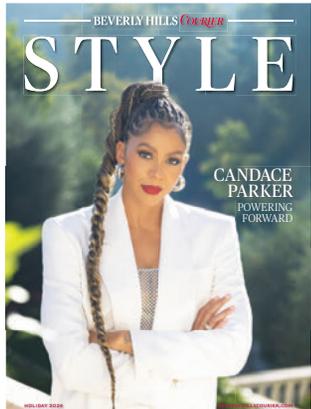


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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

☁ Friday	65° 45°
☀ Saturday	63° 44°
☀ Sunday	66° 46°
☀ Monday	65° 47°
☀ Tuesday	69° 49°
☀ Wednesday	73° 53°
☁ Thursday	74° 53°

Chamber Hosts Annual State of Luxury Panel



Photo by Julianna Lozada

Byron Lazaroff-Puck, Chamber President and CEO Todd Johnson, Wolfgang Puck, Ann Shatilla, Matt Goldberg and Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian at the 2024 State of Luxury Power Panel Series

BY JULIANNA LOZADA

Renowned celebrity chef and restaurateur Wolfgang Puck joined Ann Shatilla for her annual State of Luxury Power Panel Series at The Maybourne Beverly Hills on Nov. 7. The panel offered insight for companies looking to elevate their luxury branding for the new year with different PR and marketing techniques with exclusive input from

Puck, who has years of experience in the restaurant industry.

Attendees enjoyed breakfast and networking before the panel discussion and a Q&A with the panelists.

For the past 10 years, Shatilla, an Emmy Award-winning news producer, has moderated the State of Luxury Power Panel Series, which is organized with the Beverly Hills
See LUXURY PANEL, page 67

City Council Considers a Permanent Oct. 7 Memorial

BY MADELEINE CONNORS

On Nov. 7, the Beverly Hills City Council study session considered a proposal for a permanent monument to commemorate the victims of the Oct. 7 Hamas attack. They also heard a request from Gearys Rolex Boutique for a street closure of Rodeo Drive to celebrate a grand opening on Dec. 4.

City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey presented a proposal from the 10/7 Permanent Memorial Ad Hoc Committee regarding the planned memorial. The proposal outlined the location and budget, as well as the process for selecting a designer. "In the wake of Oct. 7, the City Council took a very strong stance in support of Israel and the victims who were murdered on Oct. 7," Hunt-Coffey said.

The proposed memorial will be located on the south side of the Beverly Hills Public Library, adjacent to the 9/11 Memorial. Hunt-Coffey said the intention was for the two memorials to complement each other. "The ad hoc committee felt strongly that the memorial design should be developed in concert with, or complement, the 9/11 Memorial that's on the other side of Rexford so that the two memorials would sort of speak to each other," she noted.

The proposal also outlined the process for selecting an artist to design the
See MEMORIAL, page 67

The Election Results Are In: How Do We Move Forward?

BY EVA RITVO, M.D.

Waiting for last week's election returns was a bit like waiting for test results from your doctor. On Nov. 5, half the country received positive news, while the other half saw results more alarming than expected. Then, the stock market rose, boosting the mood for some, while others experienced a deepening sadness as the votes continued to be counted. Like any major news, it takes time to mentally process, adapt, and prepare for what lies ahead. We are in the early stages of understanding our new reality, with much more to come.

Having practiced psychiatry for over 30 years, I've often observed that "good" news doesn't always bring the anticipated outcome, while "bad" news often improves with time or reveals unexpected silver linings. I

anticipate the same will be true as we move forward with Trump's second term. Whether this moment feels exhilarating or deflating, the true impact—positive and negative—will become clear with time.

For those riding the wave of euphoria, savor the victory, while remaining cognizant that much work lies ahead and many in our country are suffering. For those grappling with the lows of post-election disappointment, consider the Japanese word for crisis, "kiki (危機)." The first character means "danger (危)," and the second, "opportunity (機)." Take time to care for yourself, lean on family and friends, and find strength in your community.

As we move beyond the initial excitement or shock, what steps can we take to reunite as a country? Our forefathers chose
See HEALTH, page 10

BHHS Students Excel in Hospitality Career Academy

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

For the second year in a row, the Beverly Hills High School (BHHS) Career Academy has provided opportunities for students enrolled in career education classes in the field of hospitality. The work-based learning experience allows students to meet and shadow professionals from partnering hotels such as L'Ermitage Beverly Hills, the Beverly Wilshire, a Four Seasons Hotel, the Beverly Hilton,
See CAREER ACADEMY, page 7

Courier Calendar

NOW - NOV. 17

ICA LA: KATHRYN ANDREWS
6-8:30 P.M.

In the fall of 2024, in conjunction with the forthcoming United States presidential election, Los Angeles-based artist Kathryn Andrews will premiere a site-specific outdoor project on ICA LA's 7th Street facade. With a conceptual practice grounded in gender theory, Andrews creates work that engages the aesthetics and technologies of Hollywood cinema, political propaganda and art history to unearth the complex relationships between people, culture and power that structure the violent fictions of everyday lives. Titled "Victoria Woodhull, Belva Ann Lockwood, Abigail Scott Duniway [...]" (2020-Ongoing), Andrews' work at ICA LA addresses gender disparity in the presidential electoral process. Featured within the work are the names of women who have run for U.S. president such as Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress; Patsy Mink, the author of the nation's Title IX civil rights law; and Gloria La Riva, the first Latinx woman to run for president in 1992. While honoring these historical figures who have challenged a political system designed for their failure, within Andrews' artwork, this long list of women is overlaid atop the faces of widely recognizable men who have served as president—ranging from Dwight D. Eisenhower to Barack Obama to Joe Biden—a glaring juxtaposition that further underscores the extreme gender bias in American politics. The ICA LA is located at 1717 E. 7th St., Los Angeles.
theicala.org

NOW - NOV. 26

36TH ISRAEL FILM FESTIVAL

The 36th Israel Film Festival in Los Angeles, which celebrates the best of Israeli culture and cinema, runs until Nov. 26. "Soda," directed by Erez Tadmor, will have a special sneak preview as the Festival's Sponsor Centerpiece Film Event. For the first time, the Festival will have a panel of Israeli-American producers to discuss the option of co-productions between the U.S. and the Israeli film industries. This private event is sponsored by the Israel Cinema Project-Rabinovich Foundation and will take place on Nov. 15 at noon at the Crescent Theater in Beverly Hills. Festival screenings will also show at the Laemmle Royal Theatre (West Los Angeles) and the Laemmle Town Center 5 (Encino). Tickets are available online.
israelfilmfestival.com

NOW - DEC. 15

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE:
"WAITING FOR GODOT"

WED.-FRI. 8 P.M.

SAT. 3 P.M., 8 P.M.

SUN. 2 P.M., 7 P.M.

Geffen Playhouse presents "Waiting for Godot" starring Aasif Mandvi and Rainn Wilson. As Vladimir and Estragon wait and wait for the arrival of the elusive Godot, a cast of mysterious misfits interrupt their endless vigil in Samuel Beckett's tragicomic masterpiece that has captivated audiences for decades. Timeless and multi-layered, "Waiting for Godot" changed the course of contemporary drama and remains as resonant and riveting as ever. The runtime is 2 hours, 30 minutes, including

one intermission. Tickets range from \$57 to \$159. The Geffen Playhouse is located at 10886 Le Conte Ave., Los Angeles.
geffenplayhouse.org

NOW - JAN. 5, 2025

HAUSER & WIRTH:

"FIRELEI BÁEZ: THE FACT THAT IT AMAZES ME DOES NOT MEAN I RELINQUISH IT"

TUES.-SUN. 11 A.M.-6 P.M.

New York-based artist Firelei Báez has achieved wide acclaim over the past decade for her rigorous paintings, drawings and immersive installations that explore the influences of the Afro-Caribbean diaspora. Conjuring forgotten narratives, Báez carefully fills history's lacunae with joyful rebellion. In her first exhibition with Hauser & Wirth since joining the gallery in 2023, Báez presents new large-scale canvases, drawings and her first-ever bronze sculpture at the gallery's Downtown Arts District center in Los Angeles. Complex and layered, Báez's work depicts fantastical hybrid figures and reimagined worlds. Employing beauty to reprocess the enduring effects of violence and trauma, Báez challenges traditional representations of history, nationality, gender and race. United by common cause, the paintings incorporate a wide range of subjects including art history, science fiction, anthropology, pop culture, folklore and fantasy. Hauser & Wirth is located at 901 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles. Admission is free.
hauserwirth.com

NOW - JAN. 5, 2025

"LA ZOO LIGHTS: ANIMALS AGLOW"
6-10 P.M.

LA Zoo presents "Animals Aglow" for the holiday season. Guests can explore an immersive landscape with dazzling new lantern sculptures of larger-than-life animals and holiday wonders for a nature-focused seasonal celebration that's as inspiring as it is breathtaking. This year's experience features all-new sights and delights and the return of Santa himself. (Santa photos available for an additional fee.) Sensory-friendly, pride night and holiday pajama event evenings are available. Ticket prices vary based on date. The LA Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Dr., Los Angeles.
lazoo.org

NOV. 16

THEATRE 40: "AN ODD MOURNING"
2 P.M.

Theatre 40 presents the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild Playwriting Award-winning play, "An Odd Mourning." Judith Child was a complicated woman who came from a wealthy British family and married the brilliant, charismatic Nobel Prize-winning scientist, Benjamin Child. They have a son, Dorian, who never quite grew into the man that Benjamin hoped. Upon her death, Benjamin and Dorian are left rudderless. Without Judith's strong and guiding presence, they cut themselves off from the world and fall into an unusual way of keeping her spirit alive, thus delaying their grief. When Benjamin injures himself during a fall, the two men are forced to allow an East Indian medical professional to tend to the wound, disrupting the routine, challenging their mental and physical capacities, and breaking the spell the house is under. Theatre 40 is located at 241 S. Moreno Drive, Beverly Hills in the Mary Levin Cutler Theatre. The venue is on the campus of Beverly Hills High School. Free parking is available in the parking lot beneath the theatre. Tickets are \$10 available only at the door.
theatre40.org

DEC. 6

CHURCH'S MUSIC AT WESTWOOD:
"MESSIAH SING-A-LONG"
8 P.M.

On Dec. 6, Church's Music at Westwood presents its annual performance of George Frederic Handel's "Messiah." The audience will join the Westwood Chancel Choir, six esteemed vocal soloists and the Westwood Chamber Orchestra with Continuo. With the audience, they will form a 150-voice choir as part of the traditional "Messiah Sing-Along," one of the few events of this kind in greater Los Angeles. Admission to "Messiah" is \$25 for adults and \$10 for students, collected at the door and available on Eventbrite prior to the concert. Guests under 18 are admitted free. Admission includes a reception. Vocal scores will be available for purchase for \$10.
westwoodpres.org



Photo by Erik Carter

Aasif Mandvi and Rainn Wilson star in "Waiting for Godot" at the Geffen Playhouse.



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City Council Amends Municipal Code for Affordable Housing Units



BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

After a months-long process that started in July, the City Council passed an ordinance to amend parts of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code involving affordable housing. City planners have been working on the ordinance

since the Planning Commission recommended changes be made to the occupancy priority standards for affordable housing units. These standards determine who is next in line to receive housing based on factors such as age, income and location of work. Over the See **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**, page 67

BHUSD Board Hears Allegations Black Students Were Harassed



BY SEAN BECKNER-CARMITCHEL

Black students at Beverly Hills High School (BHHS) allege that they were harassed, intimidated and subjected to racial epithets during a pro-Trump rally on campus on Nov. 5. Dozens of BHHS students held a boisterous lunchtime rally that day in support of Trump. Video of the rally shows students cheering and moving through a common area of the school. Many of them wore red “Make America Great Again” hats; others carried or wrapped themselves in Trump banners or hoisted flags on poles. At one point, students cheered as a school security guard held up a Trump flag. Videos of the event were widely disseminated on social media.

After the rally, BHHS Principal Drew Stewart indicated that going forward, students would not be allowed to “create moving mobs or form circles for the purpose of shouting, jumping and physically contacting others.”

While accounts of the rally appeared in news reports last week, another aspect of the campus gathering came to light at the Nov. 12 Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Board of Trustees meeting. As recounted by seven students and BHHS teacher Bella Ivory, some rally participants moved through a school hallway and began to scream profanities and racial slurs outside Ivory’s classroom. The classroom was at the time occupied by Ivory and several students. Ivory teaches classes in fashion and is the faculty sponsor of the Black Student Union.

One student told the board that she was in Ivory’s classroom when a video of the rally was sent to them. Not long afterward, she heard loud banging sounds outside the classroom. Then, she heard the rallying students begin shouting “words of profanity and hate.” Of the experience, she said, “I’ve never felt this scared at school and in fear of my life.”

Several students told the board that they feared for their safety and pleaded with Ivory not to let the demonstrators gain access to the classroom when the door began to rattle.

“Although I was aware of the pure hatred and racism in my time being here, it was never expressed in the way that it was last week,” another student told the board.

“We just heard loud voices outside of my door screaming f*** Kamala,” Ivory told

the Courier. Videos taken of the event show about a dozen students marching through the school hallways and chanting. The kids were “screaming profanities and slurs and just different things through the door,” said Ivory. She added, “The ‘n’ word was being said. It was pretty bad, it was pretty bad.”

Ivory described being surprised as to why the protest had been allowed to get out of hand, and wondered to herself, “Where is admin?” She asked an assistant principal, “Did you guys know about this? Was this something approved?” The response was “no.”

Ivory later tried to set the record straight after local media reports failed to describe the total picture of what transpired at the rally. Ivory left an online comment on an ABC7 piece describing the event. After that, she told the Courier that she was “attacked by Beverly Hills parents for speaking my truth,” describing angry messages left on social media.

Some of the students emphasized at the board meeting that racism was not limited to the rally on Election Day. One student described seeing racial epithets on bathroom walls. Another said, “Throughout all my years being in this school, it’s been nonstop racist, racist things happening. And I’ve had numerous conversations with multiple staff members and admins throughout my years being here. And nothing’s really happened.”

After the students spoke, Stewart noted, “Tonight we heard from students who have concerns, and I’m very grateful to them for coming and speaking this evening. We want all of our students to feel comfortable enough to let us know when something isn’t right in their experience at our school.”

In a statement after the Nov. 12 board meeting, BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy told the Courier, “We sincerely appreciate all of the speakers who contributed this evening. Alongside my colleagues, I take all concerns regarding hate speech and safety extremely seriously and we are actively addressing these through regular meetings with our students.

As we heard during public comment, our community includes individuals with varying perspectives, and we are listening to all voices as we continue to navigate this important dialogue.” ●

License # 197602370

BHPD Awarded \$100,000 Traffic Safety Grant



The Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) has received a \$100,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to support its ongoing enforcement and education programs to reduce serious injuries and fatalities on local roads. The grant program will run through September 2025.

"We are grateful to receive this grant, which will strengthen our traffic enforcement efforts and improve road safety," said Beverly Hills Police Chief Mark Stainbrook. "By increasing enforcement of traffic laws and focusing on high-risk areas, we aim to reduce dangerous driving behaviors, prevent crashes, and make our roads safer for everyone."

The grant will fund several additional

programs and resources, including:

- DUI checkpoints and patrols targeting suspected impaired drivers.
- High visibility distracted driving enforcement operations target drivers violating California's hands-free cell phone law.
- Enforcement operations focused on dangerous driving behaviors that threaten the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Enforcement operations targeting the top crash-causing violations: speeding, failure to yield, stop sign and red-light running, and improper turning or lane changes.
- Community presentations on traffic safety topics such as distracted driving, impaired driving, speeding, and bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- Officer training and recertification for the Standard Field Sobriety Test, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement, and Drug Recognition Expert programs.

The program was funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ●

Labor Negotiations on City Council Agenda



Photo by Julianna Lozada

Lead labor negotiator Peter Brown addresses the City Council at the Nov. 7 Regular Meeting.

BY JULIANNA LOZADA

At its Nov. 7 Regular Meeting, the city of Beverly Hills held its first hearing to solicit public input on upcoming labor negotiations with three of its sworn employee associations. The city will negotiate new Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), or collective bargaining agreements, with three of these associations at the beginning of

2025: Police Officers' Association (BHPOA), Police Management Association (BHPMA) and Firefighters' Association (BHFMA). Current BHPOA and BHPMA contracts end in June 2025, while the BHFMA contract ends in May 2025.

The MOUs contain the terms and conditions of employment between the city and its employees. These agreements include the See CITY COUNCIL, page 10



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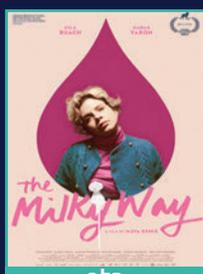
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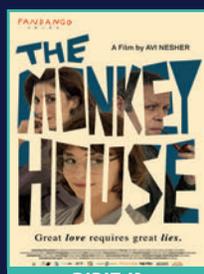
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Travels with the Courier

The Beverly Hills Courier accompanied readers to several destinations around the world recently. At top, Michael Patrick Shiels with the Courier during a stay at the NH Hotel Murano Villa in Venice, Italy. At bottom, Shirley Arconti took her copy of the Courier along when she visited Reykjavik, Iceland.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Beverly Hills Courier,

Doggy Daze is a great Beverly Hills tradition. An opportunity for dog lovers and owners to get together and celebrate their pets. Roxbury Park is a perfect setting for this to take place. The affair has a collection of vendors displaying all manor of goodies and treats for our four-legged friends. Adoption booths are there for those that are interested, and there is also a parade and show.

What more could we want?

Well, did anyone discuss this with the dogs, besides me? My golden retriever, Buddy, my wife and I are at Roxbury Park several times a week walking the paths. A great place to walk with a family pet. No crosswalks, or cars to watch out for.

And there are always many other dog walking teams. But what the dogs really like is freedom! Off with our leashes! Roxbury

Park is the most perfect place for a Dog Park in Beverly Hills, and the perfect spot for such a park is right there-right now.

The long abandoned lawn bowling arena at the north west end of the park. Imagine, unused real estate in Beverly Hills! Priceless! We could have a world class dog park. Of course there are going to be objections and foot dragging. This city is a world leader in those categories. We could have the "Rodeo Drive" of dog Parks if we choose to. Why not? Yes, it would take community effort, and funds. Objections can be overcome! Funds can be raised!

I would love to hear from dog lovers and dogs about how they feel about freedom at Roxbury.

**Barry Alexander and Buddy
Beverly Hills**



Photos courtesy BHHS

Career Academy students at Peninsula Beverly Hills

CAREER ACADEMY, from page 1

The Maybourne Beverly Hills, the Peninsula Beverly Hills and Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills. The year-long program includes six hotel visits and at least six workshops at BHHS held the following day, where students give informal presentations on what they learned that week or participate in workshops. The program, which is open to 10th, 11th, and 12th-grade students, has about 38 students currently enrolled.

“Providing pathways and academies at BHHS is essential to bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world career experiences,” Dr. Dustin Seemann, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, told the Courier. “These programs offer students invaluable exposure to fields and industries that can’t be fully replicated within school walls, helping them make informed choices about their future. By immersing students in professional environments like our hospitality industry in Beverly Hills, we empower them to enter the college application process with clarity and confidence, equipped to pursue paths that align with their true interests and aspirations.”

The early success of the Career Academy is notable. One BHHS graduate who was enrolled in the program last year attended a job fair at L’Ermitage over the summer and was already familiar with the hiring staff. “They ended up hiring him out of high school, which was his dream, to work full time in the hospitality industry before going off to college,” Cindy Dubin, Coordinator of Career Technical Education at BHHS, told the Courier.

“The host hotels are amazing,” Dubin told the Courier. The hotels feature a different department each month, ranging from food and beverage, business and marketing, finance, housekeeping, security, engineering and others. “So, it’s just to hear how people ended up doing what they’re doing, and if

you’re dedicated, work hard and are open-minded, you just never know where your talents will bring you.”

After a representative from Les Roche, a leading hospitality school in Europe, came to speak to career classes at BHHS last year and learned about the new program, she wanted to get involved too. As a result, Les Roches offered one Career Academy student a scholarship to attend one of their teen business hotel hospitality programs over the summer in Switzerland and provided \$1,000 toward airfare. “And now, because of that school doing it, other schools and colleges are hearing about it and wanting to support the program and encourage kids,” Dubin said.

Students rotate so they can experience a workday at each of the hotels at least once. This year, the program features signature events for returning students. “I wanted to have something more enhanced for them, so I’ve asked the hotels to give us events. It can be an afternoon tea; it can be a wedding for 500, and they will take one to three students who can then come shadow or observe things in motion.” A few weeks ago, L’Ermitage had students working as lobby greeters for a ribbon cutting of their new restaurant, Costa Covo Osteria.

Last year, three students had the opportunity to shadow staff at the Beverly Wilshire as they were setting up for conferences and banquets.

Students in the Career Academy must wear a uniform that includes a black blazer with a logo and either black dress shoes, new white tennis shoes or clean black tennis shoes with no graphics. “If they show up at the bus and they’re not in the proper attire, they can’t go,” Dubin said. “There are just so many life lessons and it’s about being confident inside and out. This repetitive interaction with professionals is just such a direct way to help make that happen.” ●



Students taking part in an academy workshop

Late Fall TV



Photo courtesy of Netflix

Simone Biles in “Simone Biles Rising”

BY NEELY SWANSON

Looking for late fall TV recommendations? Here is a rundown of some of the hits and misses of the season.

“The Diplomat”

Finally season two is here and just in time. The further adventures of our reluctant U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain, Kate Wyler (Keri Russell), and her unpredictable husband, Hal (Rufus Sewell), continue with the stakes ramped up even higher. Instead of recapping the first season, I exhort you to watch it again; you won’t be bored. You’ll need to watch at least the last couple of episodes if only to put the first season finale shocker together with the touch-and-go emotions of season two.

Kate and Hal, career diplomats specializing in the Middle East and Central Asia, found themselves in London when Kate was tapped to be the Ambassador to Great Britain, traditionally a post given to mega political donors with no work experience. What Kate doesn’t know, and Hal does, is that she is being groomed as a possible replacement for the current Vice President, who has been embroiled in her husband’s financial chicanery. As is so often the case, Kate is the last to know. But her vast experience will serve her well in this new position that is more fraught than she imagined. Her marriage to Hal is complicated and she is constantly on the verge of divorce, one that is repeatedly sidetracked by the ever-resourceful Hal. Charming to a fault, he feels sidelined and underused, something his ego can’t handle. Trust is definitely an issue, but she needs his navigational skills. The British Prime Minister is cagey, probably corrupt

and, she suspects, is the actual perpetrator of a crime of international scope. Her alliance with the British Foreign Minister, fraught with sexual tension, has shored up her defenses.

Basically, anything revealed about what that crime is, how Hal is affected and who the responsible party is would be gigantic spoilers. As Kate grows into her job and begins to earn the respect of all around her, she comes face to face with the woman she is slated to replace—the U.S. Vice President, a stunningly chilling Allison Janney. Keeping as vague as possible, the shocking season one finale segues into season two with a death, breakups, betrayal, and investigations that lead where no one was prepared for them to go. Each episode is more breathtaking than the one that preceded it, making this series impossible not to binge. And it all leads up to a finale more shocking than the last one; one that will mutate, almost metastasize, into what is sure to be an exciting season three. All of the supporting players are terrific including the ever-interesting Celia Imrie as Margaret Roylin, an insider who has burrowed deep; Rory Kinnear as slimy Prime Minister Nicol Trowbridge; and David Gyasi as the Foreign Secretary who exudes pheromones. The level of authenticity is enhanced by the incredible locations, including the actual U.S. Embassy and the Louvre in Paris. Season three can’t come too soon.

Now streaming on Netflix.

“Simone Biles Rising”

Simone Biles, recognized as the greatest gymnast of all time, gave unprecedented access to documentarian and director Katie Walsh, and it pays off in so many ways. Billed

as a two-season series, it is, in actuality, a documentary told in four thrilling, sympathetic, revealing and insightful episodes, the first two of which were already playing on Netflix and the second two, primarily focused on the Paris Olympics, premiered on Oct. 25. Watch all of them sequentially, and you have an intimate and exhilarating portrait of a phenomenal athlete who comes off as a delightful, embracing, down to earth, charismatic and introspective young woman who just happens to have skills heretofore unimagined.

“And still I rise” is her touchstone. A lyrical poem by Maya Angelou, she had those words tattooed on her collarbone. It is a reminder to her that no matter what anyone else thinks or says about her, especially after the Tokyo Olympics, she will rise above it. The first episode focused on the leadup to the Tokyo Olympics and the so-called disaster when she withdrew. Her withdrawal called attention to something called “the twisties.” In gymnastics, and in life generally speaking, the body must be in sync with the brain for motor activities to go smoothly. If, in the case of “the twisties,” you lose track of where you are while performing an aerial feat, you risk severe injury because you’ve lost your sense of where you are in the rotation or how to land. Biles described it as being “lost in the air.”

The second episode focuses on her decision to rise above what happened at the Olympics and her determination to rise again. She shows us the preparation and diligent work it took to get back to where she felt she needed to be. The third and fourth episodes are focused on the lead up to Paris, with the World Championships and her continued work in the gym. The footage

from the Paris Olympics, some of which was part of the NBC coverage and some of it not, is nothing short of stunning.

Interspersed throughout the episodes are home movies starting when she was 6, and interviews with experts, the team physician, her coaches, Olympians past and present, and her fabulous parents. Simone and her three siblings were abandoned by their drug-addicted mother. After spending time in the foster care system, her grandparents adopted her and one of her sisters. Her other sister and brother were adopted by her aunt and uncle. This is as much a portrait of a brilliant athlete as it is the extraordinary love that surrounded her and contributed so much to her self-confidence as an athlete and an individual. She’s now 27 years old, married to a professional football player, and well on her way to inventing herself outside of her sport. But really, if you’re like me, you’ll thrill to her untethered leaps in the air. There can never be enough gymnastics, and there definitely can never be enough Simone Biles, a hero and role model for this and the generations to come.

Now streaming on Netflix.

“Cross”

Based on the James Patterson series of novels, “Cross” follows Alex Cross, an African American Washington, D.C. police detective, still reeling from the murder of his wife. He tries to make his family a priority, but police business always intervenes. A Ph.D. in psychology, Cross establishes his superior skills in the first few minutes when interviewing a racist murder suspect who enjoys taunting his Black jailers.

What the D.C. Metropolitan Police have not yet noticed is that a serial killer is on



Photo courtesy of Mike Tiang/Disney

Jimmy O. Yang and Chloe Bennet in “Interior Chinatown”

the loose. One of his victims was a former criminal, now a leader in his community, whose death was staged as a drug overdose. The community is convinced that, at the very least, this is a police cover up. Certainly, the chief is behaving that way in trying to close the case with a minimal investigation. If that’s what she wanted, however, she should never have assigned Cross to the case. It will be up to him to unravel what happened and why. He knew the victim and admired his transformation. A simple interview of the victim’s hostile friends and family reveal contradictory evidence. The higher-ups may want to close this case post haste but Cross doesn’t play that game. When other bodies start turning up, he realizes that something else is going on.

What should be a thrilling series with twists and turns aplenty is rather flat. The timing seems off. Aldis Hodge as Alex Cross is quite good but the support is weak and the dialogue, which should crackle, fizzles. The characters are wooden, and that is a directorial problem because, presumably, capable actors were hired in the first place. It’s a shame because Patterson’s books are always page-turners and one would hope for the same in the television equivalent. This should have been good or, at the very least, better.

Streaming Nov. 14 on Amazon Prime.

“Interior Chinatown”

This is an inventive series, if rather confusing, about a young Chinese American man, an aspirational actor always relegated to “third guy on the right,” who steps into a fantasy world where he is the hero of his story. Willis Wu, waiting tables at his uncle’s

restaurant in Chinatown, inadvertently witnesses what may be an abduction. It is here where the lines blur and his so-called storyline intersects with that of a TV procedural called “Black & White,” starring, you guessed it, a beautiful white woman detective and her handsome, suave Black partner. Willis, seemingly entering the procedural playing on the restaurant’s television, is invisible to all except the new, woefully inexperienced but assertive diversity hire, Detective Lee, who is their “Chinatown expert.” It is Lee who picks up on Willis’ intel and tries to use it to elevate her status. But she faces her own invisibility issue. Willis has his own problems, not just the job he hates at his uncle’s restaurant, but also with his separated parents, each of whom stifles his dreams and any forward progress he attempts. And again, with an eye to destabilizing the real vs. unreal scenarios, Willis’s brother, Kung-Fu guy, has been missing for several years. Willis discovers that he was working undercover for the task force in Chinatown, but did he really exist? In the minds of Willis and his parents, who may or may not be part of this TV show, he existed and he is sorely missed. He was the handsome, talented one.

Confused? So am I. But it’s still worth at least a couple of episodes because it will probably immerse you in its quicksand approach to storytelling. It might not need to be reality-based or even separate the real from the fiction because the characters are engaging. In its own way, it blurs the lines even further because that is what television storytellers are always trying to do—make you part of the narrative.

Streaming on Hulu Nov. 19. ●



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.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its meeting to be held on **Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard**, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, will hold a public hearing to consider:

AN APPEAL OF STAFF'S OCTOBER 18, 2024 INCOMPLETE DETERMINATION, PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65943(c), PERTAINING TO THE REVIEW OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED 14-STORY RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 211-217 SOUTH HAMILTON DRIVE.

The proposed project is a new 14-story, 160’ tall, residential building at 211-217 South Hamilton Drive. The proposal consists of 210 dwelling units inclusive of 42 units allocated for lower income households. 155 proposed parking spaces would be provided within a three-level subterranean parking structure. The project site is located within the City’s R-4, Multiple Residential Zone. The applicant has filed applications to initiate the review of the proposal as a “Builder’s Remedy” project, which relies on the provisions of the Housing Accountability Act (HAA), codified in Government Code §65589.5, and the related filing of a preliminary application pursuant to Government Code §65941.1.

This project is currently under review by the City and no action regarding a decision on the project has occurred. The applicant (Flamingo Investments, 18 Hamilton LLC) has filed an appeal of City staff’s determination, that the project application is incomplete and related determinations as detailed in the City’s letter issued on October 18, 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15378(b)(5)), administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, including determinations of application completeness, are not considered projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project is currently under review and the City has not performed an environmental analysis of the project, as project details may change in response to the City’s comments during project review. Environmental review of the project will be performed and publicly available prior to any decision on the project being issued.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Please be advised that pre-entry metal detector screening requirements are now in place at City Hall. Members of the public are requested to plan visits accordingly. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending in-person or telephonically, and may view the meeting through live webcast or BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable. City Council meetings are broadcast on local Beverly Hills television and on other media platforms. Anyone who participates at the meeting and/or enters the City Council Chamber is subject to having their image displayed. These recordings will remain publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Public Comment Participation:

- Oral Comment/Listen only: (310) 288-2288
- Email: cityclerk@beverlyhills.org
- Video (during public comment only): <http://beverlyhills.org/comment>
- To Watch Video Live: <http://beverlyhills.org/live> or
- On-Demand: <http://beverlyhills.org/citycouncilmeetings>
- In-Person: Submit a Speaker Card to the City Clerk at the meeting

How to Submit Public Comment (Email/Video):

It is recommended that public written comments be submitted to the City Clerk’s office by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the City Council/Parking Authority. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the subject line of the email. The City Clerk will read only the first three minutes (approximately 350 words) of a written comment. In the event of a large number of written comments on one item, written comments may be summarized by the City Clerk’s Office. The entire written comment shall be archived in full as part of the record.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Public comment via video conference will be no longer than three (3) minutes per each individual comment, subject to City Council discretion based on the anticipated length in the meeting. In-person speaker cards may be submitted to the City Clerk directly during the meeting.

Any interested person may participate in the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the City Council. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the Council’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.

In Person Participation:

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter in person. Please see the above information on the location and time of this meeting.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Judy Gutierrez, Senior Planner** in the Planning Division at (310) 285-1192, or by email at jgutierrez@beverlyhills.org. Please also contact us to add your email to the interested parties list for this proposal, so that important updates and notifications may be sent to you.

HUMA AHMED
City Clerk

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-2400 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). 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.

CITY COUNCIL, from page 5

wages and benefits for each city employee and are determined by factors like the cost of living and comparable salaries for similar positions in other cities. Per state law, the city must negotiate in good faith with its employee associations to establish their respective MOUs.

The negotiations will be led by an independent labor negotiations team who will represent the city and make decisions on their behalf. The negotiations team consists of four independent labor negotiators, including Shelley Ovrom, Kristen Rowe and Tatiana Szerwinski. Peter Brown will be the lead negotiator.

At the meeting, Brown gave a breakdown of the overall average cost to the city of each public employee in the three sworn employee associations being considered. The total cost of each employee considers salary, benefits, pension contributions, unfunded liability, and overtime pay.

Brown also outlined the public employee pension plan, underscoring the difference between classic and new members under the California pension system, which determines how cities fund public employee pensions. California's public employee pension system changed significantly in 2013 with the Public Employee Pension Reform Act (PEPRA). Under this law, employees fall into two categories: classic members hired before Jan. 1, 2013, who kept their original pension benefits and lower contribution rates, and "PEPRA" members hired after that date, who must pay higher pension contributions as determined by the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS).

Today, Beverly Hills and most California cities primarily hire PEPRA members, and Brown emphasized that City Council should consider projected CalPERS pension contribution rates when reviewing the MOUs.

The Nov. 7 City Council meeting was preceded by an informational meeting on Oct. 29 for the community, which gave background on the city's labor negotiation process as well as its specific timeline. The city will now hold a closed session in December 2024/January 2025 to direct Brown on strategy and authority for upcoming labor negotiations.

Finally, an independent fiscal analysis will be conducted prior to the adoption of the MOUs. The analysis will be posted on

the city's website for at least two weeks, which will provide the public with information about the cost to the city of the new agreements. The public will have another opportunity to provide input on the labor negotiations process when presented to the City Council for a second time.

The new MOUs are expected to be adopted in January or February of 2025.

During the meeting, Councilmember Wells inquired about comparative studies being done between Beverly Hills and other cities to help the council make decisions about the new MOUs. Brown assured that comparative surveys are in the process of being conducted and will be shared with the council when they meet again.

The comparative surveys are designed to help City Council know where the earnings of its sworn associations' employees are relative to similar positions in other cities. However, Brown noted that these comparisons are relatively straightforward in this case because public safety jobs (fire and police) are relatively consistent from city to city.

In other matters, the city heard from its urban designer, Mark Odell, on seven new Golden Shield Awards recommended by the Cultural Heritage Commission. The City Council unanimously approved all seven new Golden Shield Award recipients, which are the Beverly Hills Handbag Studio, Ye Bridle Path, David Orgell, Dolores Drive-In, Holsum Bakery, La Dolce Vita and Mr. Chow.

Golden Shield Awards are given to locations that have historical and cultural significance in the city. The program was created in 2019 by the Cultural Heritage Commission and Beverly Hills City Council to recognize important contributions to the city's history. Awardees are recognized with a custom gilt-bronze plaque highlighting their respective significance.

Finally, members of the council also commented on their recent ventures outside of Beverly Hills, such as Mayor Lester Friedman and Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian's trip to New York to build connections with local businesses. Additionally, Councilmember Wells, Councilmember Corman and Nazarian attended the 2024 League of California Cities Annual Conference and Expo in Long Beach to connect with fellow city employees from other parts of California. ●

General Election Ballots Still Being Counted

A report from the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) indicates that there were 13,948 ballots cast in the city of Beverly Hills in the Nov. 5 General Election. The total number of registered voters in the city is 22,037.

Donald Trump received 7,243 votes in Beverly Hills and Kamala Harris received 6,169. Nathan Hochman received 10,505 votes in Beverly Hills to aid his successful race to unseat LA District Attorney George Gascón, who received 2,302 votes in the city. And the charter amendment Measure G, which won with 51.40% of the vote countywide was not supported in Beverly Hills, where the "no" votes numbered 7,198 versus 4,489 in favor. The Beverly Hills precinct information comes from the Nov. 6 Statement of Votes Cast, which will be updated at the end of the Official Election Canvass on Dec. 3.

Additionally, the RR/CC continues to release countywide post-Election Night ballot count updates. The estimate of outstanding ballots still to be processed is 141,900. These remaining numbers include Vote by Mail ballots received from the United States Postal Service through Nov. 13, and ballots returned in a Ballot Drop Box or Vote Center on Election Day. The estimate also includes ballots pending signature cures from voters whose signatures on the return envelope were missing or did not match their registration records. These voters have been notified and instructed on how to cure their ballots to be counted.

The Official Election Canvass is a 30-day period in which the RR/CC processes and verifies all outstanding ballots to ensure that every eligible ballot cast by Election Day is counted. Election results can be viewed on lavote.gov. ●

HEALTH, from page 1

our nation's name wisely. We must honor their intent if we are to thrive as the United States of America.

We can all start by practicing understanding, empathy, and collaboration across political divides. We face significant challenges on multiple fronts and overcoming them will require creative solutions from all of us.

Here in Beverly Hills, in these days following World Kindness Day on Nov. 13, we can agree on a few fundamentals. We all wish to live in a peaceful and just society. We are ready to work together to build it. Kindness and cooperation hold immense power, creating ripples far beyond what we can see. We must choose our actions thoughtfully and responsibly.

Once emotions have settled, here are a few steps to consider as you move forward:

1. Humanize the other side: Those who differ politically are complex individuals who made their choices based on unique experiences. Avoiding demonization is crucial to maintaining civility.

2. Engage with others: Speaking with people holding different views can foster understanding. Truly listening and considering other perspectives can teach us and may help ease our fears.

3. Listen attentively: Empathy grows when we listen patiently and seek to understand others viewpoints. You don't have to agree to appreciate their experiences. Remember, "Silence is golden, and duct tape is silver."

4. Agree to disagree: Political differences don't have to end relationships. You can respect others without sharing their views.

5. Find common ground: Look for shared

values. Most people, regardless of political stance, are well-intentioned and want a better world. I found solace attending a Rotary Club meeting last Thursday evening. Despite our dramatically different post-election moods, we came together to plan a Thanksgiving food drive for those in need in our community.

6. Identify real threats: Not everyone has the best intentions, and it's important to set boundaries when necessary. Remember that excessive and prolonged fear can lead to paranoia, causing us to see danger where none exists. Remain alert and grounded in reality.

7. Avoid complacency: Continued engagement in the civic process is important for those feeling victorious. Resilience is key for those feeling disappointed. Remember with focus and dedication oftentimes, "The comeback is greater than the setback."

As we move forward, let's remember that healing the hurt and division will take time and progress is rarely linear. In my years of practice, and among family and friends, I have watched people overcome challenges that seemed insurmountable. Our nation possesses this same resilience. Whether the election left you energized or deflated, we all have a role in shaping our future. By focusing on our shared humanity, practicing empathy, and engaging in constructive dialogue, we can bridge divides and foster a more resilient, united society.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Unity to be real must stand the severest strain without breaking." We are at that moment. With the election behind us, we can choose to come together with open hearts and a willingness to build a brighter future for all and honor the intent of our founders. ●

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.

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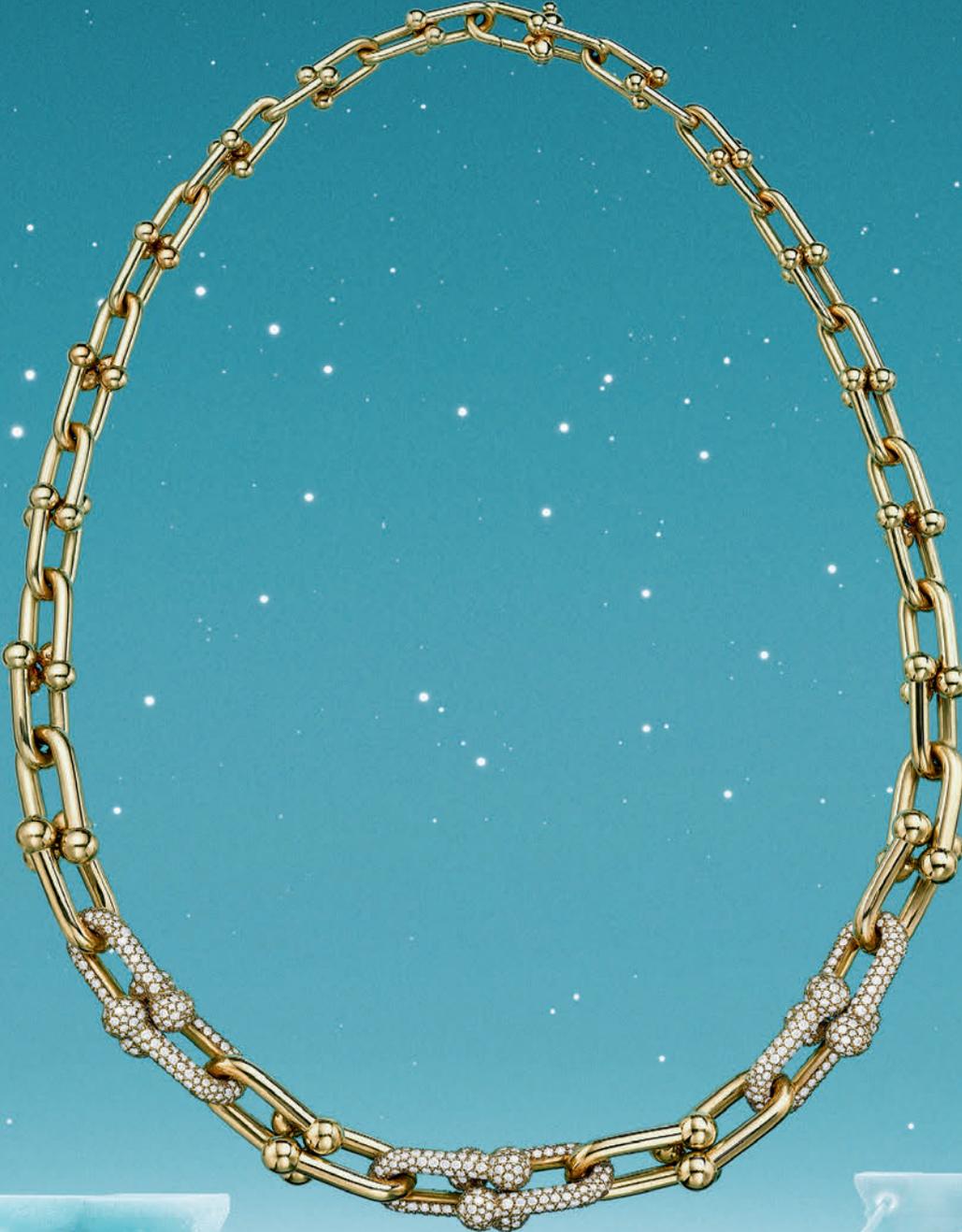
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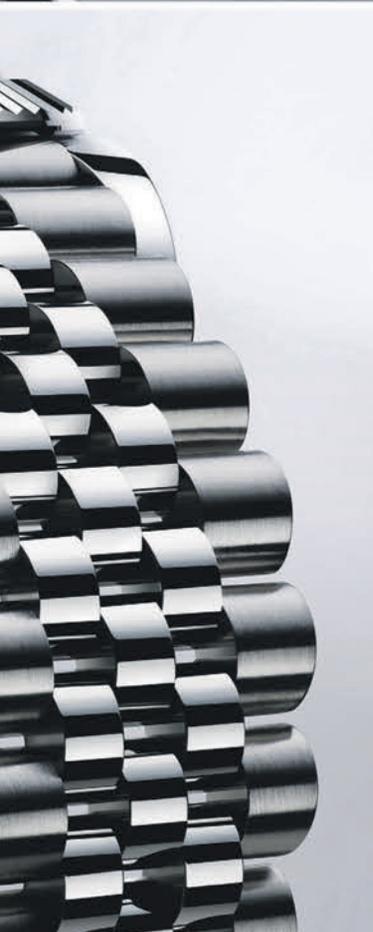
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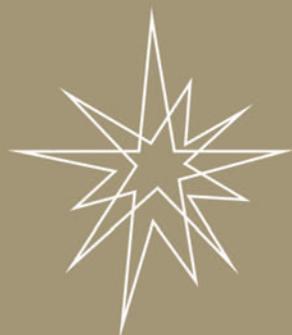


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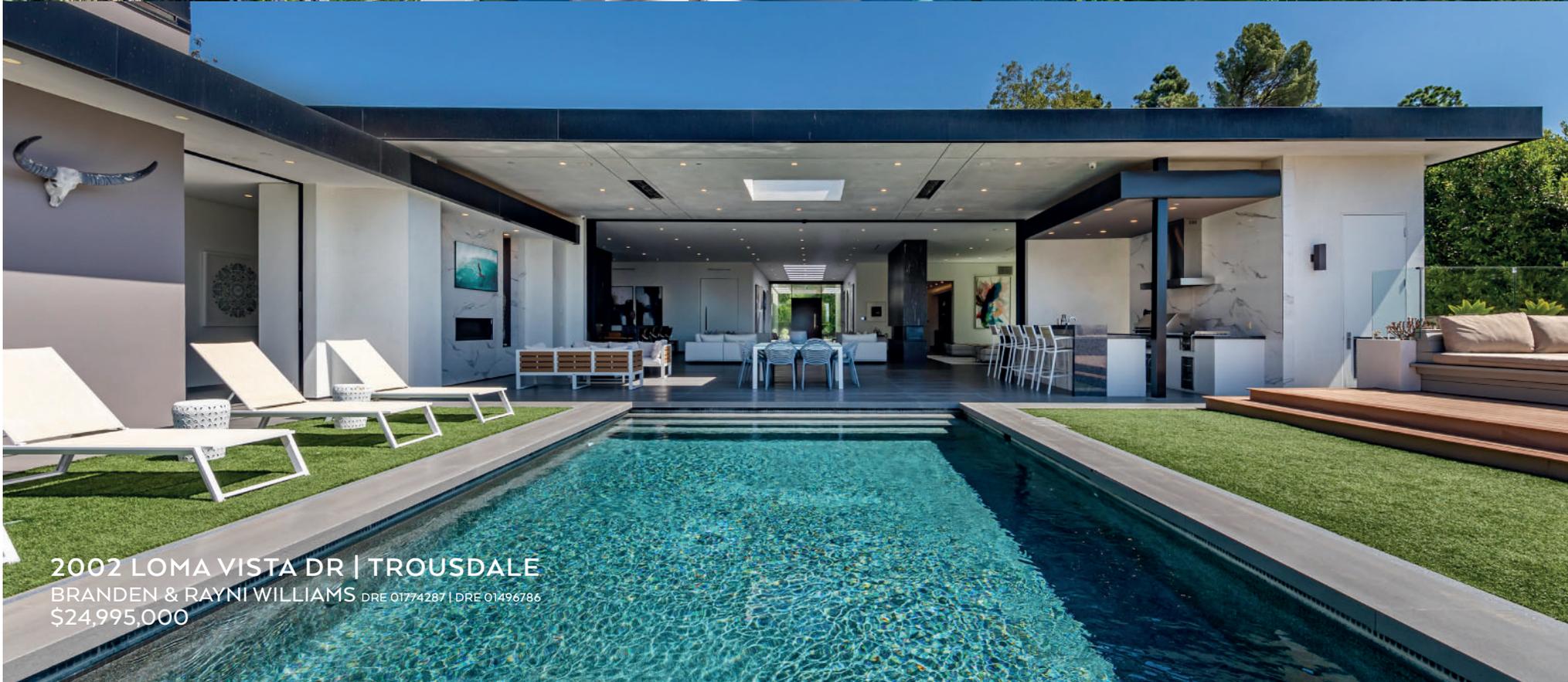
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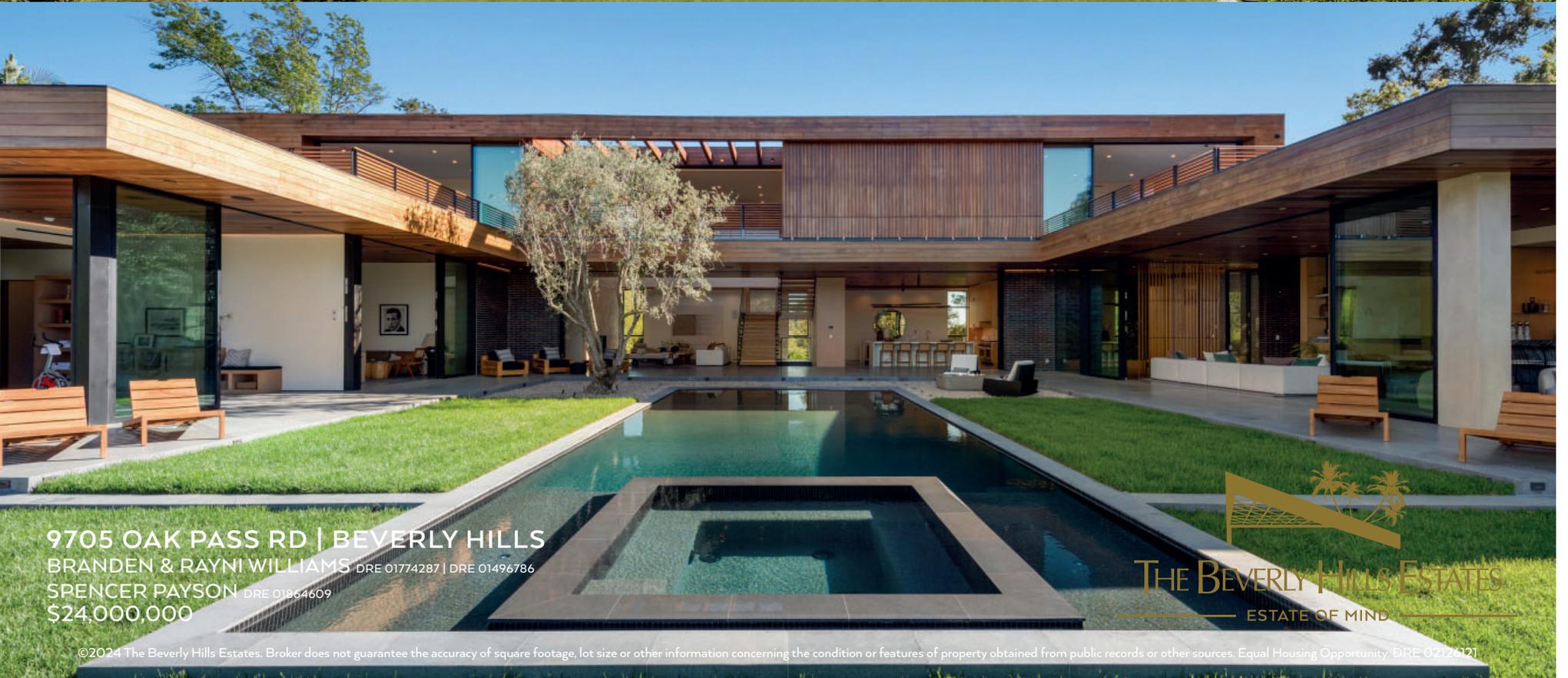
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PUBLISHERS IN STYLE



LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH



JOHN BENDHEIM

It's that time of year when our world-famous city begins to transform, radiating its holiday glow with a dazzling display of lights and festivities. It's also a time to celebrate many of the qualities unique to Beverly Hills. In this issue we highlight our city's inimitable trendsetting style, particularly as it intersects with the festive, family and friends' energy present in our community, especially during the holidays.

Thinking about entertaining? Exquisite private dining venues are popping up, creating the latest dinner party experiences. Read more in "Private Rooms for Holiday Events in Beverly Hills." Want to look your best as a host or a guest at upcoming holiday celebrations? Find out about the latest beauty breakthroughs in "Get Holiday-Ready with These New Beauty Offerings in Beverly Hills." Wondering what to wear to look and feel sensational, and right on trend? "The Stylists Shaping Beverly Hills" features insights from the leading stylists who dress the rich, famous and those in the public eye. Their advice covers what to buy this gifting season.

Seeking what's trending in film this holiday season? Learn about upcoming blockbusters, movies and streaming projects in "Fall/Winter Film Previews." Considering trendy facial interventions, but don't know if it's too early? Top plastic surgeons in Beverly Hills weigh in on the younger generations in "The Rise of Baby Botox in Beverly Hills."

Enticed by the idea of an indulgent holiday tea? This longstanding tradition is in the spotlight with some trendy twists. Don't miss the spectacular afternoon teas highlighted in "Celebrate the Holidays at the Finest Afternoon Teas in Town."

For our cover feature, we proudly present the incomparable queen of the court in "Candace Parker-Powering Forward." Discover how this global superstar and dynamic trendsetter earned GOAT status while breaking down barriers, focusing on family and advocating for equality. Enjoy a sneak peek of what's next for her.

A big thank you to my partner, John, who arranged our exclusive cover feature with his dear friend, Candace. Thank you, Candace, for sharing your inspirational story. To our phenomenal local, national and global advertisers who continue to support the Courier's publications each week and the quarterly magazines throughout the year, we thank you.

John and I and the entire Courier team wish you great health, happiness, peace and prosperity. May you enjoy many reasons to celebrate in Beverly Hills during the holidays and throughout the new year.

LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH, PUBLISHER AND WRITER

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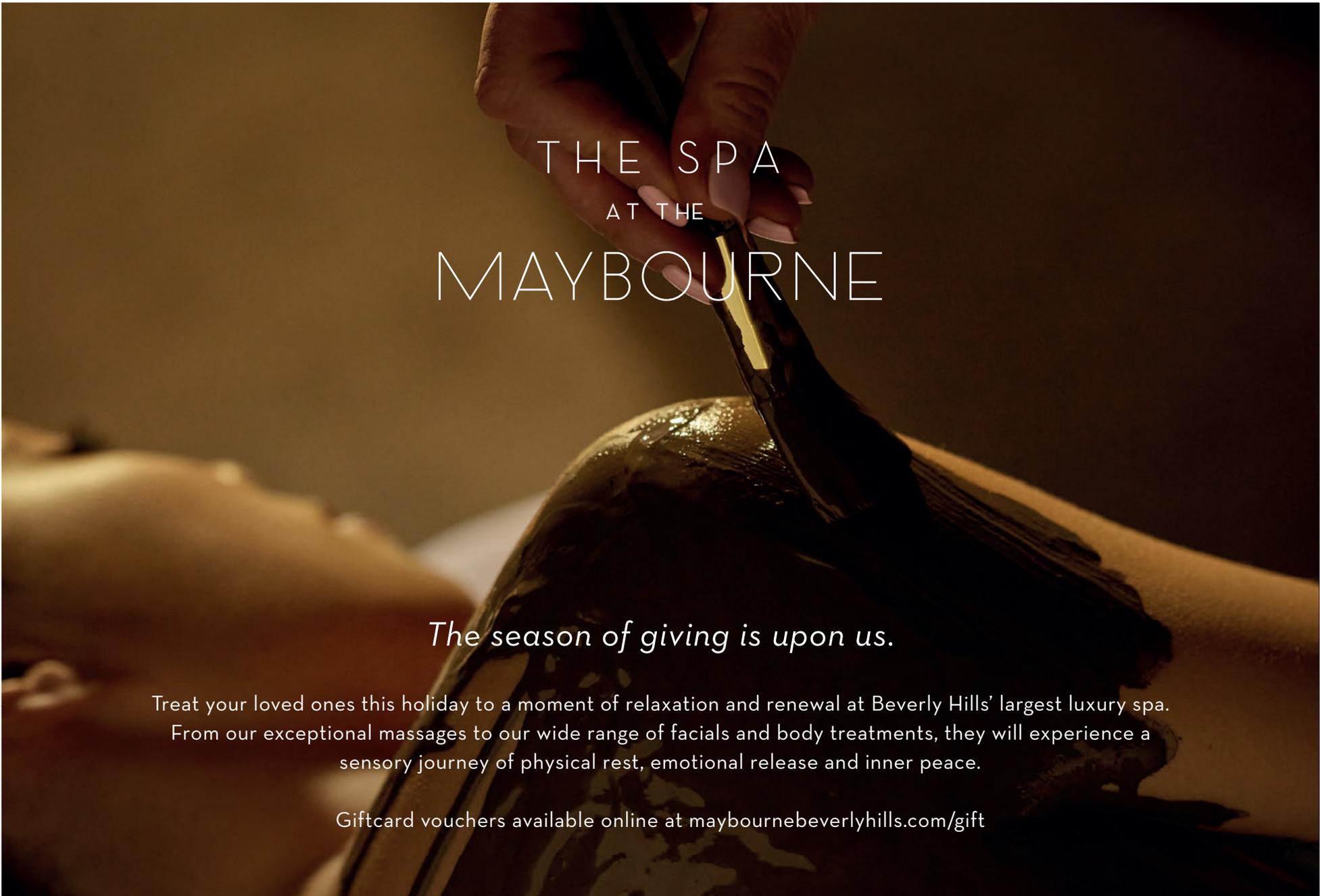
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Private Rooms for Holiday Events in Beverly Hills

BY CAROLE DIXON



STELLA UPPER LEVEL TOSCANA DINING ROOM
PHOTO BY JEFFREY CHAN

Whether you are looking for an intimate family gathering or entertaining your whole office, we've compiled the best options around Beverly Hills for booking a private dining room this holiday season—and also gathered a few tips from top florists and event gurus around town.

While most of these locations are stylishly decorated already, the right floral arrangements are key, and the first step, to setting the right tone for your gathering. The Hidden Garden is the in-house florist for many Beverly Hills institutions from the Beverly Wilshire, a Four Seasons Hotel, the Beverly Hills Hotel, the Maybourne Beverly Hills, the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills and restaurants such as Il Pastaio.

The Courier spoke with Amy Marella, founder and CEO of the Hidden Garden, who advised letting the floral designer utilize what is best in season at the time of the dinner party. "If you don't have a set color scheme for the table asking, 'What looks best from Mother Nature today?' It allows us to design something that might be uniquely in bloom that week."

Known for larger-scale events, weddings and bat mitzvahs for over 30 years, the Empty Vase on Doheny Drive and Santa Monica Boulevard is doing more smaller-scale events in private rooms. The family-owned business counts e. baldi Ristorante, Cecconi's (which has a private space with a Damien Hirst painting) and Stella among its regular clients.

"We work with so many places on a regular basis that we know what

would suit the space and work with the decor, color scheme and style of the room so it's not a blank canvas," Manager-Designer of the Empty Vase Avva Babaeen told the Courier.

A few things to consider from both florists are the shape and style of table, side tables, and how they will be used, such as a coursed-out meal, allowing for a more elaborate floral arrangement, or family style, which offers less room. In some cases, gifts for the guests are provided from a rosebud vase on each place setting to guest chocolates or napkin rings to take home.

According to fine linen stylist and owner of E. Braun & Co. on Robertson Boulevard, Liz Barbatelli, the ambiance you create is very important and integral to your success. "From the linens, the room decor and ambiance, the flowers, candles, dinnerware, cutlery and other necessary accouterment set the tone. Every detail should be planned and thought through in advance."

Barbatelli, who works with many local restaurants and hotels, advised on a few things to look out for when planning a private soiree. First of all, "Avoid a restaurant in which you have never dined, and one that will not give you firm pricing. Also, make sure they have a special event coordinator that you can work with, and be sure they will let you bring in anything that you feel is missing or important for your event. You want a collaborative experience that creates an extraordinary event with an artful, inspired and thoughtful approach."

THE VENUES

E. BALDI RISTORANTE

The Aperitivo Lounge on Brighton Way, which is the new addition to e. baldi Ristorante, features a stylish private dining room behind a curtain. This space can seat 49 people with different table configurations from smaller round tables to a long communal setting, or intimate parties of 10. For a corporate meeting, there is a flat-screen for presentations, but the main use so far has been for celebrations and celebrity parties. You will also have menu options from beloved chef Baldi for “Tuscan food with an accent of Emilia-Romagna,” and they offer a range of price points. privateroom@ebaldi.com



THE PRIVATE DINING ROOM AT E. BALDI
PHOTO COURTESY OF E. BALDI RISTORANTE

NOVIKOV

Mediterranean newcomer Novikov has a private dining room that seats 16 at a gorgeous oval table. The space is adorned with a chandelier, greenery, a large mirror and a modern abstract painting, creating a homey atmosphere. The enclosed, glass-walled space provides a view of the dining action, yet with some privacy. You can also book the side or front patio, which holds about 25 in each space. A set menu is required for prix fixe or family-style service. The food and beverage minimum is \$2,500. To book, call 310-300-0090.

PRIVATE DINING CONTINUES ON PAGE 48



STEAK 48 DINING ROOM
PHOTO BY WONHO FRANK LEE

STEAK 48

For a large variety of room options, Steak 48 offers a sophisticated setting, equipped with television screen capabilities. The Wine Room accommodates groups of up to 24 with sliding doors and views of the lounge. For more privacy, the Canon Room is closest in proximity to the front door and seats up to 30 guests with a variety of table configurations and dedicated volume controls for music to set the right tone for the evening.

For true gourmands who want a glimpse of the kitchen action, book the Chef’s Dining Room for a group of 34 or fewer. You will have the audio-visual capabilities, and can combine this space with the Cannon Room, for up to 65 guests. If you are planning a reception-style soiree, the Dominick Room setup includes a mix of high-top tables and booth seating for a maximum of 40 guests.

No matter which room you choose, prices start at just \$95 per person for a “city menu” with appetizers, entrees, sides and sweets, and up to higher price points for a “chef tasting.” guestservicesbeverlyhills@steak48.com



THE PRIVATE DINING ROOM AT NOVIKOV
PHOTO COURTESY OF NOVIKOV

The Stylists Shaping Beverly Hills

BY SELINA KAUSAR

In today's world, the term "influencer" is associated with hundreds of thousands if not millions of followers across social media. But in the fashion world, true influence comes from behind the scenes. Celebrity stylists shape the trends we will see everywhere this holiday season from the red carpet to intimate holiday gatherings.

Several of these top stylists call Beverly Hills their home and credit the city with influencing their outlook on fashion. We've chronicled their journeys to discover how these stylists are exerting their fashion influence through Beverly Hills and beyond. From bold statement pieces to effortlessly chic essentials, discover the creative forces shaping Beverly Hills fashion and their must-have style tips for the holidays.

ANYA SARRE

A celebrity stylist and TV fashion expert, Anya Sarre's love for fashion started at a young age. "It must have been innate," she told the Courier.

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Sarre moved to Los Angeles to attend the University of Southern California before earning her graduate degree from the Parsons School of Design. Since then, Sarre has become an internationally recognized fashion tastemaker, brand influencer and celebrity stylist. Through her business "Styled by Anya Inc.," Sarre has dressed some of the biggest names in the world for award shows such as the Emmys, Grammys, Golden Globes and Oscars, and features frequently as a style expert on KTLA5.

Sarre's influence on the style choices of others reaches far beyond social media. "It's no different whether you're influencing millions of people on TV every day, or just your neighbors—oftentimes people ask me where I got something, and to me, that suggests a certain level of influence," she noted.

It's this influence that shapes how Sarre styles her celebrity clients. "I look at each client like a blank slate, but I like to always keep things classic with a hint of trend," she said.

After decades in the fashion industry, Sarre developed a patented styling questionnaire, which means she can now dress people "sight unseen." Regardless of who she is styling, one thing remains the same: style is as much about the emotional as it is the physical.

"If you feel great, you look great, and if you look great, you feel great. So, it's really about me figuring out what makes people feel comfortable, and then dressing them based on that," she said.

One of the biggest challenges Sarre faces in her career is in styling a big event. She most recently styled for the Emmys and said clients are on "the quest for perfection," more than ever for a televised awards ceremony—a quest that often leads to them second-guessing if they've found the right outfit, with decisions not made until the last moment. "It's such a big decision. For some, this could be one of the biggest nights of their lives," Sarre said. "It's very different to styling someone for everyday looks."

It's these events that have some of the biggest names in Beverly Hills calling upon Sarre for her fashion influence and expertise. But beyond her strong client base, Beverly Hills has influenced Sarre's approach to fashion as much as she has influenced trends in the city.

For Sarre, Beverly Hills is incomparable to other fashion capitals like New York, Paris or London because it leads more on reputation rather than trend. "Beverly Hills is just the ultimate fashion destination," she said. "What makes it different than other fashion capitals is simple: it's iconic."

"There's no other city in the world that has as much brand recognition as Beverly Hills. There is so much significance behind what fashion in Beverly Hills means. It's a lot to live up to, but for me and my clients, it's always lived up to the expectation," she said.

The city's reputation as an iconic fashion destination is exactly why



ANYA SARRE
PHOTO BY JESSICA CZARNECKI

Sarre chose to host her holiday shopping event at the Four Seasons Beverly Hills last year. It's an event for celebrities, VIPs and Sarre's most exclusive friends to do some holiday shopping and see the newest trends of the season. "It took months of planning and curation, but there is nowhere else I'd ever throw an event like this. It's Beverly Hills, always," Sarre said.

And when it comes to what's in style this holiday season, Sarre is conclusive. "White, white and white!"

"Doing a white, cream or winter-neutrals theme is the 'in' thing for the holidays this year. If you're attending a cocktail party or holiday event, show up in winter white neutrals. I guarantee you will look the chicest in the room," she said.

For this year, Sarre encourages clients to prioritize the emotional over the physical when it comes to gifting. "It's all about the experience rather than the tangible gift," Sarre said. "Gifting someone a meaningful experience means so much, especially in a city like Beverly Hills where so many of us already own so many physical items as is."

And Sarre shared some recommendations for those searching for last-minute holiday gift ideas.

"Head over to Kitson on Beverly Drive. You can always find a unique gift there, especially for the kids in your life. For the adults, you can't go wrong with an Erewhon gift card. I'd recommend Stefano Ricci for men; they make the best ties. And if you want to talk jewelry, I would race down to XIV Karats. They have every gift you could ever want for the holidays," Sarre said.

STYLISTS CONTINUES ON PAGE 52



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STYLE's Fall/Winter Film Preview

BY NEELY SWANSON



KRISTOFER HIVJU AND DWAYNE JOHNSON IN "RED ONE"
PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANK MASI/PRIME

This fall has been a case of hope springing eternal. Summer releases revealed a dearth of product for mature adults although the box office showed promise with the extraordinary results of "Deadpool vs. Wolverine." That film accomplished two things of significance. First, it showed that there's still life in the Marvel Universe; and second, it successfully crossed demographic lines domestically and internationally. "Inside Out 2" was a major hit as well, and is, at present, the box office winner for 2024, further underscoring the fact that families do, indeed, go to the movies together and repeatedly. Both of those films joined the elite billion-dollar club. The 2023 writers' strike had an outsize effect on what was released this summer and early fall, but the sun is starting to peek from behind those clouds. There is a lot to look forward to in the coming months—the Oscar-qualifying months.

Many, if not most films that aim for an end-of-year release have Oscar aspirations. Although there have been many Oscar-quality films that opened earlier in the year, too many are forgotten when nominations come around; hence, the desire for a late fall opening. To qualify for an Oscar, films must have a run of seven days in a commercial theater in a qualifying U.S. metropolitan area. They may, however, open simultaneously in a theater and on a streaming network. A streaming release prior to commercial theatrical release disqualifies the film from Oscar consideration. More and more, stars have been demanding a

theatrical release of their films, even if they are ultimately meant to be streamed.

Opening dates for the late fall were in constant flux as distributors were still picking up films from festivals, the Toronto International Film Festival being the most influential. I'm definitely bullish on the upcoming movies. So, on with the show:

NOV. 15

"All We Imagine as Light" won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival. It is a poetic ode to the lives of two nurses and roommates from Mumbai, one of whom is estranged from her husband and the other in a forbidden romance with a Muslim, as they explore their lives, loves and disappointments. Ironically, India has chosen a different movie as their Oscar submission, something almost guaranteed to backfire.

"Red One" is Santa, and Santa has been kidnapped. Getting him back will be the trick as the security staff at the North Pole must battle monsters, bad guys and themselves to succeed or, gasp, there will be no Christmas. Full to brimming with comedy stars like Dwayne Johnson and Chris Evans, this Jake Kasdan-directed holiday film is sure to be a family pleaser.

NOV. 22

“Gladiator II” is Ridley Scott’s return to the arena, this time with the nephew of Maximus out to avenge his father’s death and return glory to Rome. Starring Paul Mescal, Denzel Washington and Pedro Pascal, there will be blood and some unlikely fighting animals.

“Wicked Part I” finally makes its way to the big screen after years as a hit on Broadway, with no end in sight. Divided into two parts, this novel take on the “Wizard of Oz” stars Ariana Grande as Glinda and Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba. Part II premieres on Nov. 26, making it a total Thanksgiving experience.

NOV. 27

“September 5” follows the massacre of Israeli athletes by the Palestinian terrorist group, Black September, at the 1972 Munich Olympics as covered by the ABC sports correspondents who were there broadcasting the games. It is a heart-stopping reminder of an event seen through the prism of the sportscasters with Peter Sarsgaard starring as Roone Arledge.

“Moana 2” is a journey across the seas and Moana, accompanied by Maui, must answer a call from her ancestors. There are rifts to heal and people to bring together. The animation shines in this sequel.

“Maria” is director Pablo Larain’s biopic of Maria Callas in her final years in Paris. Angelina Jolie stars.

“Queer” has made almost as many waves for its story as it has for its star. It is based on a semi-autobiographical novel by William S. Burroughs, part of the Beat Generation of poets and novelists in the 1950s. Lee, a gay man in thrall to drugs and younger conquests, finds love, romance and sex in Mexico City in the 1940s. Daniel Craig stars as Lee in a much-talked-about performance.

DEC. 6

“Hard Truths” is a return to form for Mike Leigh, here reuniting with the superb Marie Jean-Baptiste as a bitter dysfunctional British Jamaican who lashes out at everyone and everything including her preternaturally optimistic sister, her exact opposite.

“The Order” is a stunning depiction of a true 1983-84 drama about a white supremacist who decides to take action and foment a rebellion and the FBI agent on his trail. Starring Nicholas Hoult and Jude Law, the events are reenacted chillingly, a harbinger of what happened on Jan. 6.

“The Return” is director Uberto Pasolini’s take on Homer’s tale of the Odyssey with Ralph Fiennes as Odysseus and Juliette Binoche as his long-suffering wife, Penelope. Expect Pasolini to exhibit the quiet depth he showed earlier this year in his masterpiece, “Nowhere Special.” This film marks the first time Fiennes and Binoche have acted together since their breakout roles in “The English Patient.”

“The Six Triple Eights” gives us the story of the Black women who joined the war and were assigned the task of sorting, delivering and tracking the mail sent to soldiers during World War II. Directed by Tyler Perry and starring Kerry Washington, this is the story told by Romay Johnson Davis in “Black Uniform,” the outstanding documentary made by Beverly Hills’ own Robert Darwell. As Davis pointed out and Perry’s film emphasizes, mail is communication, hope and information, something supplied by this all-female, all-Black and all-disregarded unit who played the major role that everyone seems to have forgotten. Streaming on Netflix on Dec. 20.

1. “MOANA 2”

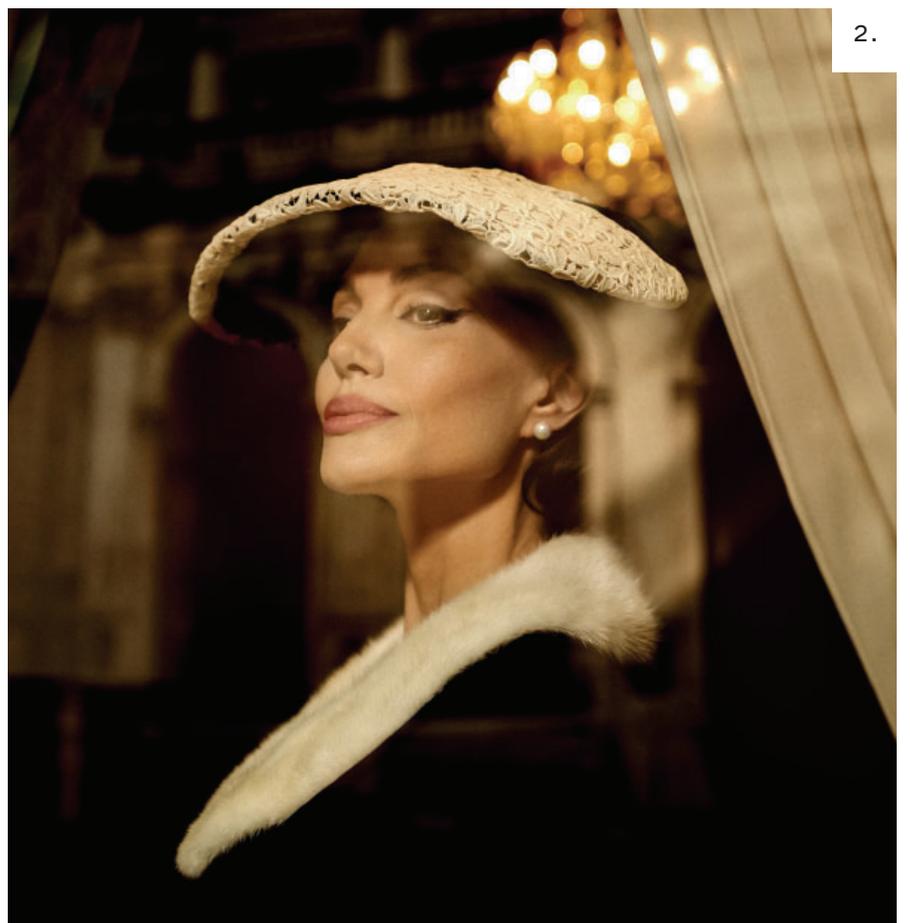
PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.

2. ANGELINA JOLIE IN “MARIA”

PHOTO COURTESY OF PABLO LARRAÍN/NETFLIX

3. DANIEL CRAIG IN “QUEER”

PHOTO COURTESY OF YANNIS DRAKOULIDIS/A24



FALL/WINTER FILM PREVIEW CONTINUES ON PAGE 58

The Rise of Baby Botox in Beverly Hills

BY SELINA KAUSAR

Hair, nails, outfit and ... Botox? The holidays are here, and the wish list of some of the city's younger residents may have a surprising addition. That's because an increasing number are considering Botox and other age-defying injectable treatments in an attempt to freeze the clock.

It's been over two decades since Botulinum toxin, or Botox as it's more commonly known, was first approved for cosmetic use by the FDA. Traditionally reserved for patients in their 30s and above, Botox is a neuromodulator that works by temporarily paralyzing muscle movement to reduce visible expression lines and wrinkles.

But now, Botox is catching on with a younger crowd. Millennials and Generation Z have fast become proponents of preventative Botox, or "Baby Botox," as it's often referred to.

Carl M. Truesdale, M.D., is a facial plastic surgeon based on Rodeo Drive. He explained that Botox can be administered on a spectrum, from "treatment to preventative."

"As a prevention, Botox can be used if someone doesn't have resting lines or signs of aging. The neurotoxin can weaken the muscle before lines develop. This is given over time, usually over the course of several years, so wrinkles do not form," Truesdale said.

Such prevention typically involves using smaller doses on smaller muscle groups for a more subtle treatment effect.

Natalia Guzman, a Beverly Hills-based aesthetic nurse practitioner, explained, "The FDA-approved average is 20 units of Botox in between the eyes or for the forehead, and then 12 units per side for the crow's feet. But with Baby Botox, we're only talking about something between 5 or 10 units, so it's about one-third of the regular dosage."

The smaller doses don't tend to last as long as traditional Botox injections either. Guzman likes to remind her patients that "dosage equals duration." This means the effects of Baby Botox generally wear off much more quickly.



CARL M. TRUESDALE, M.D.



NATALIA GUZMAN
PHOTO BY ABBY COX

THE RISING POPULARITY OF COSMETIC INTERVENTIONS

Although the "baby" in "Baby Botox" often refers to the nature of micro-dosing (using smaller amounts), social media has also adopted the term to describe the increasingly younger age of patients seeking out this treatment. Last year, over 137,000 patients aged between 20-29 received Botox injections, according to figures from the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS).

Botox wasn't always as commonplace for this age group.

In fact, research by the ASPS found a 71% increase in Botox treatments administered to individuals in their 20s between 2019 and 2022.

So, what's behind the sudden ascent in popularity?

"The rise of social media, particularly Instagram and TikTok, have meant awareness of Botox has grown exponentially," said Urmen Desai, M.D., a Harvard-educated, double-board certified plastic surgeon based on Roxbury Drive. He has noticed a significant increase in younger patients requesting this treatment in recent years.

One such patient is Thomas Legrand, a 24-year-old who first started Botox and dermal fillers at 21. While he isn't sure his parents would be accepting of a fresh round of Botox injections on his holiday wish list, he cites the pressure faced by his generation as a major influence in his decision.

BABY BOTOX CONTINUES ON PAGE 62

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Get Holiday-Ready with These New Beauty Offerings in Beverly Hills

BY CAROLE DIXON



VALMONT INTERIOR
PHOTOS BY KATIE JONES

Beverly Hills is a global trendsetter when it comes to glamour, style and beauty. And what better time than the holidays to experience some of the town's newest beauty establishments? Whether you're looking for lush lashes, 3D nails or a Korean full body scrub, the Courier has compiled a selection of noteworthy newcomers to help you prepare for those holiday gatherings and the awards season to follow.

VALMONT

Luxury Swiss skincare brand Valmont and French co-founders Sophie and Didier Guillon have opened the brand's first freestanding boutique on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. La Maison Valmont specializes in The Rodeo Drive Red Carpet Treatment with a serious celebrity following and is exclusive to this location. It includes 90 minutes of IonixLight, Diamond Micro-Abrasion, Oxygen Therapy Infusion, Light Therapy, Microcurrent and Ultrasound, along with a sequence of targeted massages. [Lamaisonvalmont.com/en/la-maison-valmont-beverlyhills](https://lamaisonvalmont.com/en/la-maison-valmont-beverlyhills)



A CANDLE AT VALMONT

NEW BEAUTY OFFERINGS CONTINUES ON PAGE 56



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COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

Celebrate the Holidays at the Finest Afternoon Teas in Town

BY CLARA HARTER

As the holidays approach, an afternoon tea is the perfect event to draw together family members of all ages. Fortunately, Beverly Hills and its neighboring cities boast an exquisite selection of tea services. In this town, traditionalists will be able to find the finest selection of Earl Grey teas and classic scones, while those with an adventurous taste will delight in trendy exotic sweet treats dreamed up by local pastry chefs. And of course, make sure you don't forget to order Champagne.

THE PENINSULA BEVERLY HILLS

Considered by many to be the *crème de la crème* of afternoon teas, the luxurious service in the Living Room at the Peninsula Beverly Hills is not to be missed. Indeed, attendees will feel positively royal while sipping Dom Pérignon on plush velvet sofas and listening to a classical harpist perform. The Peninsula offers a selection of 20 loose-leaf teas ranging from Earl Grey to a tropical fruity green tea to a buttery smooth Tahitian vanilla tea. Its world-class pastry chefs come up with a different selection of baked delights every month, but guests can always be certain to enjoy the finest finger sandwiches and scones. In the winter, the opulent living room has a wood fireplace offering the perfect place to cozy up with friends and family. Reservations are required and seatings are offered on Wednesday through Sunday at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

WALDORF ASTORIA BEVERLY HILLS

On Saturdays and Sundays, the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills boasts an exquisite afternoon tea experience with all the trimmings. Located in the historic hotel's chic, three-story, Art Deco lobby, the afternoon tea offers the perfect blend of relaxation, indulgence and people-watching. Tea selections include a monsoon chai, vanilla rooibos, lavender Earl Grey and organic peppermint. And, of course, there is an ample supply of Champagne and fine wine on offer, as well as a live harpist. On Nov. 23 and 24, the Lobby Lounge will host its annual Nutcracker Tea in partnership with the Los Angeles Ballet. The event serves as a fundraiser for the ballet and a delightfully whimsical event where young sippers can meet Clara and her doll friends, take photos with Santa and shop at the pop-up L.A. Nutcracker Boutique.



AFTERNOON TEA CONTINUES ON PAGE 64

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CANDACE PARKER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY SARAH ORBANIC, STYLED BY DIAMOND MAHONE BAILEY, HAIR BY MINA SMITH, MAKEUP BY LYSETTE CASTELLANOS

CANDACE PARKER

POWERING FORWARD

BY LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

Sparkling with Christmas lights, and packed with sports fanatics, families and friends, the high school gymnasium in Naperville, Illinois was electric. The 2001 Dundee Crown Christmas Tournament was in full swing, and all eyes were on the basketball court. Sophomore Candace Parker battled through the traffic, got a breakaway, drove down the floor, and with every ounce of her 6'2", 15-year-old body, reached high, cleared the 10-foot rim and slam dunked the ball. The crowd roared as history was made. Candace Parker became the first female basketball player to dunk in an official United States high school varsity game.

The next morning Candace was awakened by the local and national news organizations camped out in her family's front yard. Rolling out of bed, Candace, with her parents by her side, greeted the enthralled media. Everyone wanted to know about this burgeoning basketball phenom.

To their surprise, she was not motivated by being the first high school girl in history to dunk.

"It was more because my brothers dunked at 16. I wanted to dunk before they did."

Nor did she want to be the player known only for dunking. What mattered to Candace was everything about basketball.

"My talent always lied in my ability to be versatile. I could bring the ball up the court, pass, shoot, rebound and run the floor like a guard. The dunking, I was resistant because when I dunked everybody just wanted me to dunk. I never wanted to just stay in that lane."

Candace had the maturity to recognize that being caught up in the

moment could derail her career. At the same time, she had the foresight to understand the depth and breadth of her limitless potential. It's what propelled her into becoming one of the most celebrated and influential athletes of this generation.

With two Olympic gold medals, two NCAA championships as MVP and three WNBA titles, no feat has been unattainable for Candace. In 2008 Candace was selected as the No. 1 overall pick in the WNBA draft and joined the Los Angeles Sparks. She succeeded in her first year, again making history, as the first and only player to earn WNBA MVP and Rookie of the Year. She did this while pregnant. In 2016, she led the L.A. Sparks to their WNBA championship title, again in 2021 with her hometown's team the Chicago Sky, and one more time in 2023 with the Las Vegas Aces.

Off the court, Candace, aka Ace (from the last three letters of her name), has similarly dreamed big. She's established herself as a media entrepreneur, as the first-ever on-air female analyst for both the NBA and NCAA on Turner Sports, as well as the spokesperson and ambassador for companies such as Adidas (President of Adidas Women's Basketball), NBA2K, CarMax, Gatorade, Muscle Milk, Invesco QQQ and Dick's Sporting Goods. With her authentic voice, Candace is an activist fighting for equality in sports and business. She is the subject of a full-length ESPN documentary entitled "Unapologetic," and the founder of a production company, Baby Hair Productions. As a globally recognized public speaker, her TED Talk was ranked the sixth most popular in 2021. She is also an investor in several women's professional sports teams.

Earlier this year, with all of her momentum, Candace decided to pivot, not on the court, but in life. In an Instagram post to her 1.1 million followers, she said, “It’s time ... I’M A BUSINESS man, not a businessman. This is the beginning ... I’m attacking business, private equity, ownership, broadcasting, production, boardrooms ... with the same intensity and focus I did basketball. My mission in life, like Pat Summitt [her legendary coach] always said, is to ‘chase people and passions and you will never fail.’ Being a wife and mom still remains priority #1.”

As this is the year of the woman in leadership, I was given the rare opportunity to sit down with Candace, the GOAT, as she is often called by Shaquille O’Neal and other NBA superstars, to talk about her sports journey’s lessons, the importance of family, and her future aspirations in pushing the boundaries for women.

Ever since Candace can remember, basketball has been an essential part of her life.

“My basketball was in my crib.”

Born April 19, 1986, in St. Louis, Missouri, Candace Nicole measured 2 feet long. Her proud parents, Sara and Larry Parker, happily brought her home to meet her brothers, 11-year-old Anthony and 8-year-old Marcus. Soon after, the family of five moved to Naperville, Illinois where Candace was raised. Today, after a successful 10-year career playing in the NBA, Anthony is the general manager of the Orlando Magic. Marcus also resides in Florida and practices medicine as a radiologist. Candace proudly suggests her “super intelligent, super intuitive” brothers

helped shape who she is, thanks in part to the family’s stimulating dinner conversations. Her admiration for her brothers and their impact on her life remains steadfast.

“My mom always tells the story that I walked at 8 months and was running at 9. I was always in the mix with my older brothers and whatever they did, I was trying to be there.”

Larry met Sara at the University of Iowa. He played basketball for the Hawkeyes; Sara was a cheerleader. Larry was Candace’s first basketball coach; Sara organized the team’s practices and tournaments. Yet, they raised their children without gender roles.

“We didn’t have the, ‘You’re a boy, you cut the grass.’ I cut the grass. My brother cooked. I took out the garbage. We vacuumed. There weren’t certain gender roles. My parents said, ‘If you can do it and you work for it, why can’t you accomplish it?’”

That philosophy was embedded in Candace’s psyche, until her first crash course in winning. It was junior year of high school, her team went 34-0, and they won the state championship.

“I remember thinking the game is becoming easy. I was kind of doing what I wanted on the court ... taking the game for granted a little bit. And I tore my ACL.”

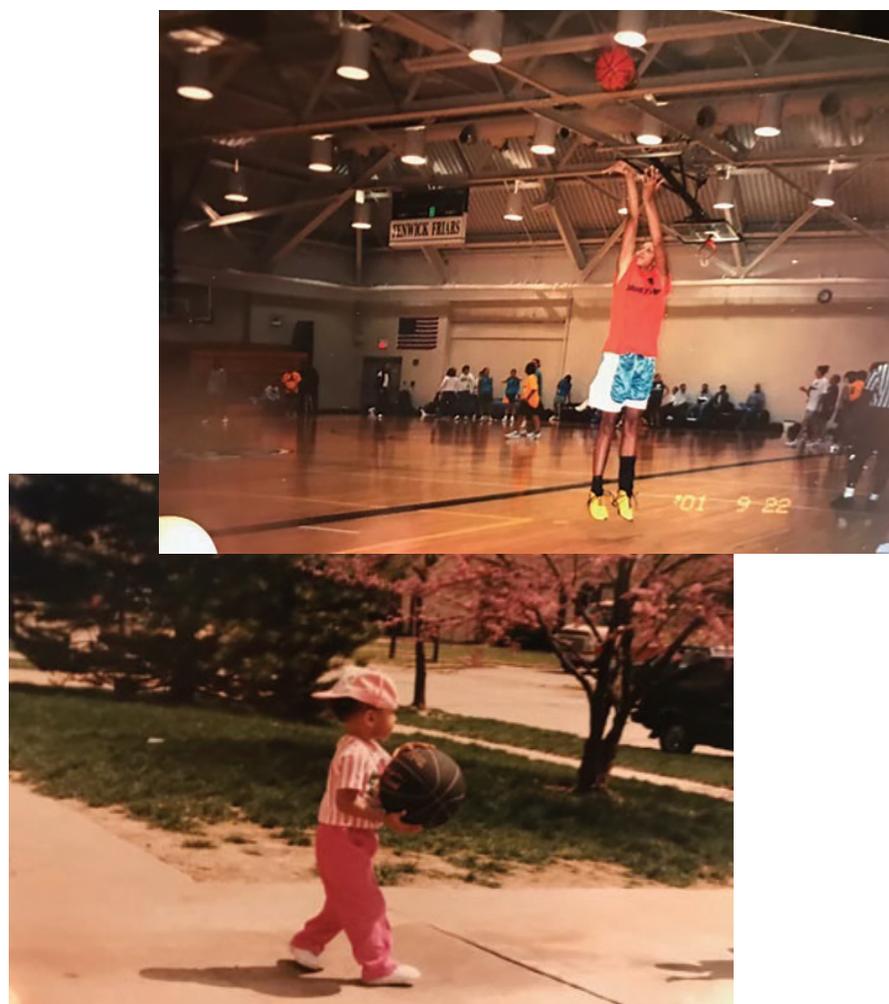
It was her wake-up call.

“They say absence makes the heart grow fonder ... I became fueled by the ‘can’t.’ ‘Oh, you don’t think I can come back from this and be the player that I was?’ I’m going to come back and be better.”

She learned to commit to the process with laser focus, a foundational strategy for her life.



TOP: CANDACE WITH HER BROTHERS ANTHONY (LEFT) AND MARCUS (RIGHT)
 BOTTOM: CANDACE WITH HER FATHER LARRY AND DAUGHTER LAILAA
 PHOTOS BY APRIL BELLE PHOTOS



TOP: CANDACE, THE BASKETBALL PHENOM, ON THE COURT IN HIGH SCHOOL
 BOTTOM: CANDACE AS A CHILD IN NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS
 PHOTOS COURTESY OF CANDACE PARKER



“I wanted to be a mom so badly. I always envisioned it when I was a kid. I damn near played house until I was 13 years old.”



LEFT: THE PARKERS AT PLAY - AIRR (IN FOREGROUND), LAILAA (LEFT), CANDACE (CENTER) AND ANNA (RIGHT)
 RIGHT: CANDACE WITH HER MOTHER SARA PARKER
 PHOTOS BY APRIL BELLE PHOTOS

“It was the commitment to not be physically out there doing jump shots, but bettering my jump shot by doing leg lifts and making sure that I'm rehabbing ... and getting up early and studying and not letting school slip away.”

With a multitude of knee, shoulder and foot surgeries, Candace equates the emotional rollercoaster injury ride to life itself. She believes you need to have balance.

“I was miserable when we lost. I would wake up, and I wouldn't want to open the shades because we lost. I wouldn't want to get out of bed because we lost. I've had to learn that you do what you can. You live in your purpose, and then you relinquish the results in whatever you're doing. So even in my marriage, I'm divorced and remarried again. Even in being a mother, there's so many times where you're up late at night hoping that you're doing the right thing, and you do what you feel is best and relinquish the results.”

Despite the projected year sabbatical caused by the injury, Candace returned to the court her senior year of high school after five months of rehabilitation and went on to win back-to-back championships. She became the first female to win the McDonald's slam dunk contest at the All-American Game, beating out two future NBA players, and was named the Gatorade Girl's High School Player of the Year in 2003-2004, which earned her a trip to Los Angeles, her very first.

At 17 years old, she was fixated on seeing Beverly Hills. “That's all you heard about ... 90210.” Today, the city is a regular stop for her. You might pass Candace, listening to Adele or Jay-Z, as she cruises Mulholland Drive on the way to Beverly Hills for a business meeting or a fun dining experience at Wally's, Honor Bar or Crustacean.

Back then, Candace was one of the most sought-after basketball recruits in the nation. She committed to the University of Tennessee, playing for the Lady Vols (Volunteers) under Pat Summitt, one of the greatest women's basketball coaches of all time.

Brimming with anticipation, her freshman year at Tennessee quickly turned to disappointment. Her doctors discovered a hole in her injured

knee, which meant another operation. While sitting out the entire year, her sadness swelled with the news of her parents' divorce. It was Coach Summitt's leadership style and assurance of Candace's return that helped her through. She came back the following 2005-2006 season with a vengeance, delivering the first dunk in a NCAA tournament game, which she performed twice. The following year, in addition to dating a rising basketball star at Duke University, Sheldon Williams, Candace led the Lady Vols to win the NCAA championship, ending the current drought that had plagued Tennessee. As the now 6'4" college basketball sensation, Candace graced the cover of Sports Illustrated after clinching the 2007 championship. By her senior year, Candace had solidified a second NCAA championship, the hopes of a professional career and the possibility of a U.S. Olympic Team position.

In 2008, Candace struck gold. As the WNBA's biggest ticket, McDonald's, Adidas and Gatorade all vied for her ambassadorship. Poised to make history in Los Angeles with the Sparks, she married Sheldon and received the honored invitation to represent the United States in the Beijing Olympic Games. It was not surprising that, with all of her momentum, she won her first gold medal.

While standing on the gold-medal platform, watching the raising of the American flag and listening to the United States national anthem, Candace was exploding with joy in her heart, thanks to the new life growing inside her.

Nine months later, “Out popped joy!” says Candace about her newborn daughter, Lailaa.

“I wanted a daughter, and I wanted to be a mom so badly. I always envisioned it when I was a kid. I damn near played house until I was 13 years old. I was the youngest sister who always wanted a younger sister. I begged my parents, and they said, ‘No, you are the younger sister.’ In college, I was babysitting on Friday nights instead of going to parties. And then when I hit reality, it was like, ‘Well, you can't do that and have a career.’ But I watched one of the greatest leaders do it.”

Pat Summitt had a family during her career.



CANDACE, PLAYING FOR THE TENNESSEE LADY VOLS AT THE NCAA FINAL FOUR IN 2007 WITH HER MENTOR, LEGENDARY COACH PAT SUMMITT

PHOTO BY BILL FRAKES/GETTY IMAGES

“She [Pat] wasn't playing; she was coaching, which I think is a little bit more intensive, honestly. And so, when I was about to have my daughter, I was like, I can do this. I know I can do this, and I'm not going to sacrifice one for the other.”

Within 51 days of giving birth, Candace was back on the court playing at full strength. During halftime, in the locker room that first year on the Sparks, Candace would breastfeed Lailaa while Coach Michael Cooper would give the team direction. Candace made history again at the end of the season when she became the first woman awarded Rookie of the Year and MVP, even though the Sparks did not make it to the finals.

Through it all, Lailaa breastfed for almost 15 months.

“She wouldn't take a bottle. She never had formula. And that's not to say that's the best for everybody else. But I put my mind to not sacrificing motherhood for my career, and not sacrificing my career for motherhood.”

Despite the WNBA's establishment 12 years earlier, the disparity between Candace and her male counterparts in the NBA was blatantly obvious. NBA salaries for their superstars were in the multiple millions. Candace had to play in Russia, in the offseason, to make ends meet.

“It was a great experience, don't get me wrong. We had charter flights, we had chefs, we had drivers. I stayed in a fabulous apartment. My daughter went everywhere with me. I made a great contract where I could take care of my family ... take care of my mom. I could do the things that I wanted to do ... But I wish I could have done that here.”

When asked about her former Sparks teammate, Brittney Griner, whose arrest and detention in Russia made international headlines, Candace reveals it hit home on two levels.

“It's like the part of the place that you thought was a certain way, and you were treated in that way, and then you see the different side of it. It's scary. It really is.”

On a deeper level, Candace shares it's personal.

“My wife is Russian.”

With compassion, Candace explains, “It's the war, and that means

that you don't know when things are going to get back to normal, or be OK, or be safe. I've always been super supportive of her and her feelings because I don't care what type of home you come from, you defend your home, that's where you're from. That's where her heart is.”

Anna (her government name) or Anya Petrakova was born in Budapest, Hungary and raised in Russia. Like Candace, she was introduced to basketball by her father, Viktor Petrakov, who played pro basketball in Russia and was a member of the Soviet Union's National Basketball Team. After a successful college career in America at the University of Louisiana, Anna went pro in Russia, playing for several teams. And like Candace, she received the invitation to represent her country at the London Olympics as a member of Russia's Women's National Basketball Team in 2012. Honored with the 2015 Player of the Year Award in the Russian Premier League, she is considered one of the most successful players in Russia.

In 2012, Candace was introduced to Anna, the UMMC Ekaterinburg team's new power forward. A teammate friendship began. Both women were in committed relationships. By now, Lailaa was 3 years old, almost bilingual, in English and Russian, and more than ever, the center of Candace's universe.

“This kid was on 12- to 14-hour flights from two years old. She would get on and say, ‘Is this a lay down flight?’ She knew that was overseas. If it's just juice, it's probably two hours. She's just been here on earth before, I mean, I have it tattooed right here.”

Candace points to the tattoo on her forearm and reads it.

“My reason, Lailaa Nicole.”

Mother and daughter share the same middle name.

“I'm so grateful that I had a kid that allowed me to do both [career and motherhood] and has been a part of this journey. And Lailaa is super special. I still believe she was sent here for me.”

Eventually, the wear and tear of a long-distance marriage for Candace and Sheldon became evident. While she was overseas for half of the year with her daughter and her mother, Sheldon was jumping between NBA teams. The stress of two professional careers spanning the globe was too much. Their marriage failed in 2016, one of the many challenges Candace faced while in the public eye and performing at top level on the court.



ANNA (LEFT), CANDACE (CENTER) AND LAILAA (RIGHT)

PHOTO BY APRIL BELLE PHOTOS

As the sad reality of her impending divorce loomed, other negative news landed. Candace was passed over for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team, despite still leading in the WNBA. Worse yet, Pat Summitt, Candace's lifelong coach, mentor and friend was losing her battle to early-onset dementia in the form of Alzheimer's.

But Candace rebounded, a true sign of a champion. By powering forward, she led the L.A. Sparks to their first championship in eight years. When asked her secret for working through the ups and downs of life, both on and off the court, she recounted one of Coach Summitt's life lessons.

"Pat was who she was, when she was winning eight championships and when she lost 194 times, or however many losses she had. I think it's just being that same steady person and never getting too high or too low. That's what I respect. It's committing to the process."

Live from the basketball court, seconds after Candace's championship win in 2016, with her highest rebounds of the season, ESPN announcer Holly Rowe asked Candace, "What does this moment mean to you?" Fighting back her tears, Candace responded, "This is for Pat."

Over time, and as a surprise to both Candace and Anna, their friendship evolved into love. In 2019, while on a birthday trip to Mexico with Anna, Lailaa, family and friends, Candace presented a birthday cake to Anna with the words, "Will you marry us?" Two years later, they publicly revealed they had been married, along with the news that they were expecting their first child together.

Going public about her marriage to Anna was challenging for Candace.

"People come to be who they are on their own time. And sometimes it takes people longer. It took us a long time because the life that we had envisioned for me, for her, wasn't what the reality was. We were a happy family within these walls. And when we walked out, we were something that we weren't. We were acting like we weren't together when we were. I introduced her as Anna. But who is this person? Is she a



ESPN REPORTER HOLLY ROWE INTERVIEWING CANDACE AFTER HER WIN FOR THE L.A. SPARKS IN GAME FIVE OF THE WNBA FINALS IN 2016 PHOTO BY DAVID SHERMAN/GETTY IMAGES



TOP: CANDACE DOMINATING FOR THE L.A. SPARKS IN A GAME AGAINST AN ASTONISHED CONNECTICUT SUN IN 2017
BOTTOM: SHAQUILLE O'NEAL AND CANDACE PARKER COVERING THE NBA ALL-STAR RESERVES THIS YEAR FOR TNT
TOP PHOTO BY LEON BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES
BOTTOM PHOTO COURTESY OF CANDACE PARKER

friend?... And so, I just encourage people to work to be true to who they are in whatever setting they're at. I think when you start trying to play too many roles, and be too many things to too many different people, you lose yourself."

Especially as a parent, Candace felt she had to lead with truth and conviction.

"I can't tell my daughter to be proud of being tall and do what you want, and follow your heart when I am not doing it myself. I want my daughter to know me as somebody that even if it's a whisper, or even if it's taking a big gulp before I say it, I'm going to be the one who says it. Even if it's not popular, even if it's looked down upon."

Today Lailaa is big sister to brothers Airr Larry, 2½ years old, and 6-month-old Hartt Summitt, named after Candace's father and Pat Summitt.

"People ask me what age I like. I like whatever age they're at. I feel like every year they just get better."

Suddenly, she calls to Airr in a higher-pitched, happy voice, having spotted him in the hallway of their home, shooting a shot into his Little Tikes basketball hoop.

"Hi Goose [Airr's nickname]! Did you have a good day at school? You're going to take a nap?"

Candace shares, "He gets up and gets buckets before breakfast a lot of times, from his crib. I'll give him the ball. When he shoots into the hoop, he always says, 'Kobe!' It's really cute." "Kobe" originated from reading Kobe Bryant's book together. They also enjoy reading about "the GOAT," Michael Jordan, Candace's hometown hero.

Airr responds sweetly with one word, "Basketball." Candace repeats encouragingly, "Basketball, you're right," as the nanny brings Airr to Candace.

"Give me kiss, give me kiss." Airr leans in to kiss his mom. "I love you," says Candace.

As the nanny carries him away, Candace admits, "I might say that I have, from a very young age, shown him basketball and how to shoot. We have basketball hoops all around our house, and every time we walk past them, he has to do his little shot."



CANDACE CELEBRATES HER SECOND GOLD MEDAL WIN WITH HER DAUGHTER LAILAA AT THE LONDON OLYMPICS IN 2012.
PHOTO BY PHIL WALTER/GETTY IMAGES



CANDACE IN AN INTIMATE MOMENT WITH HER SON HARTT SHORTLY AFTER HE WAS BORN
PHOTO BY APRIL BELLE PHOTOS

Does Candace plan on being a “boy mom” coach, mirroring Kobe’s “girl dad” status?

“A hundred percent, yes!”

With her blended and growing family, Candace is not guided by a particular religious denomination, but rather by her strong belief in one’s intention and purpose.

“I wholeheartedly believe that we know when something is wrong or something is right ... [It’s important] to hold yourself accountable and be disciplined, to do what you say you’re going to do.”

She adds, “Kids will humble you ... [They] don’t care who you are, how many MVP awards you get. You’re Mom.”

Often asked, Candace will not commit to her all-time favorite winning moment as she compares the question to choosing her favorite child. But when I requested her to name “three” favorite winning moments in honor of her three children, she happily responded.

“Winning the first WNBA championship.”

“My Olympic gold medal in London because I got to share it with my daughter.”

“My high school first championship. Committing to the process and being rewarded for it.”

Driven by passion and purpose off the court, Candace has worked to break down barriers. Believing that sports can change lives, she has made inroads as an advocate for equality for women on a professional level as well as for youth.

“I think sports is bigger than just sports. Sports is life. You’re teaching life lessons to young kids.”

As an ambassador for national brands, her speaking engagements and influential power continue to produce successful partnerships that provide for youth organizations. As an example of her efforts, Gatorade and the Dick’s Sporting Goods Foundation Sports Matters Program partnered with Candace and donated \$100,000 to continue advancing youth sports equality.

As a role model, her ability to communicate her expertise and insightful perspectives has pushed the boundaries for women in broadcasting. In 2018, Candace broke into the male-dominated world as the only female analyst for the Men’s March Madness Tournament. Acing her analysis in that first year, she was offered a multipronged broadcasting role for Turner Sports, which included regular analysis and commentary for the NBA on TNT and NBA TV, along with the NCAA tournaments. She continues in this role today with Turner Sports for the 2024-2025 NBA season.

To illustrate her impact on the world of men’s and women’s basketball, when David Stern, Commissioner of the NBA and founder of the WNBA, suddenly passed away on Jan. 1, 2020, the NBA network went to Candace for her comments. As a female basketball legend and a savvy broadcaster, she reflected on his contribution and “his foresight to see that women’s basketball could grow.” She continued, “The WNBA is the longest-standing women’s professional sports league in the history of the United States. We are so grateful for what he’s done, as we continue to try to follow the blueprint of what the NBA has done to grow the game.”

As a producer, for her first Baby Hair Productions project in 2022, Candace chose to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX, the landmark federal civil rights law that changed sports in America. But now, Title IX is in question in certain states as gender identity and transgender issues have surfaced. Candace infuses her “I can” motto into making sure Title IX is inclusive for everyone.

“If you say you can’t, then you have to find a way that you can. Great understanding without completely agreeing is something that I wish our country got to a place of. And I think sports has always been a great unifier and has always united us in tragedy. There has to be a way for everyone to be able to compete.”

She cites the New York Yankees playing in the wake of 9/11 and Kobe’s tragic death. Yet she’s frustrated by the blame game interfering with Title IX’s blanket acceptance today.

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THE PARKERS AND THEIR POOCHES: LAILAA (LEFT) HOLDING ACE, ANNA (CENTER) WITH FLASH, CANDACE (RIGHT) WITH AIRR ON HER LAP AND THEIR BELOVED ROTTWEILER, NAHLA, SITTING FRONT AND CENTER

PHOTO BY APRIL BELLE PHOTOS

“In America, it's always women's problems, and it's not just a women's problem. Why do women have to make the policies and figure out all of this stuff? And then we get blamed for it if it doesn't work. I love the responsibility, but can we do this with everyone? Title IX was meant for equality in the very essence of the law. Somehow it gets lost in wrestling. Somehow it gets lost in male gymnastics. It's always on the women's sports. There are others that are benefiting from inequalities of Title IX, and we all have the responsibility to figure it out.”

Candace's fight for equality in the corporate structure is just as important to her. As an outgrowth of her ambassadorship, combined with her leadership style, Candace has accepted the new role as President of Adidas Women's Basketball. Her brand loyalty began when she was 15 years old, and Adidas supplied her team with products.

“We grew together. We've been through injuries, pregnancy, I mean, we talk about CEOs changing. I've been through leadership change ... There's an allegiance that you grow up with in a brand, and I think it's established at a young age. And so, I think for me as president, I want to impact youth and grassroots, and then we'll find our signature athlete ... who believes in the brand like I do.”

Today, Candace is an investor in the female professional sports teams Angel City Football Club and League One Volleyball LOVB, as well as an Athletic Ambassador for the Avenue Capital Group, Marc Lasry's sports fund. Melding corporate management with sports franchise management and ownership is a huge goal of Candace's. She aspires to own an NBA or WNBA team one day.

“Why not?” Candace fires back.

“Women know we can do it. It's never been a question. We've been shouting from the rooftops that we're able. I'm tired of firsts. The first female president of hockey, the first female president of NHL, NBA, NFL teams. Come on, man, this is 2024. We've got to get over this. Who's the best person for the job? I think men are figuring it out, and I don't think it's telling women that we can do it. I think it is men realizing that diversity of thought is better.”

During a controversial broadcast on Turner Sports when Shaquille O'Neal strongly suggested that the WNBA lower the rim for better dunking statistics, Candace shut him down by not giving the question attention.

“Sometimes people are fortunate to continue to not know what they don't know. You sometimes don't know the perspective. You don't know the story. You don't know what's behind it. You don't know the years and years and years of fight. And some people are fortunate to not ever have to experience that. I don't think he was saying it to be disrespectful.”

After 13 years in Los Angeles leading the Sparks, Candace decided to go back to her hometown and play for the Chicago Sky. In her first year with the team, her leadership and expertise helped the team win its first-ever championship in 2021.

But living far from her family in Los Angeles was hard for Candace. The following year, she accepted the offer to join the Las Vegas Aces, miles closer to home. Armed with her drive and positive energy, after one season, Candace led the Aces to their first title in 2023. Once again, Candace made history and remains the only player to win the WNBA championship with three different franchises.

Unfortunately for Candace, the second half of her final championship season was spent on the bench due to another injury. She announced her retirement on social media earlier this year in April after 16 years of playing professional basketball.

“I promised I'd never cheat the game and that I'd leave it in a better place than I came into it. The competitor in me always wants one more, but it's time. My heart and my body knew, but I needed to give my mind time to accept it. ... My last game, I walked off the court with my daughter. I ended the journey just as I started it, with her.”

At the end of our interview, while reflecting upon David Stern and his need to form the WNBA, Candace reveals her desire to move forward with a bigger purpose.

“A lot of people celebrate when things come to fruition and everything happens. But you also have to think about the steps that it took and the no's and the nays and the disbelief. He [Stern] was someone who truly bought in and stuck with it, and stuck through it when things weren't right. Sometimes it's going against the grain, and sometimes it means not being liked. And sometimes it means people not believing in what you say, but still continuing to go forward with it because there's a bigger purpose. That's what I want to do within women's sports. I think slowly but surely, we're a different game. And it doesn't mean that we have to have the same path as men's basketball. We have a blueprint, but we can change the plans a little bit.”

Thoughtful, authentic and inspirational, Candace commits to the process.

“That's what I'm going to do with women's basketball. I'm going to continue to be a visionary of what's next and what lies ahead. How can we make a bigger jump? How can we make a bigger push?” ●



LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH AND CANDACE PARKER

PHOTO BY SARAH ORBANIC

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CAMDEN ROOM AT OCEAN PRIME
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CRUSTACEAN

If you'd like to dine in a private wine cellar with five of your closest friends, head upstairs to Da Lat Rose at Crustacean, which also features an open kitchen, private bathroom, private bar, audio-visual system and a private entrance. This space can hold 60 guests seated and 150 plus for cocktails. The minimum for food and beverage is \$8,000 with a room rental of \$1,000-\$1,500. Other options are downstairs in the Santa Monica Room (25 seated or 40 plus for cocktails) and offer accordion doors, a flat-screen TV and access to a private Koi bar (\$3,500 minimum spend). For more information, email the private dining director at Hannah@houseofan.com.



SANTA MONICA ROOM AT CRUSTACEAN
PHOTO COURTESY OF CRUSTACEAN



THE BAR AT THE HIDEAWAY
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HIDEAWAY

OCEAN PRIME

Seafood haven Ocean Prime offers a plethora of private dining options and price ranges. Half and full buyouts are available for the Wilshire Room (36 seated, 40 reception); Dayton Room (10 seated); Camden Room (14 seated); Apex Bar (80 seated, 100 reception) or the Terrace (44 seated, 75 reception).

From holiday parties to more intimate, special moments like bridal showers and birthday celebrations, the team will accommodate special requests including floral arrangements, audio-visual support, specialty cakes and desserts. Guests can choose from an option of welcome cocktails, a Champagne toast or wine bar. Caviar service is also available, as well as food stations or sushi platters. Lunch menu options vary from \$60 to \$75 per person while dinner menu options range from \$115 per person to \$170. To book, call 310-859-4818.

THE HIDEAWAY

No matter how often you sat on the patio by the wood-burning fireplace or pushed the tequila button for a table-side shot, hidden pockets remain at The Hideaway. The Mexican-themed gem is backed by celebrity investors, including Ryan Phillippe and Evan Ross.

At The Hideaway, you can book the extended patio that seats 50 or up to 100 people standing. This area also has a dedicated private bar connected to it that fits 25 people and can be booked independently, and it has a private entrance.

Other options include the main bar, which can be booked for up to 50 people and features eight private booths and a tequila-tasting room. The side dining room closest to the bar can also be closed off for privacy with up to 30 seats.

Drinks are charged on consumption, and prix-fixe menus are offered at different price points, plus the room rental fee is waived if you fill it to capacity. To book, contact General Manager Bart Clemmer at bart@thehideawaybeverlyhills.com.



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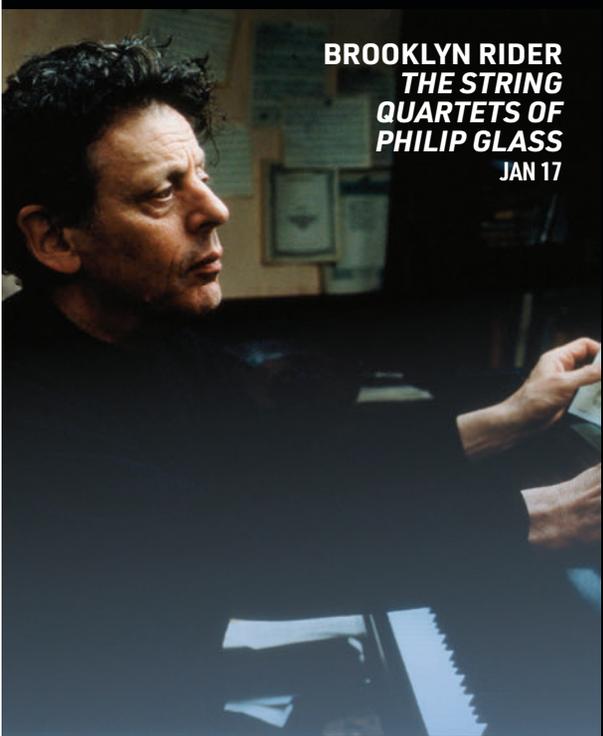
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WALLY'S

At Wally's, you won't be short of top wine options if you book a private party. Tucked away in the back of the restaurant, the main room for private events accommodates 22 guests for a sit-down gathering, which includes a prix-fixe family-style menu, or 35 people for a standing reception with tray-passed hors d'oeuvres. The food and beverage minimum ranges from \$4,000 to \$6,000 (depending on the day of week and season). You can also book the Barrel Room for 10 people, which is located in front of the rare wine vault and spirits room. The minimum buyout for this space is \$3,000 to \$5,000. To book, contact privatedining@wallywine.com.

THE CHEESE STORE

If a wine and cheese party is more your style, The Cheese Store of Beverly Hills has a new patio that can hold 22, with 16 seats and four high-top tables that can accommodate another eight people standing. This space has a \$5,000 minimum spend for a buyout. The entire shop can also be rented out for private events with a \$9,000 minimum spend for both combined. To book, contact events@cheesestorebh.com.



FUNKE DINING ROOM
PHOTO BY STAN LEE

FUNKE

For a unique opportunity to experience old-world handmade pasta techniques in an intimate setting, book Evan Funke's namesake eatery for a private bash. The dark green-hued private dining room fits up to 20 people on the mezzanine dining level with an oval table and windows down to all the action below. Expect a base rate for the room, plus per-person costs depending on the date, menus and party size. To book, contact events@funkela.com.

If you prefer an alfresco gathering overlooking Beverly Hills, the restaurant's Bar Funke can hold 40 guests seated and 100 standing. Or, if you would rather party in Hollywood, Funke's other acclaimed restaurant, Mother Wolf, has two private dining rooms. Remus is a more intimate room, decked out in rich woods, with a capacity of 10, and Romulus holds up to 22 guests. To book, visit www.motherwolfla.com/book.

The Mother Wolf building also offers an expansive space upstairs at Citizen News that can be modified to fit various group sizes or productions. Expect a \$5,000 venue rental fee and a \$30,000 minimum food and beverage spend. To book, contact events@rh-hollywood.com. ●

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MXO'S PRIVATE DINING ROOM
PHOTO COURTESY OF SBE

MXO

New to La Cienega Boulevard, right across the street from Nobu, MXO is an upscale open-flame steakhouse with a Mexican twist by James Beard Foundation award-winning chef Wes Avila, sbe and Marc Anthony. Brought to life by celebrity designer Jae Omar, the space includes several patios with fire pits and offers not one but two private dining rooms. The larger space has a fireplace, and mid-century modern style furnishings in earthy tones, and can hold 20 people with a minimum food and beverage spend of \$2,500. The smaller private dining room is \$1,500 minimum and can fit 10 people with a sliding glass door for privacy. To book, visit <http://www.mxosteakhouse.com>.

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NICOLE POLLARD BAYME
PHOTOS BY MAIWENN RAOULT

NICOLE POLLARD BAYME

“I was always captivated by how fashion goes beyond clothing—it’s a language, a tool for self-expression and a catalyst for transformation,” said Nicole Pollard Bayme.

Born and raised in Santa Monica, Pollard Bayme founded her styling firm Lalaluxe in Beverly Hills in 2005 and now provides fashion styling services for world leaders, visionaries and trailblazers. “Beverly Hills launched my career with stores like Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue and other Rodeo Drive boutiques rolling out the red carpet for me. This city supported me in building Lalaluxe into what it is today,” she told the Courier.

Describing her style as “luxurious and intentional,” Pollard Bayme’s captivating and unique approach has seen her win numerous accolades. She was named “L.A.’s Best Personal Stylist” by CBS Los Angeles and frequently hosts fashion events across the globe.

“Style, for me, is about how clothing makes me feel—aligned, powerful and free. This ethos guides how I style my clients. It’s not about following trends but about curating a wardrobe that truly reflects who they are at their core,” she said.

For Pollard Bayme, true influence is at the heart of what fashion stylists do. “My influence happens behind the scenes—guiding clients to feel fully seen and aligned through what they wear. Real influence isn’t about numbers or the algorithm; it’s about genuine transformation. That’s what my work is about, and it’s where my impact lies.”

The common thread throughout Pollard Bayme’s styling career has been using fashion as a tool to exhibit her clients’ personalities. “My goal is to help them create a relationship with fashion that feels personal, meaningful and lasting,” she said. “Trends are always evolving, but I focus on creating a timeless foundation.”

Pollard Bayme recommends thinking about pieces that are aligned with who you are as a person when deciding what to buy or wear. She helps her clients look beyond fashion trends to discover a more soulful, aligned sense of style. “One of the biggest challenges has been shifting my clients’ mindset from seeing fashion as merely external to understanding it as a reflection of their inner world,” she said.

“Additionally, balancing the fast pace of the fashion industry with the need for deeper, more lasting impact is something I always navigate. I bring joy and heart to an industry that can sometimes feel closed off or inaccessible, and I lead with that intention when working with top designers and haute couture houses.”

Pollard Bayme’s approach to personal transformation through style has been strongly influenced by the city of Beverly Hills. “Beverly Hills is where luxury meets individuality,” she explained. “My company partners with every five-star hotel in Beverly Hills, curating VIP shopping experiences for their guests. The city has been instrumental in my success.”

A recent event in Beverly Hills saw Pollard Bayme style a Silicon Valley CEO with a blend of “tech innovation and luxury.” She utilized pieces that reflected both his visionary leadership and the glamour of Beverly Hills, resulting in a wardrobe that felt both innovative and elevated.

This, she said, is what style in Beverly Hills means to her. “It offers a balance—combining California’s laid-back vibe with refined, effortless glamour. It’s all about looking polished, but in a way that feels easy and natural.”

According to Pollard Bayme, craftsmanship and quality are hallmarks that guide fashion in this city. “It’s not about showing off, but about wearing pieces that are carefully curated and deeply intentional. Someone who embodies Beverly Hills style understands the power of subtlety—effortless glamour that looks natural and timeless.”

Pollard Bayme thinks style this holiday season will be all about the statement pieces. “Think luxe velvet, jewel tones and oversized outerwear with dramatic silhouettes.”

She also advised paying close attention to jewelry choices this season. “High jewelry from houses such as Tiffany, Van Cleef and Arpels, Harry Winston and Louis Vuitton has made a major comeback, as people want to celebrate in style while investing in something that holds long-term value,” she said.

As for the best holiday gift for the fashion lover in your life, Pollard Bayme is resolute in the power of a beautifully crafted statement piece with a twist. “Think a Hermes leather bag, Louis Vuitton luggage or a pair of Tod’s crocodile driving moccasins that have been personalized with a mantra or uplifting phrase,” she suggested. “These are timeless, luxurious items that become uniquely meaningful, making them something the recipient will treasure for years to come.”

In the end, it all comes down to influence. “People want to make an impact while creating a legacy,” she said.



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DIAMOND MAHONE
PHOTO BY YESI FORTUNA

DIAMOND MAHONE

For celebrity stylist Diamond Mahone, style is an individual matter.

“Personal style is just that: so personal. It’s knowing what you feel most comfortable in and expanding on that,” Mahone told the Courier.

Mahone knows the fashion industry inside-out, having worked her way up from retail to now styling a cascade of celebrity clients—including *STYLE* cover star Candace Parker.

“Candace allows so much leniency when we collaborate. There’s a level of trust there—and I think that’s also very affirming to the work that I do,” said Mahone.

Mahone credits her success as a personal stylist to much of what she learned during those early days of her career. “Working in the luxury retail space gave me an insight into the human behavior of fashion—knowing how different things work with different people and learning what makes them feel most confident.”

As Mahone’s prominence in the fashion industry grew, she began to work with a range of high-profile clients, styling celebrities like Parker and singer Erykah Badu alongside corporate professionals.

But regardless of who she’s styling, Mahone’s grounding principle remains the same: fashion should be rooted in comfort.

“I never impose my personal style on my clients. I always go back to what the client feels they’re best in, and I just try to bring that out,” Mahone said.

When it comes to balancing trends with timelessness, Mahone is resolute in her stance. “I always want to be at the forefront of refining and elevating, but also still staying true to the one thing that feels most authentic for any individual.”

According to Mahone, it would be remiss to deny the level of influence stylists hold in helping define what is fashionable over time. “It’s more of a different lens to look at fashion. I not only think about who the client is and who I am, but I also think about my audience response—I want to create something they can relate to and feel like they can see themselves in.”

Despite Mahone’s zest for all things fashion, she believes there is still progress that needs to be taken when it comes to sizing in particular. “Luxury fashion panders to a specific size group,” she explained, “but it’s a huge, missed opportunity to not have a broader size range to account for differences in height, body type—you name it.”

Now based in Mexico City, she splits her time between styling clients in Los Angeles and New York, but always comes back to Beverly Hills because of its strong influence on the fashion world. “It’s such a huge epicenter of luxury fashion.”

Describing Beverly Hills style as aspirational yet relatable, Mahone thinks Beverly Hills is particularly unique in its approach. “For fashion in America, outside of New York, you think of LA as a celebrity center, and so much of fashion in LA is influenced by trends in Beverly Hills.”

The city’s take on trends is something that resonates with Mahone’s own conception of making style work for you. “I think of trends so differently because I think of them so personally, like how do we interpret what is happening on the runway into real life?” Mahone said. “So, there’s this fun mix of relatability here, where you see people style things that feel very decadent and dressed up but in a more toned-down, everyday way.”

“For fashion in America, outside of New York, you think of LA as a celebrity center, and so much of fashion in LA is influenced by trends in Beverly Hills.”

This mosaic approach to fashion is also what Mahone thinks will be big over the upcoming holiday season. “Taking something that feels a little more glitzy or glam and pairing that with a cool sweatshirt, T-shirt or some fun cowboy boots will be a great way to show how the mix of different things can exist together.”

Speaking on her decision to style Candace in a white suit for the cover of this edition of *STYLE*, Mahone added, “White is going to be huge this season. Expect to see a lot of it.”

Mahone’s commitment to making fashion a personal endeavor also translates to her approach to gift-giving. “I always love a personalized gift. So, anything that is personalized with something that feels true to your relationship to the person you’re gifting—whether it be a quote, a euphemism, something that maybe you say to the person or their name, I think all of those things are very special.”

A lasting impression is the most powerful gift one can give, Mahone concluded. “I just love something that will last through the test of time, whether it is glassware or whether it’s something that has to do with the home.” ●



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NAIL ART AT NEW LOUNGE
PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW LOUNGE

NEW LOUNGE

On the lower level of the Rodeo Collection, a fan-favorite Filipino beauty salon with over 17 locations has opened its first U.S. outpost in Beverly Hills. NEW Lounge is the spot for brow lamination, lash perms and tinting. “Beverly Hills represents the pinnacle of high-end beauty and wellness. Our top-notch service makes clients feel that elevated luxury experience,” owner Rachelle Bravo told the Courier. If you do not have time to visit the salon, the signature Filipino hospitality will come to you via their mobile services. [Newloungeus.com](https://www.newloungeus.com)

D’LASHES LASH & WELLNESS SPA

Dionne Phillips has been a driving force in celebrity eyelash extensions and faux lashes for almost two decades while working with clients from Victoria Beckham to Naomi Campbell, Renee Zellweger, Mary J. Blige and a host of others. Her retail brand D’Lashes is a collection of luxury lash products and DIY lash kits, which has won several awards.

Phillips has recently opened D’Lashes Lash & Wellness Spa on Wilshire Boulevard, just east of La Cienega Boulevard, to provide her lash expertise and in-house products with a full menu of wellness services. This approach is deeply personal for Phillips, who is a proud breast cancer survivor, and is hoping her journey can both inform and inspire other women to prioritize their health and well-being. Mention the Beverly Hills Courier to receive a 20% discount on a lash service. [Dlashes.com](https://www.dlashes.com)



DIONNE PHILLIPS INSIDE D’LASHES
PHOTO COURTESY OF DIONNE PHILLIPS

PELLEQR

Korean body scrubs are not necessarily for the faint of heart. They typically require vigorous scrubbing followed by a water bucket poured over you in a communal setting. This isn’t the case at Pelleqr in Beverly Hills, the Westside’s only upscale Korean scrub spa exclusively for women. You have probably driven by the blacked-out windows on South Beverly Drive, but never knew what goes on beyond the smokey glass. Pelleqr offers a personalized, three-step treatment to unclog pores and excrete toxins, with a lymphatic drainage massage for relaxation and smooth glowing skin. The 75-minute combination starts with a French Vichy shower followed by a Korean full body scrub and wash, and a blissful CBD oil massage. For additional pampering, Japanese head spa services by a trichologist have been added to the menu.

Owner Anna Margaryan has been in the beauty and wellness business for over 20 years and started frequenting Korean spas as a release for postpartum depression. She feels the Korean beauty trend started primarily because the culture takes skincare so seriously from head to toe. “It’s not about just putting on sunblock. We forget to hydrate and get rid of our dead skin—it gives you a youthful look,” she told the Courier. “It’s our largest organ and it is the first thing you see so you want a clean canvas, but you need to get rid of the buildup first. You can slather on as many products as you want, but if your skin is not taken care of, it will not work.” [Pelleqr.com](https://www.pelleqr.com)

HEAD SPA NAGOMI

Longtime local hair extension and color guru, Kazumi Morton, has opened a head spa a few doors down from her popular Salon Kazumi on South Santa Monica Boulevard. Head Spa Nagomi offers 30, 60 or 90-minute treatments, seven days a week. The procedure is recommended monthly, as the hair cell growth turnover is every 28 days. The idea is to stimulate blood flow and release buildup to promote healthy skin—just like a facial but for your scalp.

The process first involves a microscope scalp camera to examine for any buildup or troubled areas. Then the sensory journey begins, using traditional Japanese techniques such as essential oils to add a relaxing aromatherapy component with a Japanese charcoal-paste exfoliation to remove impurities. Next comes a nano steam to hydrate and remove buildup from hair follicles. A relaxing, extended scalp massage is followed by the cascading waterfall head bath, called toshinyoku. For the finishing touch, a steaming leave-in serum is applied to nourish the scalp. The 90-minute treatment includes a red-light therapy session to reduce inflammation and stimulate hair growth. A reparative, deep-conditioning hair mask add-on is also available during this process. [Headspanagomi.com](https://headspanagomi.com)



SCALP TREATMENT AT HEAD SPA NAGOMI
PHOTO COURTESY OF HEAD SPA NAGOMI



MINILUXE BEVERLY HILLS STUDIO AND MURAL BY DONALD ROBERTSON
PHOTO COURTESY OF MINILUXE

MINILUXE

For new nail art offerings this winter, MiniLuxe on Canon Drive has just launched chrome services. This trend started with Hailey Bieber’s “glazed donut” nails and has skyrocketed in popularity ever since. The procedure uses a metallic chrome powder in the color of your choice to create a mirror-like, reflective or iridescent finish.

The brand’s lead designers have also added the highly sought-after “Cateye” service, which gives nails a reflective, dimensional look that resembles a cat’s eye. You can also request Blooming gel polish to spread out and create a unique watercolor or marble design and the look of a blooming flower. Transfer foils add a high-shine metallic finish to a gel manicure by placing thin, shiny sheets of foil over painted gel nails to create a full foil or broken glass style design. Other new services include ombre nails using two or more shades of powdered pigment over a chosen base color, nail jewelry in the form of rhinestones or studs or 3D gel that creates three-dimensional embellishments and decorations on the nails. [Miniluxe.com/pages/beverly-hills](https://miniluxe.com/pages/beverly-hills)

SOHO HOUSE HOLLOWAY

For the first time, Soho House Holloway is offering facials by Australian brand RATIONALE, and non-members are welcome. The 75-minute treatment is performed by celebrity facialist Katie Matten, who focuses on hydration and repairing the skin barrier by infusing potent ingredients such as glutathione and vitamin C for a glass-like radiant skin effect. In-home treatments can also be booked. [Us.rationale.com/pages/rationale-residency](https://us.rationale.com/pages/rationale-residency) ●

1.



DEC. 6

“Nightbitch” is a horror/black comedy starring Amy Adams as a stay-at-home mother whose frustrations manifest themselves at nighttime when she turns into a dog, or does she? Motherhood is complicated.

In “Oh Canada,” based on the book by Russell Banks, director Paul Schrader reunites with “American Gigolo” Richard Gere to tell the story about a man who fled to Canada to avoid the draft and now wants to tell his story.

“Get Away” has it all—remote island location, dysfunctional family vacation, serial killer—what could possibly go wrong? Billed as horror, but with British funnyman Nick Frost in the lead, black humor has to be on the menu.

DEC. 13

“Kraven the Hunter,” plucked from the Spiderverse, is the villain with daddy issues. Kraven follows his ruthless father down a path of vengeance and mayhem against his purported enemies. Starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Ariana DeBose and Russell Crowe, it won’t be pretty, and there will be blood.



2.

1. AMY ADAMS IN “NIGHTBITCH”

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

2. “LORD OF THE RINGS: THE WAR OF THE ROHIRRIM”

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

“Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim” is a stylish anime film based on the characters from the J.R.R. Tolkien fantasy novels. A prequel to the trilogy, it tells the tale of the King of Rohan.

“The Last Showgirl” has created buzz both for the subject and its stars, particularly Pamela Anderson, starring as Shelley. Having been a showgirl for over 30 years in Vegas, she and the other dancers are rocked when the closing show is announced. Shelley and her friends, including Annette, played by Jamie Lee Curtis, are upended. What is left for these women, all over 50, when the only life they knew as dancers has now ended? Directed by Gia Coppola, granddaughter of Francis Ford, this signals the arrival of another talented member of that family.

DEC. 20

“The Room Next Door” is Pedro Almodóvar’s first English-language film and stars Julianne Moore and Tilda Swinton. After being estranged for many years, a daughter reconnects with her mother, trying hard to piece together what pulled them apart. It won the Golden Lion at the Venice International Film Festival.



3.

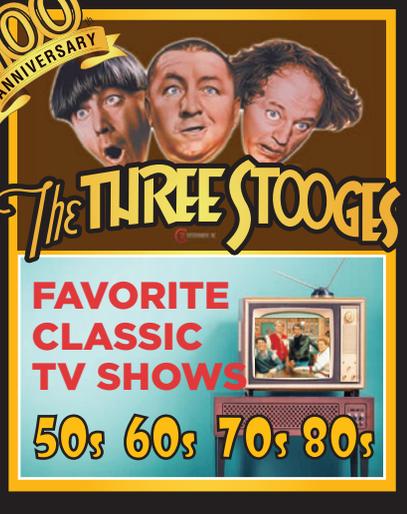
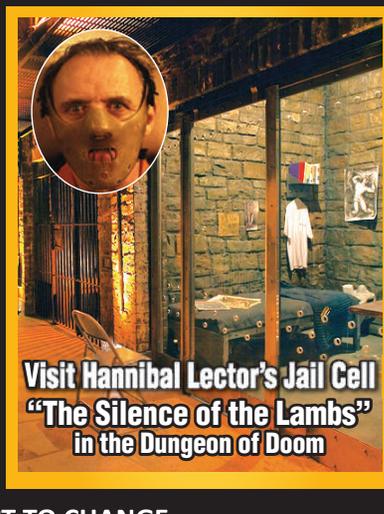
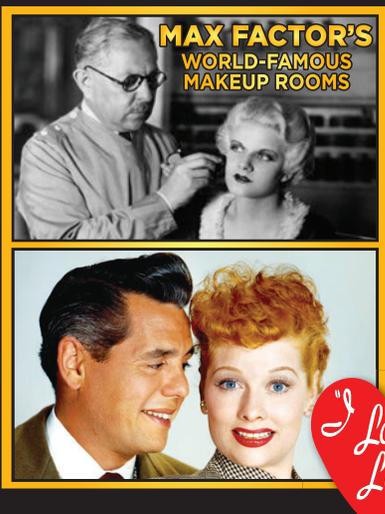
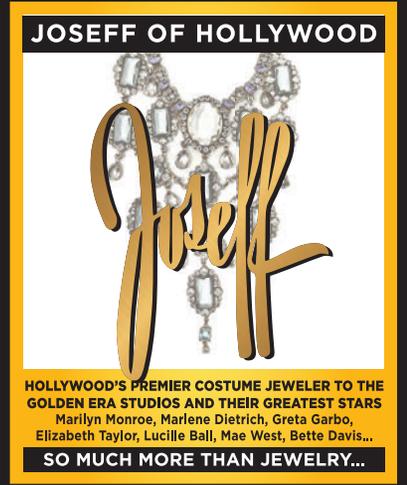
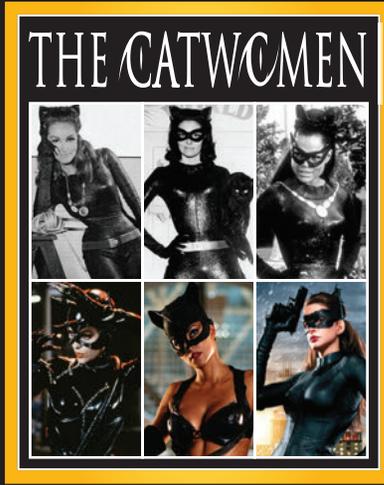
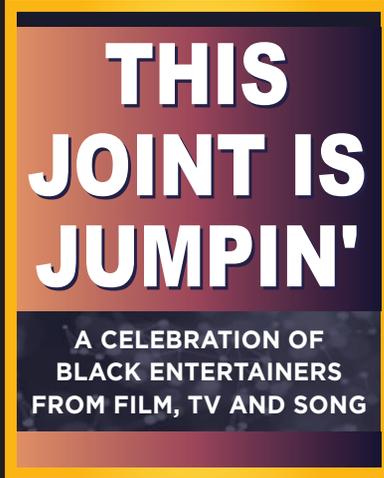
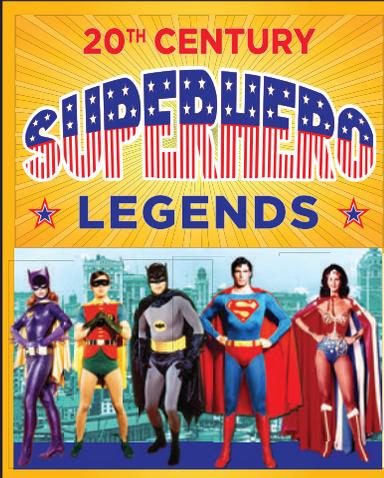
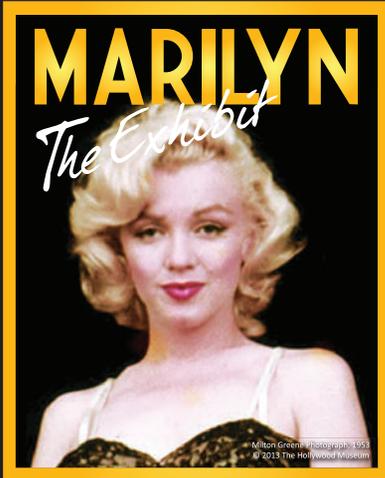
3. JULIANNE MOORE AND TILDA SWINTON IN “THE ROOM NEXT DOOR”

PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

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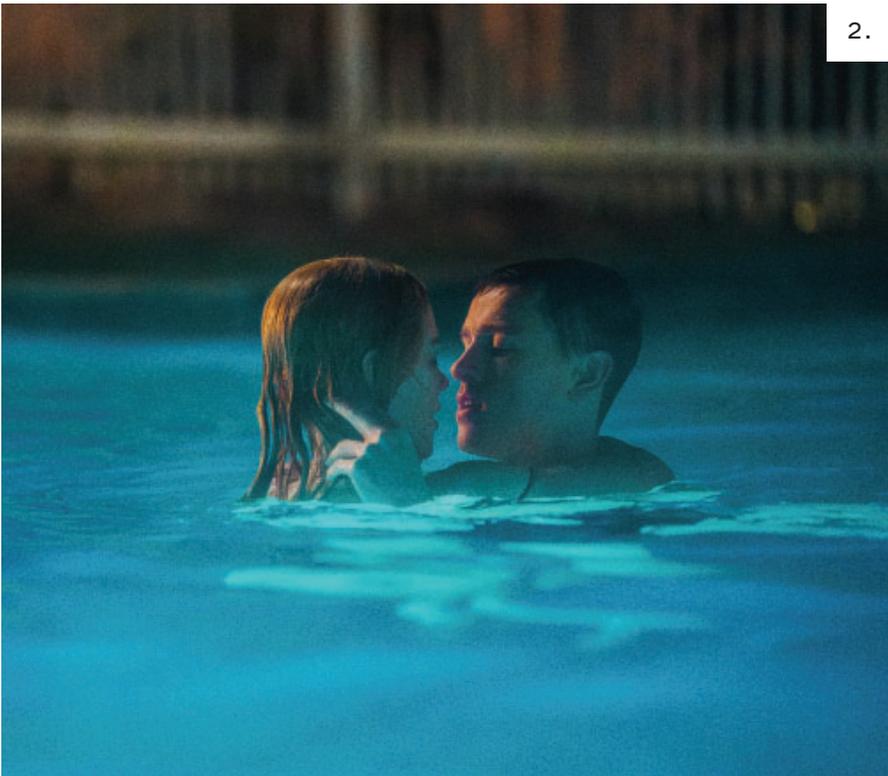
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1.



2.



3.



4.



DEC. 20

“Mufasa: The Lion King” is both a prequel and sequel to “The Lion King,” telling the origin story of Mufasa and Prince Taka. Using photorealistic animation, this film, with its amazing voice cast, will be a sight to behold –a family film to unwrap during the holidays and savor.

“Sonic the Hedgehog 3,” based on the video game series, is the box office gift that keeps on giving. Like “Despicable Me 4,” this year’s hit rerun, “Sonic” should appeal to families looking for fun during the holidays as the furry creatures combine with their human friends to battle the evil Shadow.

DEC. 25

“The Fire Inside” was originally scheduled to open last summer. It is the inspirational story based on the journey of Claressa “T-Rex” Shields who wants to be the first American woman to win a gold medal in boxing at the Olympics. Directed by Rachel Morrison and written by Barry Jenkins, the Oscar-winning writer/director of “Moonlight,” it features a very strong cast led by Brian Tyree Henry.

“A Complete Unknown” is the highly anticipated biopic of Bob Dylan starring Timothée Chalamet. Focusing on the moment at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965 when Dylan decided to go electric, Chalamet will sing. Directed and written by James Mangold who knows his way around biography, having directed “Ford v Ferrari” and “Walk the Line” about Johnny Cash, this is one of the most anticipated films of the season.

“Babygirl” is a story of a powerful CEO who embarks on a passionate affair with an intern. But in this erotic story, the CEO is a woman (Nicole Kidman) and the intern is a young man. Kidman won the Best Actress Award at the Venice International Film Festival, and she has turned heads everywhere the film has been shown.

“Nosferatu” is a starry revisit of the legend of Dracula. A remake of the famous and still scary German Expressionist silent film made in 1922, it is the story of a young woman’s hypnotic obsession with Count Orlok who turns into a vampire at night, searching for blood to keep him alive. Many will try to save her from his spell. It stars Bill Skarsgård, Nicholas Hoult and Lily-Rose Depp. Hoult is fast becoming the villain you love to hate. The magnetism of this story seems to be limitless.

“Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl” brings back that favorite stop-motion, animated duo. This time around it’s up to Gromit to save his master from an evil figure from his past, who may just have been released through Wallace’s latest invention.

Happy Holidays and Happy Viewing. ●

1. ELLE FANNING AND TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET IN “A COMPLETE UNKNOWN”

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

2. NICOLE KIDMAN AND HARRIS DICKINSON IN “BABYGIRL”

PHOTO COURTESY OF NIKO TAVERNISE/A24

3. WILLEM DAFOE IN “NOSFERATU”

PHOTO COURTESY OF AIDAN MONAGHAN/FOCUS FEATURES LLC

4. “MUFASA: THE LION KING”

PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.



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BEN TALEI, M.D.
PHOTO BY CAIGE MOORE

“Yes, I do feel like I’m too young, but I see it as something I’m doing for aesthetic purposes,” he told the Courier. “I’ll admit I am influenced by social media—TikTok and Instagram are full of people who look ‘perfect.’ It’s no secret that those who are aesthetically good-looking have a massive following. So, those are the people you naturally end up wanting to emulate and pay so much money to try and look like in some way.”

There is no evidence to show the trend will die down any time soon either, with Botox also growing in prevalence for patients even younger than their 20s. The ASPS reported a 9% rise in Botox use for those aged 19 and under in the last year alone—a statistic evidenced across many of Beverly Hills’ top clinics. For instance, celebrity plastic surgeon Raj Kanodia, M.D., has patients as young as 16 years old visit him asking for Botox and other cosmetic procedures.

For Ben Talei, M.D., the increase in Baby Botox treatments is symptomatic of a wider overall trend of people opting for cosmetic procedures younger than ever nowadays. Talei, a dual board-certified plastic surgeon, sees many young people in his clinic, the Beverly Hills Center for Plastic and Laser Surgery, where he refers to Baby Botox as “MicroTox.”

“Younger patients are trying to intervene early, whether it’s girls coming in for their lips or guys doing treatments like PRP to help prevent hair loss,” Talei said.

“They ask a lot sooner about Botox, starting from about 21 or 22 years old, in the hope of preventing aging around the forehead and eyes,” he added. This contrasts with a decade ago, when his youngest patients at the time tended to be in their late 20s.

AN UNNECESSARY INTERVENTION?

“We tell most of the young patients who come in that no, you don’t need Botox yet. It’s not going to prevent any aging if you start so young,” Talei said.

In fact, early intervention may risk more harm than good for young people. While the short-term effects of Botox only last for two to six months, depending on the individual, facial muscles naturally weaken over time. As a result, starting early could lead to unintended consequences later down the line.

According to Kanodia, doing too much too soon may have a reverse effect and accelerate the aging process instead.

“Repeated heavy Botox injections can make muscles become less active, resulting in a flatter or less dynamic appearance,” he said. “This leads to a lack of natural expression ... which can make patients look older over time.”

Talei also warned about the risks of injecting a face that is still growing. “The skeletal growth around the jaw can change if someone, for example, botoxes the masseter [jaw] muscle too early in life.”

Many young people fall under the illusion that repeated Botox treatments when young are simply “maintenance” procedures and cause no harm.

“I don’t worry about [Botox] no longer working once I get older,” Legrand said. He plans to continue with repeated injectable treatments as a routine procedure now.

But Truesdale warned that overdoing it when you’re younger might impede how well Botox can work when patients reach an older age.



RAJ KANODIA, M.D.

“It is always possible that you can develop antibodies to Botox that can cause it to become less effective. This usually happens over many years, but not always. If it does happen, you can take a break from Botox or switch neurotoxins,” he explained.

When an individual builds up resistance to one neurotoxin like Botox, it stops working as well. In this case, it’s standard practice for these patients to switch to an alternative like Dysport, Jeuveau or Xeomin.

However, with the long-term effects of Botox and similar procedures still generally unknown due to their relative novelty, it’s important to note that risks like building tolerance are very much dependent on the individual.

“I have many patients who started receiving Botox when it first came onto the market, and we haven’t seen any loss in efficacy over the years. If administered correctly, Botox can dramatically slow the signs of aging,” Desai said.

It’s not just Botox, though—many forms of cosmetic procedures carry greater risks for young people than they realize. According to Talei, lasers and radio frequency devices, which are also used as preventative treatments, can inadvertently speed up the aging process for younger faces.

“Young people are taking their beautiful, healthy, youthful skin and definitely aging it more rapidly by using lasers when they absolutely don’t need them,” he said. “Those are all devices that damage your skin in order for your body to repair, but the damage that you’re doing has to be worse than the damage you’ve already incurred in life, from sun exposure, aging, anything like that. And for a young person, that’s almost never the case.”

BABY BOTOX IN BEVERLY HILLS

Baby Botox is not a uniquely Beverly Hills phenomenon, but the city was amongst the first to catch onto the trend.

The Motykie Med Spa, spearheaded by the renowned Gary Motykie, M.D., who featured on E!’s “Dr. 90210,” began offering Baby Botox several years ago in response to growing demand in the community. “Beverly Hills and West Hollywood are definitely at the forefront of this trend,” he told the Courier.

Motykie believes there’s less of a stigma around cosmetic treatments now in part due to social media, but also because of a growing emphasis on self-care in the city. “Younger individuals view these treatments as part of their overall wellness regimen rather than something to fix a problem later on,” he said. “There’s a culture of prevention when it comes to aging here.”

Many clinicians agree that Beverly Hills’ image-conscious reputation has a big role to play in explaining why the city’s younger residents feel the need to start cosmetic procedures so early.

For Guzman, young people here feel the pressures of appearance not just from social media but also because of how normalized it is in their local environment. “I feel like younger girls are more worried about their appearance here because their friends or their moms are doing things like Botox, so there’s more exposure to it in Beverly Hills compared to Wisconsin or Tennessee, for example,” she said. “The environment here does push girls to do things younger and younger.”

And with the holiday season fast approaching, the injectors of Beverly Hills are now busier than ever.

“The holidays are the busiest time of the year!” Guzman said. “It’s a whirlwind of patients having emergency Botox because they have so many parties to attend, and all want to look their best.”

If you’re planning on some Botox to look party-ready this year though, remember to factor in recovery time. Most doctors advise giving yourself about two-and-a-half to three weeks before a big event to heal and allow any bruising or swelling to resolve.

Social calendar aside, the festive season also sees a rise in demand for Botox because it’s one of the only times of year when people can recover from such procedures in private.

“A lot of people have downtime where they’re off work or school, so they choose to do more involved procedures now in the hopes that nobody will notice,” Guzman said.



GARY MOTYKIE, M.D.

WHEN TO START?

If you want to use the holiday down period to indulge in Botox injections for the first time, there are a few things to keep in mind.

While many doctors agree that the early 20s is far too young to begin receiving regular Botox injections, the matter of when to start if you want to slow down the signs of aging depends entirely on the individual.

“If you’re somebody with darker, thicker skin, in general, you don’t need to worry about it until your 40s,” Talei said.

Motykie believes there’s no “one-size-fits-all” approach when it comes to cosmetic procedures. “For most patients, I suggest considering Botox in their mid to late 20s if someone starts to notice fine lines or if they’re looking to prevent wrinkles from forming.”

But as each treatment is personalized to the individual, the best way to know if you’d benefit from Botox is to schedule a consultation with an accredited doctor.

Josef Hadeed, M.S., Chair of the Patient Safety Committee at the ASPS, advises the following: “Always research the credentials of your practitioner and ensure they are board-certified, as well as having the requisite training and experience. Looking at before and after photos can be helpful to see what kind of results you can expect.”

According to Hadeed, there is no standard recommended age at which to begin Botox injections. “Every person ages differently, and everyone has their own specific aesthetic goals,” he said.

The ASPS also cautioned that it’s important to remember we still don’t know the long-term effects on people who start Botox at a younger age.

Regardless of the age one may start Botox injections, all medical treatments carry risks of which patients must be made aware.

“Botox is relatively safe, but [there are] risks such as allergic reactions, over-weakening of muscles and headaches. The most common complication is ptosis, where the muscle is severely weakened causing a fallen eyebrow or eyelid,” Truesdale said.

According to Motykie, “Overuse or incorrect placement can lead to unnatural results, such as drooping or an overly stiff appearance.”

But the doctors of Beverly Hills are unanimous that the best thing you can do for anti-aging isn’t an intervention found in any of their offices.

Rather, it’s simply giving your skin adequate sun protection and being consistent with applying a daily SPF. So, maybe a good-quality sunscreen might be a better holiday gift than Botox for the Gen Zers in your life. ●

THE MAYBOURNE BEVERLY HILLS

Located in the stunning indoor-outdoor Terrace restaurant, the Maybourne's afternoon tea service offers a California twist on the classic British tradition. Patrons will sip on Laurent-Perrier Champagne while listening to the cascading fountain under the golden afternoon sun. The Maybourne offers a unique black tea blend created exclusively for their sister hotel, Claridge's in London, which is home to one of the world's most iconic afternoon teas. They also serve an exquisite selection of sweets, including an exotic baba with passion fruit and mango chutney, dark chocolate pot de crème with hazelnut rocher, pavlova with strawberry and toasted pistachio and a coconut religieuse with lemon curd and baked meringue. The tea service is offered from 2-4 p.m. on weekends.

THE LONDON

If you are searching for a classic British afternoon tea, look no further than the London Hotel just over the border from Beverly Hills in West Hollywood. The hotel is proud to honor its English roots by working closely with the world-renowned Henrietta Lovell, founder of the Rare Tea Company, to serve a selection of sustainably sourced tea from producers all over the world. Reservations are required for the tea service, which is served from 12:30-3:30 p.m. on the weekends. Tea sandwiches include a matcha green tea crêpe with smoked salmon and crème fraîche and a peach molasses sandwich with chicken and onion profiterole. Sweet treat highlights include white chocolate dipped strawberries, Battenburg pistachio cake and a lemon verbena meringue tart.



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THE GETTY VILLA OR CENTER

Take a step back in time and enjoy afternoon tea by the sea at the Getty Villa in Pacific Palisades. The tea service was inspired by the Getty Villa's authentically recreated, first-century Roman gardens and by visitors' fond memories of the beloved Tea Room, which closed in 1997. The sandwiches and pastries feature flavors of the Mediterranean herbs, vegetables and fruits that grow at the Villa. Tea is served at the Villa every Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 1-3 p.m. If you are searching for something a little closer to home, The Getty Center in Brentwood also offers a tea service from 2-3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays on the restaurant terrace. Enjoy a selection of savory and sweet snacks as you gaze at the panoramic view. Reservations are required for both services. ●

AFTERNOON TEA SPREAD AT THE GETTY CENTER



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LUXURY PANEL, from page 1

Chamber of Commerce. The panel teaches businesses how to increase and execute luxury PR and growth techniques for the upcoming year.

"This is one of the events where I am always amazed that hardly anyone is looking at their phone during the program," said Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Johnson. "You're going to learn a lot from the speakers here who are extremely well known."

Puck was also joined by his son, Byron Lazaroff-Puck, who serves as the Director of Food, Beverage, and Hospitality at the Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group. Additionally, Matt Goldberg offered advice to attendees for pitching their businesses to the media, with his insight serving as Vice President and News Director of KCBS and KCAL.

Puck elaborated on his experience in hospitality and fine dining, offering attendees a window into his philosophies for successfully operating luxury businesses, such as his restaurant Spago on Canon Drive in Beverly Hills, which also has several locations worldwide.

Puck's secret to luxury is focusing on the luxury business experience and how patrons feel after visiting.

"Make people feel special; make them feel like they can't wait to come back to your restaurant. You don't want to go back if you don't have a great experience. It's all about the experience," said Puck. "Treat the customers like your family."

Shatilla expounded on the idea of experience by putting an emphasis on properly training employees and providing them with the necessary tools during the onboarding process to make sure that philosophy gets passed down to staff at every level.

"Train, retrain, continue to tell them that these are the standards of luxury. If we're charging this, and we're operating this service, we must make sure that every time we answer the phone, send an email, whatever it is, it is consistent," Shatilla argued.

According to Shatilla, luxury is defined by six key elements: exceptional quality, exclusivity, high social status, the use of premium materials in manufacturing and design, strong consumer desire and superior level of service.

On "the level of service" as a defining aspect of luxury, Puck gave the example of "anticipating to get the customers what they want before they actually know." At Spago, longtime maître d' and sommelier Bernard Erpicum devoted time to learning the personal preferences of their frequent patrons, such as their favorite drink or preferred table locations.

But this, Shatilla argued, ultimately comes down to how employees are trained and empowered by their managers to provide the best experience possible for patrons.

Shatilla invited Lazaroff-Puck to share his managerial expertise on recruiting and training the right employees.

"Look for people that have that spark—someone that is truly passionate and adores what they do," said Lazaroff-Puck.

Lazaroff-Puck urged business owners to "hire people who want to be of service." He described his philosophy of "managing up,"

which he defines as the process of "building someone up to the person/professional that he thinks they can be."

"It's about the training and the onboarding that allows that [longevity] to keep going," said Lazaroff-Puck.

Looking back on nearly four decades of operating his wildly successful Spago restaurant, Puck reflected on what he's learned as a pioneer in defining modern fine dining. He stressed curiosity as one of the main drivers of success, especially in the face of burgeoning technologies fastidiously changing the way businesses operate and market themselves.

"We can always learn from the young people," Puck stated. "I learn from my youngest boy about technology and vice versa; he learns from my experience."

Lazaroff-Puck added that Spago has upgraded its reservation system by allowing patrons to book online. But for patrons who still like to make reservations the old-fashioned way, Spago allows patrons to book over the phone using a robocall service, which is an automated voice system that handles calls that saves Spago nearly 10 hours a week. This system allows Spago to adapt to new technologies while also "meeting guests where they're at," especially if they prefer to make reservations over the phone.

Finally, Goldberg offered advice to business owners looking to market their businesses via the press. His answer? "Stories," Goldberg said.

Knowing your business' "why" is key to honing your stories and making them of interest to reporters, argued Goldberg. Additionally, he stated that understanding what and to whom you're pitching your business and identifying the business' relevancy to the community will help with navigating the media landscape.

Goldberg urged business owners to consistently read the news and to try and tie their business mission to existing stories reported on in the media. He gave the example of instances of retail theft in Beverly Hills over the past couple of months, and how security companies can use that as a hook to introduce their business.

Finally, Goldberg told business owners that "doing good" and promoting something unique will pique assignment editors' interest. Puck gave his example of Spago hosting, for the first time, a luxury barbecue brunch on Nov. 10, which was driven by Puck's desire to allow patrons to experience something different and would "make them feel good." In addition, a portion of the proceeds will support the Dream for Future Africa Foundation, which was founded by Puck's wife, Gelila Assefa Puck.

Attendees left the Maybourne armed with strategies from industry leaders on building and maintaining successful luxury brands in today's competitive market. ●

MEMORIAL, from page 1

memorial. The city will issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to invite artists, architects, and designers to submit proposals. "The committee recommended that the memorial be designed by an artist or a team of artists, selected through a two-month open RFQ process," Hunt-Coffey said. The total budget for the project is estimated at \$500,000, covering fabrication, design, installation, and other costs.

The ad hoc committee also recommended that the city's Charitable Foundation accept donations to help offset the memorial's cost. "It also would provide an opportunity for the community to contribute to the development of the memorial," Coffey added. While the committee discussed the possibility of including donor names, they emphasized that the focus should remain solely on commemorating the event. The City Council also discussed the inclusion of educational signage to inform visitors about the events of Oct. 7.

Mayor Lester Friedman expressed support for the memorial, reflecting on its importance to the community. "We know that the community is interested in having a memorial, and I think it's important that we do that," he said.

"We wanted to ensure there was an educational component to this site, not only honoring the past but also educating future generations so such atrocities never happen again to any race, religion, or culture. We would stand unified in that sense," said Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian. She also noted that careful consideration would be given to ensure the proposed memorial would not compete with the 9/11 Memorial. "We

also discussed the 9/11 site and how it was important not to overpower it. We didn't want something larger than the 9/11 site because we wanted to respect that," she said.

"We're the only Oct. 7 Memorial. And I think that as a city of Beverly Hills, being an international city, it's important," said Councilmember Mary Wells. The proposed timeline for construction is to begin by Oct. 7, 2025.

In another order of business, the council reviewed a request from Gearys Rolex Boutique for a special permit for road closures to accommodate its grand opening event. The closure will affect Rodeo Drive between Dayton Way and Brighton Way on Dec. 4. The committee voted to support the request.

"Gearys is the oldest store in Beverly Hills and the only independently owned timepiece boutique on Rodeo Drive," said Patty Betancourt of the city's Community Development Department, who presented the street closure request.

"It is a huge milestone for us to present this very large, in fact, the largest Rolex boutique in the U.S.," said Tom Blumenthal, president and CEO of Gearys. "It will be their West Coast flagship, and we think it deserves a Beverly Hills welcome to close the street and have a pretty spectacular evening."

"Gearys at Beverly Hills is emblematic of what Beverly Hills is all about. This boutique has been in the city longer than any other store and has been family-run the entire time. The expansion of this Rolex Boutique is another jewel in our crown of jewels in Beverly Hills," said Friedman. ●

AFFORDABLE HOUSING, from page 4

course of the last few months, city planners have been drafting the ordinance with the help of public comment, examples from neighboring cities and commission feedback before it was presented for a first reading at a meeting on Oct. 10. At a meeting on Nov. 7, city planners recommended waiving the second reading and urged the council to adopt it as is. They approved it as part of the consent calendar in a unanimous vote.

Under the amended code, income-restricted affordable housing units will be offered to households who meet the income requirements in the order of tiers one through four. The first tier includes existing occupants, who are the top priority. After them, the second tier includes households that have been displaced within the city in the past 10 years in the following order:

1. Senior households, or residents 62 years and older;
2. Households with students in the tenth grade or lower who are enrolled in the Beverly Hills Unified School District (It can take a few years to be offered an affordable housing unit, at which point students above tenth grade are no longer enrolled in a Beverly Hills school.);
3. Other displaced households.

The third tier includes all senior households, no matter how long they have been displaced, and the fourth tier includes individuals employed full-time by a public or private entity located and operating in the

city of Beverly Hills, and whose primary work location is located within the city of Beverly Hills. Full-time employment is further defined as a minimum of 130 hours of work per calendar month over a six-month period.

The ordinance also requires the municipal code to include a definition of displacement, which was largely inspired by the cities of Santa Monica and Pasadena. According to the ordinance, displacement shall be defined as "When persons have permanently vacated their primary housing unit in the city, or are at risk of having to vacate their primary housing unit within the city of Beverly Hills as a result of any of the following:

- a. Demolition of the housing unit due to a new development project on the subject property
- b. Voluntary vacation of the housing unit related to a new development project on the subject property (for example, accepting cash for keys offer);
- c. Withdrawal of the housing unit from the rental housing market under the Ellis Act;
- d. Involuntary vacation of a housing unit due to a natural disaster such as an earthquake, fire, or flood."

Because the ordinance was approved, all changes to the municipal code will go into effect on the thirty-first day after its passage, or Dec. 8. It has no fiscal impact. ●

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Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll have a sense of flow that connects you to the world beyond, where secret knowledge is imparted and creativity runs strong. You'll reach a certain speed; insights effervesce.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Financial exchange is energetic exchange. A good deal will lift both parties one way or another. Today the numbers will matter much less than the feelings involved.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will find yourself underestimated, which gives you a distinct advantage. You can quietly work to improve, developing your potential and growing your power until eventually you are ready to rule.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Whether or not you know which way to go, it will pay to move as though you do. It's decisive action that gets the attention and respect of others. Whether you have confidence or just pretend to, choose quickly and commit.

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

nurturing will be helpful in the development and healing of others. People are more creative, generous and benevolent around you, for obvious reasons.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The people who never lose are the same ones who never play the game. Your courage is something to celebrate, even when it's not ending up with the trophy or the treasure. You're still better off for daring.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Free up mental energy by delegating or finding new financial opportunities that fit your skill set and interests. Thinking about side hustles, passive income ideas and the restructuring of financial priorities will help you inch toward a goal.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Let someone shoulder some of the emotional weight you're carrying right now. Talk with a person who can just hold space for what you're going through -- without trying to fix it, add more or ask anything from you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stick with your plan, and be more mysterious about it, too. With added measures of privacy and discretion,

you can invest your resources wisely without the pressures that come with too much attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Expansive emotions like love and curiosity let in the world, whereas restrictive emotions like fear, frustration and sadness close the gates to new input. Neither is wrong, just more or less appropriate to the circumstance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can be simultaneously effective

and comfortable, but you can't be simultaneously growing and comfortable. Growth is inherently awkward, which you learned long ago to embrace. You'll traverse new territories today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). This newly developing project will be a marathon, not a sprint. Call on your powers of endurance and anything else that goes with a slow burn. Consider the usefulness of music, a coach or a cheering squad.



This is Madonna and Cher, two 3-month-old, 3-pound Chihuahua puppies. If interested in adopting this pair, please contact Kim Sill at Shelter of Hope at 310-770-3571.

shelterhopepetshop.org

Police Blotter

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

ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED

11/9/2024, 11 a.m. at 200 Block of S. WILLAMAN DRIVE

ASSAULT - SIMPLE

11/9/2024, 8:42 p.m. at 500 Block of DOHENY ROAD

11/6/2024, 3:53 p.m. at S. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD / N. CAMDEN DRIVE

11/3/2024, 11:30 p.m. at CLIFTON WAY / LE DOUX ROAD

11/1/2024, 9:30 p.m. at N. RODEO DRIVE / BRIGHTON WAY

10/31/2024, 7:57 p.m. at 300 Block of N. MAPLE DRIVE

10/31/2024, 3:30 p.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

10/30/2024, 12:34 a.m. at 100 Block of S. CRESCENT DRIVE

BURGLARY - COMMERCIAL BUILDING

11/9/2024, 10:34 a.m. at 8300 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

11/7/2024, 2:30 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

11/6/2024, 12 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

11/1/2024, 6 a.m. at 9100 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

10/30/2024, 3:24 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

10/30/2024, 3 a.m. at 8300 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

BURGLARY - CONSTRUCTION SITE

11/4/2024, 4:30 p.m. at 300 Block of S. CANON DRIVE

BURGLARY FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

11/8/2024, 3:15 p.m. at 400 Block of S. ROXBURY DRIVE

11/4/2024, 2 p.m. at 100 Block of MCCARTY DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (ACCESSED GARAGE ONLY)

10/18/2024, 10:30 p.m. at 200 Block of S. DOHENY DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (NO ONE HOME)

11/8/2024, 7:56 p.m. at 500 Block of N. ROXBURY DRIVE

11/8/2024, 7 p.m. at 1100 Block of COLDWATER CANYON DRIVE

11/6/2024, 9:10 a.m. at 200 Block of N. PALM DRIVE

11/3/2024, 9:52 a.m. at 500 Block of ARDEN DRIVE

11/2/2024, 7:15 p.m. at 1000 Block of HILLCREST ROAD

11/2/2024, 4:43 a.m. at 100 Block of N. LA PEER DRIVE

10/31/2024, 6:23 p.m. at 700 Block of N. CAMDEN DRIVE

DUI ARREST

11/3/2024, 7:22 p.m. at OLYMPIC BOULEVARD / S. OAKHURST DRIVE

10/31/2024, 2:05 a.m. at S. ROBERTSON BOULEVARD/ W. OLYMPIC BOULEVARD

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

11/8/2024, 4:30 p.m. at 300 Block of S. DOHENY DRIVE

11/7/2024, 6:45 p.m. at 9500 Block of BRIGHTON WAY

11/3/2024, 6:29 p.m. at 700 Block of ALPINE DRIVE

11/3/2024, 5:30 a.m. at 1200 Block of SHADOW HILL WAY

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Fun and Games

SUDOKU
11/15/24 ISSUE

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SUDOKU ANSWERS
11/08/24 ISSUE

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PUZZLE ANSWERS
11/08/24 ISSUE

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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
11/15/24 ISSUE

CAN I HAVE A RAISE?
BY SID SIVAKUMAR / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Sid Sivakumar is an M.D./Ph.D. student at Washington University in St. Louis, training in biomedical engineering and neuroscience. This is his 18th puzzle for the Times. His 19th will be the upcoming Super Mega crossword in the 2024 edition of Puzzle Mania, our annual print-only games section. At 50 squares by 50 squares, it took a month to make and has over 700 answers. **Note:** When this puzzle is done, read the shaded letters from top to bottom to get an appropriate phrase.

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| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Simple sugar</p> <p>8 Relatives of narwhals</p> <p>15 Eid al-Fitr celebration</p> <p>20 Boozy holiday confection</p> <p>21 Like sports stadiums susceptible to rain delays</p> <p>22 Follower of Jah</p> <p>23 Land inhabited by the Alutiiq people</p> <p>25 Cultural climate</p> <p>26 Racial-justice initialism</p> <p>27 "Wheels" for a car, say</p> <p>28 Make "it"</p> <p>29 Who has successfully juggled 15 balls simultaneously</p> <p>30 Member of the fam</p> <p>32 ___ buco</p> <p>33 Attach, in a way</p> <p>36 Salted or smoked</p> <p>37 Shells in Mario Kart, e.g.</p> <p>39 Zoë Kravitz, to Marisa Tomei</p> <p>41 Word with the wave of a wand</p> <p>43 Terse confirmation</p> <p>45 Protocol part</p> <p>46 Doppler-effect phenomenon</p> <p>52 Actress Krishnan of South Indian cinema</p> <p>57 Nest-egg option, in brief</p> <p>58 Boasting words</p> <p>59 Q&A format</p> | <p>60 It might be on a lot, but not worth a lot</p> <p>61 Overs and unders, e.g.</p> <p>63 Fracas</p> <p>64 Milk source</p> <p>66 Does some organizing</p> <p>67 Sign of authenticity</p> <p>69 Inventor of the printing press</p> <p>72 Coaster in the cold</p> <p>73 Where a ham might be on display</p> <p>74 Order from on high</p> <p>75 Challenge for a tailor</p> <p>77 Did laps, perhaps</p> <p>79 Holds a grudge against</p> <p>81 Word following a comma in an alphabetized list</p> <p>82 Wild-water craft</p> <p>84 ___ rush</p> <p>85 Texas city that inspired "Friday Night Lights"</p> <p>86 Psychological effect whereby memories are recalled more easily when they match one's current emotional state</p> <p>89 White sight in an expanse of blue</p> <p>91 Physique, informally</p> <p>92 Blow a gasket</p> <p>93 Conscientious of one's community</p> <p>99 Composter's concern</p> <p>101 Comic-strip segment</p> <p>102 Silo fill</p> <p>103 Name that sounds as if its first two letters reversed</p> <p>105 Break down</p> <p>108 Puerto Rico, on some maps</p> | <p>109 Popular video game franchise since 1997, for short</p> <p>110 "Oh no you ___!"</p> <p>112 Vigor</p> <p>114 Put away</p> <p>115 Moved across the aisle</p> <p>119 More up to the task</p> <p>120 Unit of explosive force</p> <p>121 Checks and balances include them</p> <p>122 Absolute musts</p> <p>123 Gathers together</p> <p>124 Like the flight from New York to Singapore, among all actively operating passenger flights</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOWN</p> <p>1 Partner of go</p> <p>2 Dips</p> <p>3 Taste imparted by MSG</p> <p>4 Network with livestreams on Paramount+</p> <p>5 Sturdy hardwoods</p> <p>6 Race from gate to gate?</p> <p>7 Texas city at the foot of the Franklin Mountains</p> <p>8 Drum used in son cubano music</p> <p>9 Delivery room injection, informally</p> <p>10 Let borrow</p> <p>11 Not spelled out</p> <p>12 Sized up</p> <p>13 Not feel 100 percent</p> <p>14 Equivalent of Mrs. or Mme.</p> <p>15 Device with a plunger</p> <p>16 Go for a bite</p> <p>17 On solid ground</p> | <p>18 One willing to take the hit?</p> <p>19 Like Thor, shortly after arriving on Earth in 2011's "Thor"</p> <p>24 Tennis center?</p> <p>31 Eponym of a popular root beer brand</p> <p>34 Kiln for hops</p> <p>35 Trail mix morsel</p> <p>38 Island northwest of the Big Island</p> <p>39 M.L.B. execs</p> <p>40 Sees the point of</p> <p>41 Totally fascinated</p> <p>42 Experience serenity</p> <p>43 Backup storage service for Apple devices</p> <p>44 Word from a pirate</p> <p>46 Taradiddle</p> <p>47 Internet ___</p> <p>48 Gentle reminders</p> <p>49 Spirit-filled?</p> <p>50 Online reference with credits</p> <p>51 Become lighter</p> <p>53 Installations in a Hindu temple</p> <p>54 Turning some heads?</p> <p>55 Performance with a sombrero</p> <p>56 ___ Technica (website with gadget reviews)</p> <p>60 Strong encouragement</p> <p>62 Some yoga poses are named for them</p> <p>65 Item on a to-do list</p> <p>68 They might be used to change the tone of a film</p> <p>70 Puente of Latin jazz</p> <p>71 Returned call?</p> |
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ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...

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| <p>73 Sign of a packed house</p> <p>76 ___ qué</p> <p>78 Jemison in the International Space Hall of Fame</p> <p>80 Soft rock</p> <p>82 Call from a dove</p> <p>83 Currency used in Vatican City</p> <p>86 1960s-'70s world leader portrayed in film by Helen Mirren</p> | <p>87 Calming oil compound, for short</p> <p>88 Sites of conch piercings</p> <p>90 Text often followed by multiple exclamation points</p> <p>93 "Impossible!"</p> <p>94 Cushion upon which a ball rests</p> <p>95 Altered course abruptly</p> | <p>96 "Hava ___" (hora song)</p> <p>97 "Same as above" marks</p> <p>98 Passes</p> <p>99 Longtime buddy</p> <p>100 Firecracker</p> <p>101 Certain Tuscan</p> <p>103 Idyllic places</p> <p>104 What's seemingly impossible to find when storing leftovers</p> | <p>106 Make one's thoughts known</p> <p>107 Natural sources of pink dye</p> <p>111 1982 film that spawned a sci-fi franchise</p> <p>113 [Check it out!]</p> <p>115 Music genre often played at a brisk 4/4 time</p> <p>116 Director Wenders</p> <p>117 Tilling tool</p> <p>118 Tower in a port</p> |
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Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 24-O-2902

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS TO AMEND THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE TO REVISE OCCUPANCY PRIORITY STANDARDS FOR ELIGIBLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS, ADD A DEFINITION OF DISPLACEMENT, AND FINDING THE ORDINANCE TO BE EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills ("City") desires to amend regulations in the Beverly Hills Municipal Code ("BHMC") regarding priorities utilized to establish the order in which income restricted housing units will be offered to qualifying households, and include a definition of displacement from existing housing;

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2024, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing and which it adopted Resolution No. 2068 recommending that the City Council amend Article 15.2 (Residential Density Bonus) and Article 48 (Inclusionary Housing Requirements for Residential Development) of Chapter 3 (Zoning) of Title 10 (Planning and Zoning) of the BHMC addressing priority standards to be utilized to establish the order in which income restricted housing units will be offered to qualifying households, taking into account state law requirements, reducing the number of occupancy priority tiers, include a tier prioritizing individuals who work in the city; and to add a definition of displacement and provide a consistent time limit for Tier 2 which households are considered displaced (collectively, the "Amendments"); and

WHEREAS, the City Council considered the Ordinance on October 10, 2024, at a duly noticed public hearing, as prescribed by law, at which time City staff presented the matter, and interested persons had an opportunity to and did testify either in support or against the ordinance. Following the public hearing, the City Council considered the entire record of information received at the public hearing before the City Council.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council finds that the adoption of this Ordinance is consistent with the General Plan because it fulfills the following General Plan and Housing Element Goals and Policies:

- **H2 Housing Supply and Diversity.** Provide a variety of housing types and adequate affordable housing supply
- **H 2.2 Inclusionary Housing.** Continue to implement an inclusionary housing program to integrate affordable units within market rate developments, and increase the availability of affordable housing throughout the community. (Imp. 10.2)
- **H 2.9 Jobs-Housing Balance.** Promote programs seeking to provide housing opportunities for people who work in the City as a means of reducing long commutes, easing local traffic, improving air quality and helping to achieve a balanced regional jobs-housing distribution for the western portion of Los Angeles County. (Imp. 10.6)
- **H 2.10 Workforce Housing.** Study and develop programs to increase the amount of rental and ownership housing affordable to the local workforce. (Imp. 10.3, 10.4)
- **H 3 Fair Housing and Special Needs Residents.** Promote equal housing opportunities for all residents; including Beverly Hills' special needs populations, so residents have a choice of appropriate housing.
- **H 3.1 Affirmatively Further Fair Housing Practices.** Promote fair housing and

non-discrimination in the sale and rental of housing by coordinating with organizations that provide information, counseling and mediation on fair housing laws and landlord-tenant disputes. (Imp. 11.1)

Section 2. Section 10-3-1528 (Occupancy Priority) of Article 15.2 (Residential Density Bonus) of Chapter 3 (Zoning) of Title 10 (Planning and Zoning) of the BHMC is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:
"10-3-1528: OCCUPANCY PRIORITY:

A. Income restricted affordable housing units shall be offered to households meeting the income qualification and other occupancy requirements, in the order established by the following priority tiers:

1. Tier 1 - Existing occupants of protected units, as defined in Government Code Section 66300.5(h) as it may be amended from time to time, who are lower-income households on a project site and who are displaced by a new development on the same site and are exercising a right of first refusal for a comparable unit in the new housing development, or in any required replacement units associated with a new development that is not a housing development, pursuant to Government Code Section 66300.6(b)(4)(B), as amended from time to time.

2. Tier 2 - Households displaced from a property within the City of Beverly Hills in the past ten years in the following order:
i. Senior households (62 years and older)
ii. Households with student(s) in 10th grade or lower enrolled in the Beverly Hills Unified School District
iii. Other displaced households

3. Tier 3 - Senior Households (62 years and older).

4. Tier 4 - Individuals employed full-time by a public or private entity located and operating in the City of Beverly Hills, and whose primary work location is located within the City of Beverly Hills. For purposes of this section, full-time employment is defined as a minimum average of 130 hours of service per calendar month over a six month period.

5. For purposes of this section, displacement or displaced shall be defined as when persons have permanently vacated their primary housing unit in the City, or are at risk of having to permanently vacate their primary housing unit within the City of Beverly Hills as a result of any of the following:

- a. Demolition of the housing unit due to a new development project on the subject property;
- b. Voluntary vacation of the housing unit related to a new development project on the subject property (for example, accepting cash for keys offer);
- c. Withdrawal of the housing unit from the rental housing market under the Ellis Act;
- d. Involuntary vacation of a housing unit due to a natural disaster such as an earthquake, fire, or flood;
- e. Involuntary vacation of a housing unit as a result of a dangerous condition of the property making the unit unsafe to occupy on a permanent basis as deemed by the City, including but not limited to, when occupancy is no longer permitted pursuant to California Health and Safety Code regulations relating to a unit or building deemed substandard or uninhabitable.

6. Exceptions:
1. In the event that a density bonus is granted for specific tenants pursuant to State Density Bonus Law (California Government Code § 65915 (b)(1)(E)) then the tiered list provided in this section shall not be used to fill the affordable housing units.

2. In the implementation of these priorities, the City shall in no way discriminate against any person or family due to disability or other impermissible basis."

Section 3. Section 10-3-4802 (Applicability) of Article 48 (Inclusionary Housing Requirements for Residential Development) of Chapter 3 (Zoning) of Title 10 (Planning and Zoning) of the BHMC is hereby amended to read as follows:
"10-3-4802: APPLICABILITY:

A. This article shall apply to all residential developments, as defined herein, where the lots or units will be offered for sale or for rent, and when the development application or applications for the residential development is deemed complete after the effective date of Ordinance 21-O-2850.

B. Notwithstanding subsection A, inclusionary units shall not be required for any project for which the city enters into a development agreement or for any project that is otherwise exempt under state law.

C. All inclusionary units shall be subject to the occupancy standards set forth in BHMC §10-3-1528.

Section 4. CEQA Determination. The Amendments have been environmentally reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Sections 21000, et seq. ("CEQA"), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000, et seq.), and the City's Local CEQA Guidelines (hereafter the "Guidelines"). The City Council finds that the introduction and adoption of the Amendments are exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, which applies the 'general rule' that CEQA does not extend to projects with no significant environmental effect. As such, there is no possibility that the Amendments would result in a significant effect on the environment because the modifications do not enable any physical changes to the environment, directly or indirectly.

Section 5. Severability. If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or place, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the final decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall be and remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the City within fifteen (15) days after its passage in accordance with Section 36933 of the Government Code, shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance, and shall cause this Ordinance and her certification, together with proof of publication, to be entered in the Book of Ordinances of the Council of this City.

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

Adopted: November 7, 2024
Effective: December 8, 2024

LESTER J. FRIEDMAN
Mayor of the City of Beverly Hills, California

ATTEST:
HUMA AHMED (SEAL)
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
LAURENCE S. WIENER
City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:
NANCY HUNT-COFFEY
City Manager

YES: Councilmembers Wells, Corman, Mirisch, Vice Mayor Nazarian, and Mayor Friedman
NOES: None
CARRIED

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024180843 The following is/are doing business as:
1) **BEST AND BEYOND**
2) **MY BEST AND BEYOND 137 South Robertson Boulevard unit 117 Beverly Hills, CA 90211;** TAMARA GABRIEL, 137 South Robertson Boulevard unit 117 Beverly Hills, CA 90211; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: **TAMARA GABRIEL, Owner;** Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: August 28, 2024; Published: September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024 LACC N/C (REPRINT) November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE

(Division 6 of the Commercial Code)

Escrow No. 101935-EM
(1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described.
(2) The name of the Seller is: RA BAR BEAUTY INCORPORATED, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, WHOSE ADDRESS IS 7931 SANTA MONICA BLVD City of WEST HOLLYWOOD County of LOS ANGELES CA 90046.
(3) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is: 7931 SANTA MONICA BLVD City of WEST HOLLYWOOD County of LOS ANGELES CA 90046.
(4) The name of the Buyer is: RA HAIR HOUSE LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, whose address is: 7931 SANTA MONICA BLVD City of WEST HOLLYWOOD County of LOS ANGELES CA 90046.
(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, INVENTORY, of that certain SALON BUSINESS business located at: 7931 SANTA MONICA BLVD City of WEST HOLLYWOOD County of LOS ANGELES CA 90046.
(6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said locations is: RA HAIR HOUSE
(7) The Bulk Sale is subject to Section 6106.2 of the Uniform Commercial Code. The anticipated date of the bulk sale is OCTOBER 29, 2024
(8) Claims may be filed at the office of MCGOVERN ESCROW SERVICES, INC, 436 14TH ST, STE 1015, OAKLAND, CA 94612, Escrow No. 101935-EM
(9) The last date for filing claims is: OCTOBER 28, 2024
(10) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE
DATED: OCTOBER 4, 2024
TRANSFEREES: RA HAIR HOUSE LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY 2869521-PP

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

SUMMONS (CITATION JUDICIAL) CASE NO: 21STCV43764

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS:

SEUNGOH YOO, an individual; THE FUKUDA FAMILY TRUST DATED JUNE 27, 2009; THE MASATOSHI YAMABAYASHI AND SHIRLEY MIYUKI YAMABAYASHI REVOCABLE TRUST; PATRICIA KIKUE FUKUDA, an individual; STEPHEN WAYNE FUKUDA, an individual; BOBBY MINORU MATSUMOTO, an individual; ROBERT MATSUMOTO, an individual; MASATOSHI YAMABAYASHI, an individual; SHIRLEY MIYUKI YAMABAYASHI, an individual; and DOES 1 TO 100, inclusive.

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: AIDAN KORTE, an individual.

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

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

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

The name and address of the court is:
Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles 312 N. Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is:
Gevork Gazaryan, Esq. DOWNTOWN LA LAW GROUP
910 South Broadway, Los Angeles, California 90015
(213) 389-3765 (State Bar No: 327350)

Date: 04/22/24
By: David W. Slayton, Clerk • N. Quispe, Deputy
Judicial Officer: Mark E. Windham / Judge
BHC• Published 11/01/24, 11/08/24, 11/15/24, 11/22/24

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No.: 2024-2967 Loan No.: 7519598 APN: 4333-030-120

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 07/09/2021. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the herein-after described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described

below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: SONIA MINJUNGKIM ETE, A MARRIED WOMAN, AS HER SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY Duly Appointed Trustee: American Default Management Recorded 07/13/2021 as Instrument No. 20211080010 in book //, page // of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California, Date of Sale: 11/26/2024 at 10:00 AM Place of Sale: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic

PUBLIC NOTICES

Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$714,133.56 *Make Cashier's checks payable to American Default Management, LLC Street Address or other common designation of real property: 234 SOUTH GALE DRIVE #209 BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211 A.P.N.: 4333-030-120 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (916) 939-0772 or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 2024-2967. Information about post-

PUBLIC NOTICES

ponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (916) 939-0772, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 2024-2967 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 10/23/2024 American Default Management 415 N. Camden Drive, #108 Beverly Hills, California 90210 Phone: (310) 855-0826 Automated Sale Information Line: (916) 939-0772 JUSTIN SHAW, TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER NPP0467072 To: BEVERLY HILLS COURIER 11/01/2024, 11/08/2024, 11/15/2024

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024192088 The following is/are doing business as: 1) MUSTANG ENERGY 2) MUSTANG ENERGY BRAND 3) MUSTANG ENERGY BRAND 5605 Woodman Ave. Unit 202 Van Nuys, CA 91401; MAXIMILLIAN NECHITA. 5605 Woodman Ave. Unit 202 Van Nuys, CA 91401; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: Maximillian Nechita, Owner; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: September 12, 2024; Published: November 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024 LACC N/C

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Classifieds

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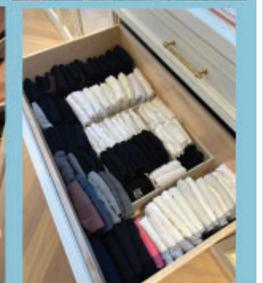
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28
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90
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Kindergarten Teacher:
Assist in preparing classes for kindergarten students aged 3-4, teach basic Judaic Studies & Hebrew grammar following Judaic Studies curriculum, & learn daily Hebrew prayers & songs. Jobsite: Beverly Hills, CA. Min. H.S. Diploma or foreign equiv., + 2 yrs. exp. as Kindergarten Teacher Assistant, Preschool Teacher Assistant, or Kindergarten Teacher + knowledge of Judaic Studies & Hebrew language fluency (speaking, reading, & writing) req'd. Salary: \$49,390/yr. Fax CV to Hillel Hebrew Academy, attn.: E. Sender @ (310) 276-6134

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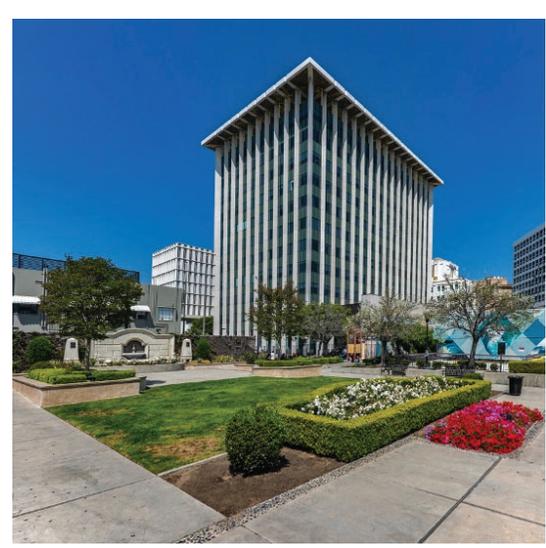
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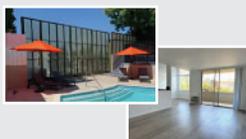
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