue to take all necessary measures to address such incidents swiftly and effectively," the statement indicated.

This is a developing story, which will be updated on [beverlyhillscourier.com](http://beverlyhillscourier.com) as additional facts unfold. ●

## City Council Revisits Coldwater Crosswalks

BY JOEY WALDINGER

Despite five years of community outreach, surveys and traffic studies, residents of Coldwater Canon Drive are still divided as to the best ways to improve pedestrian safety on the busy, winding road.

Staff have proposed installing three new crosswalks as part of an ongoing roadway rehabilitation and water main replacement project. But during a discussion at the Aug. 6 City Council Study Session, residents provided clashing opinions, and the council agreed to send the plan back to the drawing board one more time.

Though the councilmembers largely agreed it would be best to install only one crosswalk, they were split on the best location, and they directed staff to study the most suitable intersection for a crosswalk and stoplight.

"I'd like to move forward with that ... so that we get the process moving with the comments that we've all made," Mayor Lester Friedman said.

Community outreach on the Coldwater rehabilitation project dates to January 2020, when staff met with residents to discuss a potential roadway reconfiguration as part of the water main replacement, according to a staff report.

At a community meeting two years later, See COLDWATER CROSSWALKS, page 9

## Developer Moving Forward with Olympic Boulevard Projects

BY JOEY WALDINGER

Developer Sammy Aflalo is preparing to move forward with three mixed-use builder's remedy projects on the corner of Olympic and Beverly boulevards, including one at the Pavilions at 9467 W. Olympic Blvd. that may be sold under a proposed merger between Kroger and Albertsons.

Aflalo filed preliminary applications for the projects at 9467, 9430 and 9441 W. Olympic Blvd. in March, and he plans to See OLYMPIC BOULEVARD, page 15



# Courier Calendar

**NOW - AUG. 18**

**THEATRE 40: "CHICKEN STORIES"**

**THURS.-SUN. 3 P.M., 7:30 P.M.**

Theatre 40 presents "Chicken Stories," written and directed by Marcus Folmar and produced by Folmar, Reggie Currelley and Columbus Short. The production features stories about chicken and its centrality in Black American culture and Black American cuisine. The show plays at Broadwater Main Stage, 1076 Lillian Way, Hollywood.  
[theatre40.org](http://theatre40.org)

**NOW - AUG. 25**

**HAMMER MUSEUM: "HAMMER**

**PROJECTS: JORDAN STRAFER"**

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

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

New York-based artist and filmmaker Jordan Strafer's (b. 1990, Miami) "LOOPHOLE" (2023) and "DECADENCE" (2024) are the first two chapters of a planned trilogy of videos set against the backdrop of a fictionalized high-profile rape trial in 1990s-era Florida. Pulling from the genre of erotic thrillers and televised court cases from the period, the project hinges upon the speculative love affair between the lead defense attorney and the jury foreman responsible for an unnamed rapist's acquittal. Using both film scripts and publicly sourced courtroom documents, the videos are influenced in part by the artist's mother's role in the legal defense team in a rape trial that took place in 1991. This Hammer Project is the artist's first solo exhibition in Los Angeles. Admission to The Hammer is free. It is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles.  
[hammer.ucla.edu](http://hammer.ucla.edu)

**NOW - SEPT. 29**

**DESCANSO GARDENS:**

**"HWAJODO: FLOWERS AND BIRDS IN KOREAN AMERICAN ART"**

**10 A.M.-4 P.M.**

"HWAJODO" explores the enduring themes of nature, particularly flowers and birds,

that have been a focal point in Korean art. This exhibition uniquely combines traditional representations of flowers and birds, particularly in minhwa (Korean folk painting), with the abstract and stylized interpretations of contemporary artists, reflecting a bridge between the past and present, tradition and innovation. The exhibition is divided into two main sections. Traditional art features the vibrant and colorful minhwa paintings of Song Kyu Tae, a Master of Korean folk painting, his student Kee Soon Sung, President of the Korean Folk Art Association, and several of her students in Los Angeles. Contemporary art showcases the works of four prominent Korean American artists: Dave Young Kim, Dana Weiser, Hei Myung Hyun and Jane Park Wells. These artists, each with their unique approach and connection to their Korean heritage, offer a fresh perspective on the depiction of flowers and birds in large-scale murals, ceramics, textiles, and abstract paintings. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$11 for seniors and students, and \$5 for children 5-12 years old. Children under 4 are free. Admission is free on the third Tuesday of each month. Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Dr., La Cañada Flintridge.  
[descansogardens.org](http://descansogardens.org)

**AUG. 15**

**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS:**

**"CONCERTS ON CAÑON"**

**SUMMER CONCERTS SERIES:**

**"UPSTREAM"**

**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 Aug. 15 and features David Gab playing rock 'n' roll.  
[beverlyhills.org](http://beverlyhills.org)

**AUG. 15**

**HOLOCAUST MUSEUM LA:**

**"TEICHOLZ FILM SERIES:**

**WHO WILL REMAIN?"**

**6:30-8 P.M.**

In this film, in an attempt to better understand her grandfather Avrom Sutzkever, Israeli actress Hadas Kalderon travels to Lithuania, using her grandfather's diary to trace his early life in Vilna and his survival of the Holocaust. Sutzkever (1913-2010) was an acclaimed Yiddish poet whose verse drew on his youth in Siberia and Vilna, his spiritual and material resistance during World War II, and his post-war life in the State of Israel. Kalderon, whose native language is Hebrew and must rely on translation of her grandfather's work, is nevertheless determined to connect with what remains of the poet's bygone world and confront the personal responsibility of preserving her grandfather's literary legacy. Following the screening is a live conversation and Q&A, moderated by journalist Tom Teicholz and featuring director/producer Christa P. Whitney, and director/film editor Emily Felder. The screening is held at AMC The Grove 14, at 1890 The Grove Dr., Los Angeles. Tickets are \$15 or free for members.  
[holocaustmuseumla.org](http://holocaustmuseumla.org)

**AUG. 15**

**WRITERS BLOC: "THE ART OF**

**POWER" WITH NANCY PELOSI**

**7:30 P.M.**

Guests are invited to join Writers Bloc for a conversation with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi about her new book, "The Art of Power." Nancy Pelosi, the most powerful woman in American political history, tells the story of her transformation from housewife to House Speaker—how she became a master legislator, a key partner to presidents, and the most visible leader of the Trump resistance. This event takes place at the Wilshire Ebell Theater at 4401 W. 8th St.,

Los Angeles. Tickets are \$40 or \$62 with a copy of "The Art of Power."  
[writersblocpresents.com](http://writersblocpresents.com)

**AUG. 16 - SEPT. 1**

**ROGUE MACHINE THEATRE:**

**"PATIENT 13"**

**FRI. 8 P.M., SAT. 3 P.M., SUN. 1 P.M.**

Chronically single, Gail Thomas has always been good at staying busy, setting boundaries and avoiding intimacy. That is, until a scary diagnosis makes her realize that she might just need to slow down, chill out and get some help. But, who can she trust? She has already gotten rid of all the toxic people in her life, so there is nobody left. This dark comedy solo show tracks Gail's quest to find the line between herself and others while participating as Patient #13 in a ground-breaking FDA study that gave psilocybin (magic mushrooms) to cancer patients with anxiety and depression. The study has blazed a trail for the potential legalization of the psychedelics for use as a medical treatment. Rogue Machine at the Matrix Theatre is located at 7657 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles. Tickets are \$45 for general admission, \$25 for students and \$35 for seniors.  
[roguemachinetheatre.org](http://roguemachinetheatre.org)

**AUG. 18 - JAN. 5, 2025**

**LACMA: "MAGDALENA SUAREZ**

**FRIMKESS: THE FINEST DISREGARD"**

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

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

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

"Magdalena Suarez Frimkess: The Finest Disregard" is the first museum exhibition of L.A.-based and Venezuelan-born artist Magdalena Suarez Frimkess (b. 1929). Trained in painting, print-making and sculpture in Venezuela, Chile and New York, Suarez Frimkess's most recognized works are made in clay. Spanning over five decades, "The Finest Disregard" features ceramics, paintings and drawings, including an important selection of works made collaboratively with her husband, Michael Frimkess. Although her work is usually considered to stand outside the California ceramic tradition, this exhibition demonstrates otherwise. With many works shown in public for the first time, "The Finest Disregard" offers insights into the artist's fascination with art history books, popular media, cartoons, animation, autobiography and the humor found in the folds between the layers of everyday life. 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 is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles.  
[lacma.org](http://lacma.org)



Photo by David Haverty

Gail Thomas in Rogue Machine Theatre's "Patient 13"



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## City Council Opposes Proposed Drone Law



Photo courtesy of BHPD

If Senate Bill 99 passes, BHPD will no longer be allowed to fly many of its drones.

BY CLARA HARTER

At its Aug. 6 Regular Meeting, the Beverly Hills City Council voted 4-1 to oppose Senate Bill 99, which would ban the use of several of the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) drones.

The bill is authored by Senator Tom Umberg, D-Santa Ana, and would prevent cities from purchasing military equipment from any manufacturers that the United States Armed Forces is prohibited from purchasing. This bill would apply to several of BHPD's drones, which are produced by Chinese manufacturer DGI.

The goal of the proposed law is to minimize the potential for foreign companies, like DGI,

to use their technology to extract information from local municipalities.

"From scanning terrain for lost hikers, to assessing wildfire risk, it's understandable that drones have become a critical tool of local agencies and governments," said Senator Umberg in a statement on his bill. "That said, the fact that the Pentagon has prohibited equipment from a specific company due to fears of spying should raise bright red flags for all consumers."

The BHPD, however, opposes the law as it believes that its drones are well protected from cybersecurity threats and provide a vital security service to the city. Drones are a core **See DRONE LAW, page 14**

## Rent Stabilization Division Holds Community Outreach Meeting



BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

On Aug. 5, the Beverly Hills Rent Stabilization Division held a community outreach meeting to inform the public about potential changes to the city's rent stabilization ordinance, and to increase transparency between landlords and tenants. Those who attended the meeting in person at the City Hall Municipal Gallery or on Zoom were also able to connect with resource groups to learn more about protection services for rent increases, evictions and plans for construction.

Recently, the Rent Stabilization Commission has recommended that City Council impose an overall cap of 10% on Chapter 6 tenants' annual maximum expense for rent, pass-throughs and surcharges. They also recommended a pass-through fee of 50% of the cost of seismic retrofit, which would be paid over a number of months rather than all at once. The commission already voted to remove the water penalty surcharge, which has moved to City Council for consideration.

Still pending City Council review are the rent relief/subsidy program and the proactive inspection program, which would provide aid to tenants. Currently, available resources include an emergency resource guide, tenant and property owner handbook and a newly implemented annual winter newsletter. The division has been working on these materials as well as smaller informational handouts over the last few months.

"These flyers are really designed to get more into the nuts and bolts of it, to help educate both tenants and landlords and make their jobs of understanding and/or administering of these a little bit easier," said Deputy Director of Rent Stabilization, Nestor Otazu.

Additionally, the division has been working with the Office of Emergency Management to provide an emergency guide that will include a bag of supplies in case of displacement due to a natural disaster.

Buildings that qualify for rent stabilization include those with two or more units, but the list of exemptions is extensive, including single-family residences, hotels, motels and any rooms to be rented for 30 days or less, condominiums, dwelling units in nonprofit cooperatives, government-owned and managed units, units built after Sept. 20, 1978 for Chapter 5 and units built after Feb. 1, 1995 for Chapter 6.

Otazu defined these chapters of the Rent Stabilization Ordinance at the meeting, explaining that the key difference is the rate at which their rent can increase. Chapter 5

tenants are those who moved in under an agreement to pay \$600 or less per month in rent. Their allowable rent increase is 8% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI), depending on which value is lower. Currently, the allowable rent increase for Chapter 5 tenants is 3.2%. For Chapter 6 tenants, or those whose rent agreement started at more than \$600, their allowable rent increase is 3% or the CPI, depending on which value is higher. The current allowable rent increase for these tenants is 3.9%.

Due to the complexity of the regulations, the city adopted a requirement in 2004 that the Rent Stabilization Division distribute a tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities handbook to all landlords. Additional changes to policies between 2017 and 2018 led to the establishment of the Rent Stabilization Commission in 2019 to increase transparency and outreach regarding tenants' and landlords' rights. In 2020 and the years following, further policy changes took place, prompting the community outreach meeting. "As we moved through the pandemic and then even moving out of the pandemic, there were several changes that were made, really in direct relation to the pressures of the pandemic put in the rental housing community," said Otazu.

As a result of the pandemic, the city enacted an Urgency Ordinance that limited rent increases for both Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 tenants. However, this resulted in more confusion for landlords and tenants throughout the city. In July 2023, the ordinance expired, and the city returned to regular rent increase regulations.

At the meeting, Janet Grundfest, a representative from the Loyola Center for Conflict Resolution, which is a resource for landlords and tenants, gave an overview of the services they provide. "What we do is simple," she said. "We bring the parties together so that they can discuss what happened in the past, so that in the present, we can help them come to agreements that will help them figure out what's going to happen going forward." Representatives from Bet Tzedek legal services also shared their resources that are available to those facing rental conflicts, including in-person legal clinics every second Sunday of the month. Additionally, residents can reach out to the Human Services Division for support by calling 310-285-1006. "Human Services is a great starting place if you don't know where to start," said Enisha Clark, human services outreach manager. "If you have a complex or complicated situation, both for tenants and landlords, it's a great place to start." ●

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## Rodeo Drive Celebrates Fashion Launches with Artist Richard Orlinski



Photo courtesy of Rodeo Drive Committee

Rodeo Drive "Wild Kong" by Richard Orlinsky

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

The second annual Rodeo Drive Celebrates Fashion kicked off this week with a reception at the Beverly Wilshire, a Four Seasons Hotel in honor of French contemporary artist Richard Orlinski. Orlinski's exhibit features eight larger-than-life sculptures recently unveiled along

Rodeo Drive. The pieces include "Wild Kong," a modern, geometric representation of a gorilla in a glossy dark blue, standing upright and holding a large, faceted pink heart in front of its chest with the words "Rodeo Drive" on it. A panda sculpture stands in front of the Beverly Wilshire and a nearly 10-foot bronze panther See **RODEO DRIVE**, page 14

## Givenchy Opens Permanent Rodeo Drive Location



Photo courtesy House of Givenchy

The exterior of the new Givenchy flagship

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

French luxury fashion house Givenchy permanently planted its flag, quite literally, in Beverly Hills on Aug. 1. The brand's first Los Angeles area outpost and newly crowned West Coast flagship now occupies the entire historic complex at 332 N. Rodeo Drive.

The revamped building has been transformed into a gleaming white structure with floating rectangular boxes, punctuated by high-contrast black architectural elements. Jasmine blooms from an undulating ribbon of hidden stairs. A crisp black flag emblazoned with the white House of Givenchy See **GIVENCHY**, page 14

# Grand Opening

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## Raffel Recognized by City Council

Mayor Lester Friedman and the Beverly Hills City Council recognized Lillian Raffel, the outgoing President of the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills, at the Aug. 6 City Council meeting.



Photo courtesy city of Beverly Hills

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

## The Courier Visits Iceland

Beverly Hills attorney Murray Fisher and his wife Bunni took the Beverly Hills Courier with them on a recent visit to Reykjavík, Iceland.



## Picklefest Winners Announced



Photo courtesy city of Beverly Hills

Pictured at Picklefest are (from left): Councilmember Craig Corman; first-place winner of the “I Can Pickle That” category, Craig Farotto; Mayor Lester Friedman; first-place winner of the “Best Dill Pickle in Beverly Hills” category, Adrienne Naor; Councilmember John Mirisch and Recreation and Parks Commission Chair Amie Sherry.

The 11th Annual Picklefest contest took place on Aug. 4 at the Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market. The food preservation competition celebrates food preservation and creativity, with participants submitting a variety of pickled creations ranging from pears to mini cucumbers.

Craig Farotto earned first place in the category of “I Can Pickle That” while Andrienne Naor took home top honors for the “Best Dill Pickle in Beverly Hills.” Alan Bronowicz and Adrienne Naor secured second and third place, respectively, in the

“I Can Pickle That” category, while Scott Klass and Ron Sasiela claimed the second and third-place titles for the “Best Dill Pickle in Beverly Hills.”

The judging panel consisted of Mayor Lester Friedman, Councilmembers John Mirisch and Craig Corman, Recreation and Parks Commission Chair Amie Sherry, and Von Vargo from the Crazy Cucumber.

For further information on upcoming Farmers’ Market events and food vendors, visit [beverlyhills.org/farmersmarket](http://beverlyhills.org/farmersmarket). ●

## Fernandez to Launch New Spectrum News 1 Show



Photo courtesy Spectrum News 1

Giselle Fernandez

Award-winning journalist Giselle Fernandez will launch a new three-hour afternoon news program entitled “The Rush Hour” beginning Aug. 19. Fernandez, a member of the Courier’s Advisory Board, is a nine-time Emmy Award winner and longtime host of

“Your Morning on Spectrum News 1.” Last month the show was honored at the 76th Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards with an Emmy in the category of “Regularly Scheduled Daily Morning Newscast.” ●



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## ‘The Instigators’ – The Whole is Less Than the Sum of its Parts



Photo courtesy of Apple TV+

Hong Chau, Casey Affleck and Matt Damon

BY NEELY SWANSON

“The Instigators,” co-written by Casey Affleck and Chuck MacLean and directed by Doug Liman, starts promisingly enough because it has a veritable Fort Knox of golden stars with one of the best casts to grace the screen. Matt Damon (Rory) is one of the greatest actors of his generation and his mere presence keeps this film going until the story implodes and he is forced to create a character and actions out of whole cloth. Casey Affleck (Cobby), so often good in other people’s movies, never quite rises above a smirk. The sinister bad guy played by Michael Stuhlbarg (Besegai) gives a hilariously resigned performance that rises above the material. Alfred Molina (Richie), like Stuhlbarg, is able to make a believable (and I use that term lightly) henchman/baker full of irony. You will sense Ving Rhames’ (Frank Toomey) presence before you hear his mellifluous bass or see his face, full of resignation. He is seen too rarely and his mere appearance gives believability to the most incomprehensible situations. Hong Chau, one of the most versatile actresses working today, plays Rory’s therapist warmly with an evident undercurrent of humor. Constantly asking Rory how he feels is a running joke that at least brings a sense of playfulness to the outlandish things this script asks of her.

“The Instigators” is a heist film where the stakes are high and the intelligence of almost

all concerned is low. Early on we see Richie waterboarding a dimwitted associate, Scalvo, as Besegai laments how hard it is to find good help these days. He has a surefire scheme to rake in a huge haul and no one to help. Scalvo, a guy with a short fuse, no judgment and not enough wattage to illuminate a closet, insists that he can gather a crew and do the job. Remarkably, Besegai puts Scalvo in charge of this sensitive operation.

The night in question, the corrupt mayor of Boston will be holding his reelection party and every grifter, grafter and contractor in the city will be paying fealty to His Honor in the guise of envelopes stuffed with large sums of cash that will go straight into the safe in his room. The mission of Scalvo and his crew is to rob the safe. The mayor will never report the theft and Besegai and Richie will be all the richer once Scalvo and his crew, consisting of ex-con Cobby and the out-of-left-field recruit Rory make their entrance. What could go wrong?

This is where I leave you because if I continued I’d be giving away the entirely implausible plot points and truly unfathomable segues. Suffice it to say, what were they thinking? This amateurish script and unruly direction works on the premise that speedy dialogue, car chases and crashes will take your mind off how woebegone everything is.

Billed as an action comedy crime thriller, there’s plenty of action, a lot of crime, no psychological thrills and very few, if any,

laugh-out-loud moments. Liman, subscribing to the philosophy of more is never enough, believes that when in doubt, crash some cars and blow up some buildings. Actually, it’s crash a lot of cars and blow up a lot of buildings. But in any heist movie, plausible or not, you need characters to believe in so you willingly follow them down a rabbit hole. Short of that, action films, comic or otherwise, need impeccable timing to keep the viewer following action that seamlessly goes from one catastrophe to another with little time to breathe in between. The “Mission: Impossible” movies go from one implausible situation to another, taking you along for the ride because the timing is practically perfect and there are characters you care about. It’s the thrill ride that “The Instigators” is not. Ironically, I can see why this script might have been fun to read and attract such a great cast. On paper, the robbery, the mistakes, the chases would have been imagined as fast and

hilarious. Not necessarily meaty, this is almost a Robin Hood adventure where gold is taken from the rich and corrupt to be given to the rich and corrupt. It’s pure speculation that this would ever have worked, but it needed a lighter, faster hand than Limon exhibited here.

I was overwhelmingly disappointed in this film that I was so looking forward to seeing. Jam-packed with some of my favorite actors, the director and writers failed them. Liman, no doubt, felt he could correct the inadequacies and incongruities of a script written by the inexperienced writers, Affleck and MacLean, by just blowing things up. The actors all looked like they were having a grand old time; I wish I had. It didn’t work. Pure and simple, none of this worked. Never has so little been made from so much.

Opening Aug. 2 at the Laemmle Monica. Streaming on Apple TV+ on Aug. 9. ●



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.





Photo by Joey Waldinger

City Councilmembers identified the intersection of Coldwater Canon and Loma Linda drives as a possible location for a crosswalk and stop sign.

**COLDWATER CROSSWALKS**, from page 1 residents provided a petition asking the city to study the feasibility of implementing at least two crosswalks between Beverly Drive and Heather Road. In July 2023, consulting firm Fehr and Peers published a study that identified the intersections at Monte Cielo Drive, Lindacrest Drive and Loma Linda Drive as the best three options.

According to a staff report, the crosswalks would have high-visibility “continental” markings, Americans with Disabilities Act compliant curb ramps and pedestrian-activated Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons—yellow LED lights that flash when activated. Crews would also install a pedestrian refuge island at the Lindacrest crosswalk.

These proposed locations are consistent with findings from a separate citywide 2023 study supported by the Traffic and Parking Commission and with national best practices to discourage people from jaywalking, according to the staff report.

But during the Aug. 6 meeting, many residents said the crosswalks would do more harm than good.

“There has never been a need for crosswalks [on Coldwater Canon],” said David Cohen, a resident of 28 years. “It is going to change the aesthetic of the street; when people moved into Coldwater, they knew what they were getting into.”

Cohen said the crosswalks would pose safety risks as well. Drivers frequently speed down the curvy street and drunk drivers

have hit his neighbor’s property, and Cohen thinks the crosswalks would create more opportunities for pedestrians to be hit by speeding cars.

Reading a summarized version of comments written by three people who have lived on Coldwater for more than a decade, City Clerk Huma Ahmed said that the flashing lights could also distract drivers at night, causing additional safety concerns.

Ellie Yadegar, who said she had received more than 30 signatures on a petition that calls for “raised crosswalks at two or more intersections,” said that Coldwater has been neglected even as other Beverly Hills streets get new safety features, and she encouraged the council to adopt staff’s recommendations.

“I don’t think that it’s really up to me or anyone else to determine what ... is safe to do,” Yadegar said. “I think that’s something that we leave up to Darren and his team ... and if he is recommending it and saying that it’s going to be safe, then I will 100% use it. Thank you.”

She noted that at least five people who signed her petition have since changed their positions.

Former Planning Commissioner Peter Ostroff also encouraged the council to accept the recommendations, even if they aren’t a perfect solution.

“Every idea has been rejected, and finally, we have a real proposal. It’s not perfect ... [but] we can’t let perfect be the enemy of the good,” Ostroff said.

The council was also broadly supportive of the proposal, though they differed on the details. Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Councilmember Craig Corman thought it made most sense to put a single crosswalk at the intersection of Loma Linda, and both were against installing a median

Many of the council’s questions centered on the advantages of installing stoplights instead of or in addition to the crosswalks, with Councilman John Mirisch saying he favored installing a stoplight and possibly several stop signs in addition to new crosswalks.

According to Grilley, however, the data is not encouraging.

Grilley said that requests for stoplights on Coldwater Canyon date back decades, but repeated studies have found that stoplights on Coldwater do not meet federal “warrant,” or criteria justifying the installation of a stoplight.

Friedman said that he also thinks a stoplight would slow down traffic, which residents identified as the biggest concern, though he would need to see data justifying a new traffic light before directing staff to put one in.

“When the data shows that you shouldn’t ... put a device in a place, and then we go against the data, I think we’re asking ourselves for trouble,” Friedman said. “What I’m hearing from my colleagues, and I agree with, is that if there is a way to have the data support a traffic light ... I’m fully supportive of that.” ●

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## Viva Napoli!



Photos by Larry Swanson

The view from the Grand Hotel Parker's



House of Octavius Quartio, Pompeii

BY NEELY SWANSON

Italy! It's the gondolas of Venice, the Uffizi of Florence, La Scala of Milan and the Vatican in Rome; but Naples is a country unto itself.

Like most of the coast, Naples, the most densely populated city in Italy, is built into the hills. It is the center of the city, starting with coffee and a pastry at the historic Cafe Gambrinus that pulls you magnetically toward the harbor, passing the historic Teatro di San Carlo, the oldest continuously active opera house in Italy. Older than La Scala, it was constructed in the 18th century when Neapolitan opera ruled the world. The path, along the Via Vittorio Emanuele II (he was the first king of an independent Italy, so he's enthroned in every city and town) continues toward the Castel Nuovo, a beautifully preserved medieval castle and art gallery, leading to the port. One of the largest in Italy, it is from here that you can take a ferry to Sicily, Sardinia, Capri, Sorrento and Amalfi. It is also a dock for the mega cruise ships, the floating Las Vegas hotels, like the Royal Caribbean Symphony of the Seas (5,448 guests).

On our way past these monuments, our fabulous guide, Fiorella, led us through small alleys, pointed out the colorful hilly Spanish Quarter and the 19th century Galleria Umberto, boasting an enormous domed glass ceiling that looks as though it was built yesterday but is only a few years younger than the Galleria in

Milan. Explaining the working class history of Naples, she led us down the Via Santa Lucia, a veritable study in the socioeconomics of the city because one side of the street is decidedly upper class with its expensive restaurants and luxury apartments and the other side is straight out of Elena Ferrante's "My Brilliant Friend" with crumbling tenements, laundry flying from all the windows (although to be fair, you will find drying laundry throughout the city), and dangerous alleyways. But more than anything, Naples is the gateway to Mount Vesuvius and the ruins of Pompeii. And the first stop, in order to understand that ancient site must be the National Archeology Museum.

Housing most of the original treasure found during the excavation of Pompeii, an ongoing process, the frescoes, statuary, glass works and especially the mosaics give you a first glimpse at the wonders that were part of Pompeii. The artifacts found in the museum, including the haunting mold of a prostate woman agonizingly reaching for escape from the ash and heat, were removed from Pompeii for restoration and better preservation. The recreation of the Villa of the Papyri gives an overview of patrician life in what was the playground of rich Romans seeking shelter from the politics of the big city. Philosopher and naturalist Pliny the Elder, admiral of the Navy, was stationed on a ship outside the area. He directed his ship to approach the shore so he could rescue a friend. Instead Pliny the Elder died on the



beach, found by others in the following days. His nephew, Pliny the Younger, living close enough to Pompeii to observe but far enough to remain safe, wrote about the early stages of the eruption and its aftermath. His are the best remaining records of what happened. Two of his original letters to Tacitus, the Roman historian, are housed here. But nothing quite replaces the wave of awe that overtakes you as you enter the gates to Pompeii itself.

Pompeii, a mere 30-45 minutes outside Naples, was built over a Greek settlement and many of those artistic and architectural influences remained. In the shadow of Vesuvius, its previous eruptions were ancient history to Pompeians of the day. Despite the earthquakes that plagued the area, it was Pompeii's location on the sea south of Naples that made it particularly appealing to wealthy Romans who built enormous villas, farmed the rich land and set up an extensive commercial district. When entering the main gate, it is important to remember that everything you will see was buried, at least partially, in ash and lava by Vesuvius in 79 AD. Many of the treasures were pillaged by thieves and survivors shortly after the eruption, but it was not until 1592 that the first walls were uncovered. True scientific excavations didn't begin until almost 200 years later.

Passing by a Necropolis with its cedar trees and stone markers, one comes upon the amphitheater, built to hold 20,000 with a

series of special entrances designated for the upper class, the working class, women and slaves. Here, gladiatorial contests were held; cages for humans were separated from those of their animal adversaries. The acoustics are good enough that concerts, including one by Elton John, have been held there in recent years.

The grounds of Pompeii are enormous and it is impossible to cover everything, so a good guide is imperative. A highlight for us was the avenue of shops. There were restaurant counters with holes for soup tureens, the equivalent of Pompeian fast food. A bakery with its ovens was recently discovered. Along a different corridor there is a laundry with massive tubs where clothing and household goods were bleached and beaten by servants and slaves. Utilizing natural hot springs, there were spas and baths for all levels of society. Like Amsterdam, Pompeii had its red light district where brothels were designated by on-the-nose signage. Sculptures and pictures engraved on the stone roads and stucco buildings were of male appendages used as direction pointers and door knockers.

Behind such earthly businesses were the homes of the well-to-do with their lawns and Greek statuary. The truly wealthy and powerful had their mansions even farther beyond the commercial district; mansions with myriad rooms, baths, fountains, vast lawns and the remains of frescoes on the walls and mosaics



A typical street in the city center



Stairway connecting the city center to the upper Via Vittorio Emanuele

on the floor. Continuing our path from the shops and lesser mansions, we arrived at the Grand and Piccolo Theaters, built like Greek theatrons with steep rakes, grass floors and perfect acoustics. And all this was building up to the finale—the Civic Forum, the heart of daily life with its public buildings of administration and justice, markets delineated by the troughs dug into the road to drain water and waste, fountains and massive columns leading to the Temple of Jupiter with its statues on the hill overlooking the surrounding valley, a magnificent sight that is the culmination of any visit to Pompeii. A two-and-a-half-hour walk in the open air is sufficient for a taste that was ancient Rome before a volcano leveled an unprepared populace.

There is still so much of Pompeii to be

discovered and you can learn more by watching the excellent new documentary series on PBS called “Pompeii: the New Dig.” You will get an up close and personal view of the extraordinary newly found and still colorful frescoes, including one that depicts what may have been an early ancestor to the revered Neapolitan pizza!

Naples should definitely be on your bucket list, not just for its ancient history and unique architecture, but also from a culinary point of view. You've never tasted pizza until you've been to one of the much-lauded restaurants. L'antica Pizzeria da Michele, with its hours' long lines, is Michelin starred!

“See Naples and die” says the old Italian proverb. Instead, I'd prefer to just go again. ●



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# Birthdays

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## Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). There may be no tangible prize for the endeavor you spend so much time on, and yet there are rewards you can feel. They have no surface, but you can hold them. They are more real to you than anything that has mass.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Maybe there are no mistakes. Don't be too quick to frame, score or account for things. Let the action settle in. Maybe you wouldn't repeat the same move next time, and yet purposes were served; this you can't deny.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). There are and will always be things you don't know about others. These mysteries keep things interesting. Some groups are more passionate than others. You can match most any level, but it's better to find the group at the intensity level you enjoy.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). The true essence of companionship is being in it together no matter what. Shared struggles with good company turn adversity into an adventure. Every moment, good or bad, becomes a

meaningful part of your story.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Take your feet off the pedal of your ambition. Let yourself ride on the momentum you've already got in motion and it will take you further than you think. This will save "gas" or whatever you've been using to fuel this aim.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Freud said, "There are no jokes," but whether he said it with a straight face or a gleam in his eye is a detail that's eluded documentation. For today, what's said in jest will be true, at least in part.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Being correct, effective, dutiful, respectful, kind, prudent... this is what matters most to you now. All contentment will be an outcropping of doing the right thing. You'll handle important matters and focus on what's crucial for a desired outcome.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's no reason to judge yourself now; each moment is an opportunity for growth and understanding. Nor should you subject yourself to the judgment of others, for their perceptions do not define your worth or journey.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Relationships are co-created, so no one is completely in control. You can

manage your end of things, but that in and of itself may not be enough to get a thing headed where you want it to go. It's a day for realistic assessment.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Before any result is accomplished, do the work of making a connection. Your tone is charming and will resonate. Once you've built rapport, people will listen, understand and follow your lead.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Friends have roles, but these roles change. Stay

open and adjust. Also, note that different kinds of groups thrive at various numbers. When there are too many or too few people you'll sense it, and when the number is right, you'll note it and cap it.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You can't control other people's reactions, but you can predict them. Knowing more about your audience helps you predict more accurately. This is why time spent in research and observation is invaluable.



Teddy

This is Teddy, the eligible adoptable dog of the week. He is a 6-pound, 10-year-old poodle mix. Teddy is a senior looking for a home where he is the only dog. If interested in Teddy, please contact Kim Sill at Shelter of Hope at 310-770-3571.

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# Fun and Games

**SUDOKU**  
08/09/24 ISSUE

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**SUDOKU ANSWERS**  
08/02/24 ISSUE

3	5	2	9	8	7	4	1	6
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8	7	6	5	9	4	1	2	3
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5	3	4	6	1	2	7	9	8
2	9	5	7	3	6	8	4	1
7	4	3	1	5	8	9	6	2
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**PUZZLE ANSWERS**  
08/02/24 ISSUE

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CHERRY	PICKING	STIPEND			
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ATM	SHIED	CAR	SITE		
POSTHOC	ERGOP	PROPTER	HOC		
	ROOK	EON	YHEAR	EKE	
SPLAT	GAS	MAL	GRAD		
TOEPADS	SLIPPERY	SLOPE			
OPT	TUTS	NAE	TUNIS		
MUSH	LAPS	TSA	MAG		
APPEAL	TO	AUTHORITY	ETS		
BALSA	ITRY	AND	SLAT		
MORDOR	LOGICAL	FALLACY			
ROTUND	ERENOW	UNEATEN			
SKYPE	RIDGES	NAIVETE			

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**THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**  
08/09/24 ISSUE

**THE BIG FIVE-0**  
BY PAOLO PASCO / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Paolo Pasco, of Brooklyn, is the games editor for LinkedIn. He is the current national crossword champion after winning the 2024 American Crossword Puzzle Tournament. In that competition, he solved a Sunday-size crossword in just under six minutes. Today's puzzle came together on a cross-country flight during which all his electronic devices were close to dead. He took out a blank sheet of paper and started sketching, resulting in the theme here.

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Word following "push-up" that anagrams to a word following "pull-up"</p> <p>4 Become subject to</p> <p>9 Israeli desert</p> <p>14 Substance in a bagel-making "bath"</p> <p>17 Wedding role ... or a description of 114-Across?</p> <p>20 Artist's diagram ... or one of five for 114-Across?</p> <p>22 Multipiece furniture purchases</p> <p>24 \$\$\$</p> <p>25 "Hold up!"</p> <p>26 Get hooked?</p> <p>28 Rizal, national hero of the Philippines</p> <p>29 Cornhole attempts</p> <p>32 Compete like Sha'Carri Richardson</p> <p>33 Snapple competitor</p> <p>36 Detailed plan of action</p> <p>38 Malevolent sorcery</p> <p>40 Restaurant chain with an avian mascot</p> <p>43 Lamb's lament</p> <p>44 M.D. spaces</p> <p>46 One way to throw a baseball</p> | <p>48 Aptly named writers' association</p> <p>49 "Uno ____!"</p> <p>51 Resting places</p> <p>53 Just scratches the surface?</p> <p>55 Teletubby with a repetitive name</p> <p>57 Very *now*</p> <p>58 Musical composition like the Gauri in Sikh tradition</p> <p>59 Obsolescent book</p> <p>60 Brand in the frozen-food section</p> <p>61 Dance related to the Tongan tau'olunga</p> <p>62 Worst of the worst</p> <p>64 Reason to award two gold medals</p> <p>65 Cheers, for one</p> <p>68 Letters after Lucasfilm</p> <p>69 Aid in seafloor mapping</p> <p>70 Understood</p> <p>71 Balance-beam gripper</p> <p>73 Round up at the start?</p> <p>76 "There it is!"</p> <p>78 Prereq for a Ph.D. program, maybe</p> <p>79 Signature hit for Linda Ronstadt</p> <p>81 Supreme pizza topping</p> <p>82 "Danger! Danger!"</p> <p>84 Number for a letter?</p> <p>85 Power sources for some electric cars</p> <p>89 "Goodness me!"</p> <p>90 Spice up, say</p> | <p>92 "____ out!"</p> <p>93 Concerning egg cells</p> <p>95 Bother, with "at"</p> <p>98 Results of some fouls in soccer</p> <p>100 What has a lot of room to grow?</p> <p>101 Playbill listing</p> <p>105 Character appearing twice in "Dumb and Dumber"?</p> <p>107 Broadway passage</p> <p>111 Move up</p> <p>113 Chain that offers obedience-training classes</p> <p>114 This puzzle's subject</p> <p>119 Fried rice add-in</p> <p>120 "Drink," so to speak</p> <p>121 They "wait for no man," in a saying</p> <p>122 ____ law (P = IV)</p> <p>123 Certain coastal fliers</p> <p>124 "Uhh ... no thanks"</p> <p>125 Scottish word in a holiday song</p> <p>126 Shade of gray</p> | <p>9 "Oppenheimer" director</p> <p>10 Carl's wife in Pixar's "Up"</p> <p>11 Sources of cashmere</p> <p>12 Make a big splash in diving, say</p> <p>13 Bugs, e.g.</p> <p>14 Brick that doesn't require mortar</p> <p>15 Hankerings</p> <p>16 Failing that</p> <p>18 Crime boss John</p> <p>19 Way shortened?</p> <p>20 What corn holders are inserted into</p> <p>21 Muslim head covering</p> <p>23 Prized violins, for short</p> <p>24 One of the stages of grief</p> <p>27 Ultra-famous</p> <p>30 Inside lane on a track</p> <p>31 Ailment whose name becomes an actress when its vowel is doubled</p> <p>34 Indulge (oneself)</p> <p>35 Forever and ever</p> <p>36 Like some Mideast nationalism</p> <p>37 Cattle-driving dispute</p> <p>38 Architect ____ van der Rohe</p> <p>39 Rock climber's handhold</p> <p>41 What "Meow!" might mean</p> <p>42 Manicurist's creation</p> <p>43 They fly somewhere over the rainbow</p> <p>45 Democratic stronghold</p> |
|--|--|--|--|

**ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...**

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>46 Ostracized family member</p> <p>47 Extorts from, in a way</p> <p>48 Raccoonlike mammal of China</p> <p>50 Phenomenon allegorized in "The Crucible"</p> <p>52 Droop</p> <p>54 Movie f/x</p> <p>56 It's not long.</p> <p>57 ____ Oyu, sixth-highest peak in the world</p> <p>63 National park since 1872</p> <p>65 Milquetoast</p> <p>66 Character who's told "We're all mad here"</p> | <p>67 Creedence Clearwater Revival song named after a place "where cool water flows"</p> <p>69 Dip made from tomatillos</p> <p>72 Beat at an audition, maybe</p> <p>74 Sushi eggs</p> <p>75 Spice Girl Chisholm, casually</p> <p>77 Acclaimed</p> <p>80 Political slogan of the 2000s</p> <p>83 Channel that gets audio only?</p> <p>85 Backing</p> <p>86 Connection at Frankfurt Airport?</p> | <p>87 Restroom in a pub</p> <p>88 "Law &amp; Order" spinoff, for short</p> <p>91 Wooden shoe</p> <p>94 Linguist's concern</p> <p>95 Part of a woman's anatomy named for Dr. Ernst Gräfenberg</p> <p>96 Jane Eyre, to the villainous Mrs. Reed</p> <p>97 Change, as one's clothes</p> <p>99 "The ____ true for ..."</p> <p>100 Not at all light</p> <p>102 Soul singer Baker</p> <p>103 Adam of TV's "Severance"</p> | <p>104 Like the atmosphere after an awkward joke</p> <p>106 Negative Nancy words?</p> <p>108 Hoppy choices at happy hour</p> <p>109 Sermon topic</p> <p>110 Some TV screens</p> <p>112 They may be renewed</p> <p>115 Flirty thing to bite</p> <p>116 Sumac a.k.a. the "Peruvian Songbird"</p> <p>117 Maya who designed the Museum of Chinese in America</p> <p>118 Juice bar suffix</p> |
|--|--|---|--|





Photo courtesy of Derek Hackett

Mayor Lester Friedman presented artist Orlinsky with a proclamation.

#### RODEO DRIVE, from page 5

sculpture with diamond facets is located in the hotel lobby. Additional sculptures such as “Standing Bear and Crocodile” are also on view and showcase Orlinsky’s signature “Born Wild” style, which blends pop and street art with contemporary themes in bold colors, shapes, and surfaces.

The kickoff event was held on the terrace at the Beverly Wilshire, during which the Beverly Hills City Council presented Orlinsky with a certificate of recognition and applauded the artist’s partnership with the city. Members of the Rodeo Drive Committee, the Mayor of Nice, France, and members of the French Consulate were also

in attendance.

“Rodeo Drive Celebrates Fashion has brought together our community to experience firsthand incredible VIP services, special programs in our flagship stores, and of course, as you see here today, world-renowned artwork from Richard Orlinsky,” Mayor Lester Friedman said.

“When I walked on Rodeo Drive, I was very surprised to see all the people, the kids, watching the structures with a smile,” Orlinsky said. “When you see the smile in the kid’s eyes, I think it’s a success.”

The public exhibition will be on display until November. ●

#### DRONE LAW, from page 4

component of the Real Time Watch Center, a world-class surveillance network that led to a 21% decrease in crime during its first year of operation.

The League of California Cities and the California State Sheriffs’ Association also oppose SB 99.

“I think that understanding the different organizations that are opposed to this and understanding what an impact the use of the drones has made for our city with regard to safety for our residents, I think that we want to protect our ability to use them,” said Councilmember Mary Wells, explaining her reasoning for opposing SB 99.

City Councilmember John Mirisch was the sole councilmember who did not recommend opposing the bill. He was concerned about the potential security risks stemming from Chinese drone technology and wanted to get the opinion of cybersecurity expert and local Congressman Ted Lieu before taking a stance on the bill.

“It’s naive to say, well, even if they [China] are able to hack into it [BHPD’s drones] it’s not going to do any damage,” said Mirisch, “I think we have to be absolutely wary about foreign actors—especially those with competing interests—not to rely on them too much.”

During the meeting, BHPD Lieutenant Todd Withers explained the security Beverly Hills has in place to prevent foreign interference with its drones. The department uses Motorola Cape software to provide end-to-end encryption of all transmissions from the Real Time Watch Center.

“We feel pretty comfortable that no data transmission is going back to any Chinese organizations,” he said.

He also explained that the police department had researched over 50 different drone manufacturers and that none offer a comparable price point or sophistication of technology

as DGI. For example, the drones on the market in the United States are \$6,000 to \$8,000 more expensive than the current DJI product.

“There’s plenty [of American drones] that are up and coming and probably viable candidates within the next few years,” he said. “They’re just not at the level of clarity for camera and flight characteristics that our drones produce right now.”

This was also a key reason why the League of California Cities and the California State Sheriffs’ Association opposed the bill.

“Local governments that use impacted drones will be forced to acquire new technology that is considerably more expensive than a lot of what is currently in use, train their staffs to use it, and likely suffer from a lack of product and feature diversity,” wrote CCSA Legislative Director Cory Salzillo in a June 27 letter to Sen. Umberg. “For law enforcement agencies, this translates into difficulty completing their missions at much higher prices with threats to public safety.”

During the meeting, Beverly Hills Municipal Affairs Program Manager Cynthia Owens said she received intelligence that Umberg was considering an amendment to the bill to allow local municipalities to continue using drones they have already purchased.

“These are discussions unofficially occurring in Sacramento and currently there are no bill amendments being proposed,” said Owens. “We just know these discussions are happening.”

SB 99 passed on the Senate floor on May 22 and needs to also pass on the Assembly floor in order to become a law.

On Aug. 7, a day after the City Council meeting, the bill was placed on suspense file by the Assembly Appropriation Committee. This means the fate of the bill, and several hundred others, will be decided during the Assembly Appropriation Committee’s Suspense Hearing on Aug. 15. ●



Photo courtesy House of Givenchy

Interiors preserved original details of the Frank Lloyd Wright building.

#### GIVENCHY, from page 5

logo is hoisted above the rehabilitated geometric spire on the rooftop.

Formerly Anderton Court Shops, the nearly 8,000-square-foot multistore, minimalist complex was designed by American master architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Built in 1954, it is one of just two commercial buildings on the West Coast designed by Wright. On May 14, 2004, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. While many businesses have set up shop in its various storefronts over the decades, House of Givenchy is the first single-occupancy tenant in the building’s history.

“For Givenchy’s first permanent store in Los Angeles, it was important to select a space that would resonate with our brand,” Valerie Leon, President of the Americas at Givenchy, told the Courier. “Given Hubert de Givenchy’s love of art and architecture, the Frank Lloyd Wright building felt like the right choice, and the opportunity to bring Givenchy to life there was amazing.”

According to Leon, the brand unearthed another connection between the building and the label’s late founder, designer Hubert de Givenchy. Wright was commissioned to build Anderton Court Shops by a local heiress in 1952 and began initial sketches that same year. Givenchy, a continent and an ocean away in Paris, opened his first boutique in 1952.

For its Beverly Hills flagship, retaining the building’s historic character and integrity was the top priority for Givenchy, who collaborated with Victor Fuentes, principal architect at Lochte Architecture Group, and Flora Chou, associate principal and cultural

resources planner at Page & Turnbull, in preserving and rehabilitating the rare architectural gem.

With the goal of creating a one-of-a-kind space where shoppers could appreciate a full-sensory Givenchy experience, the original multistore concept was preserved but reimagined as completely separate shops and storefronts for the men’s and women’s ready-to-wear collections. Each has its own street-level entrance.

The brand’s Fall 2024 Pre-Collection along with a variety of items from its very latest high summer collection “Givenchy Plage” are currently available in both shops. Limited edition pieces designed specifically for the opening of the Beverly Hills flagship are also available. These include the brand’s most popular best-sellers, the “Shark Lock” cowboy boot and “Antigona” handbag, reprised in studded white leather with turquoise stitching in homage to Givenchy’s new West Coast locale.

Next year, the fashion brand plans to begin phase two of its Rodeo Drive complex. “We have more work to do, but we didn’t want to wait forever,” Leon told the Courier. “We wanted to open as quickly as we could to start being able to have a new conversation with clients.” Leon wouldn’t reveal specific details, but said the plans included “a very special client experience opening next year,” adding, “Stay tuned, we have many more treats to come.” ●

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Photo by John Bendheim

Motor officers performed maneuvers at the event.



Photo courtesy city of Beverly Hills

Mayor Lester Friedman, City Councilmembers and BHPD Police Chief Mark Stainbrook with BHPD officers during the event

#### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT, from page 1

movement where cities take a stand with their communities and their police department— a stand against crime,” BHPD Sgt. Jeffrey Newman told the Courier. “We want the criminals to know that crime is not tolerated in Beverly Hills and we want them to be united in the message that we have eyes everywhere and the police are on the side of our community to combat any issues.”

Along the 400 block of North Rexford Drive, BHPD officers connected with community members through vehicle demonstrations and informational displays. Officer Alfredo Eudave from the Special Weapons Unit showed off a few of the less lethal firearms that are sometimes utilized at crime scenes. He explained that this unit has become even more crucial in recent months. “We’re using more technology such as drones,” Eudave told the Courier. “We send them out to assess a situation before we even get there.” And as electric and self-driving cars become more prevalent in the city, BHPD will utilize more of their own technology through the Special Weapons Unit, he said.

On the other end of the block, the BHPD Defensive Tactics hosted an interactive demonstration where children could safely attempt self-defense techniques with Officers Karly Loberg and Chas Maloch. Children also partook in an earthquake simulator, face painting and a bounce house mechanical bull.

Next door, crowds funneled into the Fire Department Headquarters, which was lined with booths from Beverly Hills schools and city programs. Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education Member Noah Margo represented Horace Mann Elementary School alongside the school’s new Principal, Ontrece Ellerbe. Representatives from El Rodeo Elementary School also set up a booth

to inform the community about the school’s grand opening on Aug. 11.

In anticipation of El Rodeo’s grand opening, representatives from the BHEF urged members of the community to donate to their annual giving campaign to support BHUSD students. Families can name a tree, an auditorium seat for five years or an entire auditorium, depending on their donation amount. As Tina Wiener, BHEF president, explained, the campaign allows businesses, community members and alumni to leave their legacy at a school of their choice, by displaying their name on a plaque. Those who are interested can still donate at [BHEF.org/donate](https://www.bhef.org/donate).

Other booths included representatives from Just In Case BH, who promoted their upcoming emergency preparedness fair on Sept. 29 and Beverly Hills Planners, who handed out information about accessory dwelling units. Associate Planner Patrick Achis also hosted a Plinko game, where children won Beverly Hills-themed prizes.

While some residents learned about all that the city has to offer, others enjoyed culinary offerings from several local Los Angeles food trucks. Black Cat BBQ, popular at the Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market, served up brisket, ribs, pulled pork and smoked poultry, while Holy Grill 770 offered Mediterranean burgers, hot dogs and shawarma. The Tropic Truck served Caribbean seafood and bowls, and families cooled down with soft serve ice cream from Mister Softee Truck.

Throughout the evening, the block was packed with familiar faces as City Council and the Fire and Police Chiefs strolled by. The event offered them a unique opportunity to engage in face-to-face conversation with residents and surrounding neighbors. By forming meaningful connections, BHPD officers hope to combat crime and encourage a feeling of togetherness. ●



Photo courtesy of Sammy Aflalo

Developer Sammy Aflalo is working on plans for three mixed-use projects on the corner of Olympic and Beverly boulevards.

#### OLYMPIC BOULEVARD, from page 1

submit a full application including traffic and architectural plans early next week.

Aflalo has filed another preliminary application for an eight-story, 140-unit building at 353 S. Beverly Drive that would be part of the Pavilions development.

Amged, LLC, a company managed by real estate broker Michael Nourmand and attorney Omid Khorshidi, has filed a preliminary application for a builder’s remedy project at 8822-8826 W. Olympic Blvd., but developers did not respond to requests for comment.

Builder’s remedy projects in Beverly Hills have encountered frequent pushback from residents and the City Council, but Aflalo said he is hoping for less resistance given that his proposals are smaller in scope than similar projects, such as Leo Pustilnikov’s 19-story proposal at 125-129 S. Linden Drive that the council last month blocked from going forward.

“We’re replacing obsolete offices and a very old Pavilions with housing that the city needs, and a more modern grocery store,” Aflalo said. “I think Beverly Hills is probably going to understand that the development is going to happen, that we can work together on this and make a meaningful positive change for the community.”

According to the preliminary application for the Pavilions development, Aflalo plans to build an 8-story building with 110 units, 22 of which are designated as low income. Aflalo also plans to include rooftop amenities and floor-level amenities, including a new grocery store.

Those plans could be complicated by the proposed merger between Kroger and Albertsons, which owns Pavilions. That merger is being held up by a lawsuit filed by the Federal Trade Commission, which alleges that the merger would eliminate competition, thereby creating higher prices and lower-quality groceries for millions of Americans.

To resolve the lawsuit, Kroger plans to sell off some 579 stores and facilities, including the location at 9467 W. Olympic Blvd. and the West Hollywood Pavilions at 8969 Santa Monica Blvd., to C&S Wholesale Grocers. Aflalo said he had been in discussion with Albertsons to terminate the

Olympic Boulevard lease early and build a new space, though that plan has been stalled by the proposed merger.

Aflalo said that he envisions the new store to be a “more modern” grocer than the old Pavilions.

According to an Albertsons representative, “The divestiture plan with C&S Wholesale Grocers ensures no stores will close as a result of the merger and that all frontline associates will remain employed. Furthermore, associates will also continue to receive the competitive wages and benefits that they do today, maintaining their pay, health, and wellness plans and all collective bargaining agreements where they are in place.”

Aflalo’s proposal at 9430 W. Olympic Blvd. would replace a three-story office building and includes nine low-income units, while the proposal at 9441 W. Olympic Blvd. would replace a two-story office building and include 13 low-income units, according to the preliminary applications. The former proposal includes 23 parking spaces while the latter includes 52, and both have rooftop and retail and amenities.

The proposal at 8822-8826 W. Olympic Blvd., meanwhile, would replace a single-story commercial building with a nine-story 30-unit mixed-use building.

Thomas A. White, chairman of the Municipal League of Beverly Hills, suggested that these proposals would not be spared the kind of pushback that has been seen against other builder’s remedy projects.

In an email to the Courier, White said that by ignoring the standards of the city’s Municipal Code, builder’s remedy projects enrich property developers at the expense of everyone else and strain Beverly Hills’ services and quality of life.

“At the rate we’re going, Beverly Hills will have many thousands more people, including those who can’t afford it, being compressed into the same finite living space, competing for the same limited city services, and from an aging, inadequate infrastructure,” White said. “That’s not a desirable or sustainable future.”

City spokesperson Lauren Santillana declined to comment, saying it was too early in the planning process. ●



# Classifieds

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

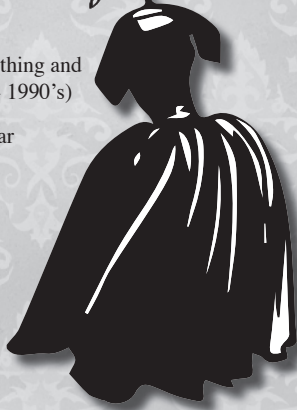
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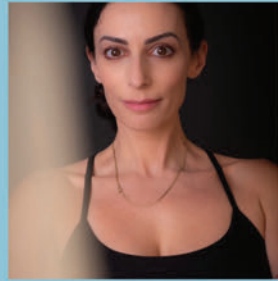
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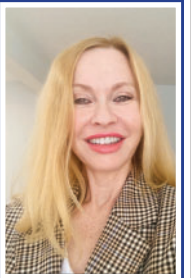
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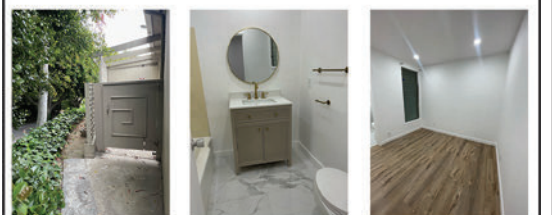
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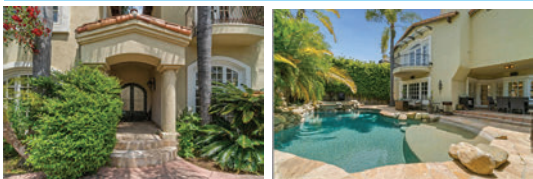


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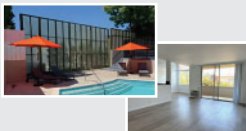
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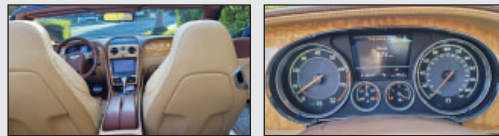
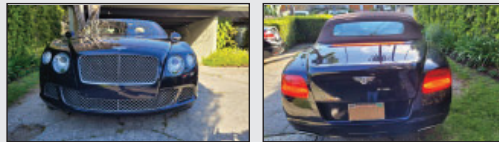
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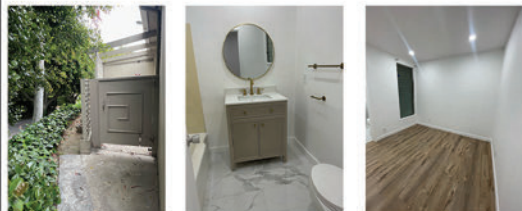
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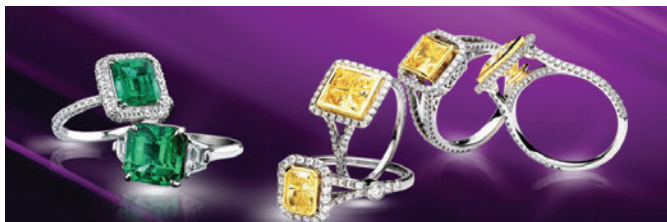


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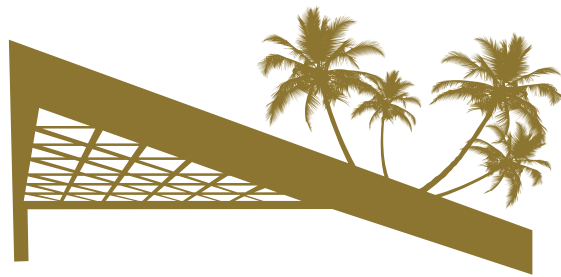
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