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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

Friday	65° 46°
Saturday	63° 45°
Sunday	69° 48°
Monday	68° 48°
Tuesday	70° 52°
Wednesday	69° 49°
Thursday	69° 52°

Beverly Hills Celebrates Hanukkah with Menorah Lighting



The Menorah Lighting Celebration attracted a large gathering of residents and officials, including (from left): Mayor Lester Friedman, Israel Bachar, Consul General of Israel, and Councilmembers John Mirisch and Craig Corman.

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

Members of the Beverly Hills City Council, along with Israel Bachar, Consul General of Israel to the Pacific Southwest, participated in a Dec. 30 menorah lighting ceremony at Beverly Gardens Park.

The ceremony began shortly after sundown with Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman's opening remarks, in which he welcomed attendees and fellow Councilmembers John Mirisch and Craig Corman. Those comments were followed

See MENORAH LIGHTING, page 5

BHPD Veteran Named Ventura Interim Police Chief

BY SELINA KAUSAR

Tony Lee, a former Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) officer, has been announced as the new interim police chief for the city of Ventura. Lee was with the BHPD for 26 years, where he served as second-in-command and oversaw Field Services, Investigations, and Administrative Services. Lee also often served as acting chief of police while at the BHPD.

BHPD Police Captain Max Subin said the appointment of Lee to interim chief proves testament to his character and leadership.

Speaking to the Courier, Subin said, "Tony brings a lot of experience to the table, from his time as a Beverly Hills police captain to his years as a chief of police at UCLA."

See TONY LEE, page 5



Tony Lee

New 2025 Laws Will Impact Residents

BY SEAN BECKNER-CARMITCHEL

With the new year upon us, new laws in a variety of categories may affect residents of Beverly Hills, either directly or indirectly. Areas of interest include the entertainment industry, which will begin the new year with new laws regarding artificial intelligence. Monetized social media posts using children must now comply with new regulations on the books. And new protections are in place for transgender children. Legacy college admissions are now entirely banned in the wake of the college admissions scandal. For businesses, new rules apply to payments for independent contractors, and the category of what constitutes "family leave" has expanded. Of particular interest to local businesses, new laws focused on organized retail theft could make punishments for large-scale theft stronger.

Entertainment Industry

The California State Assembly passed several laws focusing on protecting actors from having their likenesses used without their consent using artificial intelligence. Additionally, several laws will make it so that child actors' protections in the film and television industry will also now be expanded into social media.

AB 2602 and AB 1836 make it illegal to use artificial intelligence to replicate an actor's voice or likeness without consent of the actor or their estate. The California Labor Federation wrote in a statement in support of the legislation, "It is critical that workers and their unions have a voice in the development and use of AI and other technologies in the workplace. Otherwise, technology will rapidly worsen the exploitation of workers and the elimination of jobs." SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher was present at the bills' signing.

Retail Theft

New laws in 2025 will increase charges against those committing retail theft.

In a statement examining new legislation in 2024, the Public Policy Institute of California said, "Reported [shoplifting] incidents are 28% higher than in 2019. Commercial burglaries dropped by 9% in 2023 but remain about 6% above their pre-pandemic level." While data for 2024 has not been completed, the Institute noted

See NEW 2025 LAWS, page 14



Courier Calendar

NOW - JAN. 5

VIBRATO GRILL JAZZ: “GABRIELITO Y LA VERDAD,” “TÉKA,” “SINGERS LA” 7 P.M., 7:30 P.M.

Vibrato Grill Jazz will host three shows from Jan. 3-5. On Jan. 3 at 7 p.m., “Gabrielito y La Verdad” play a traditional and original repertoire that spans the scope of Latin American roots, including Latin jazz, salsa, boogaloo, Latin soul and funk. On Jan. 4 at 7 p.m., TÉKA will play Brazilian jazz and new bossa. Singers LA plays on Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m., featuring a vocal showcase and a live band that celebrates the art of singing. Reservations, including dinner and a show, start at \$25 per guest.
vibratogrilljazz.com

NOW - JAN. 14

HAUSER & WIRTH:

“JASON RHOADES: ‘DRIVE’”

For Jason Rhoades, the car was a vehicle of artistic pursuit, both readymade sculpture and American idol. Starting Feb. 27, Hauser & Wirth Los Angeles will dedicate an entire gallery at its Downtown Arts District location to a yearlong exploration of Rhoades’ art via the subject of cars and car culture. Known for the driving imagination

and ambition of his work, as well as, at times, its reckless provocation and overwhelming materiality, Rhoades (1965 - 2006) was a world builder for whom the making of sculptures and the creation of narratives were intertwined. His epic-scaled installations established him as a force of the international art world in the 1990s while he was based in Los Angeles. ‘DRIVE,’ will unfold over a series of thematic iterations, an ever-changing exhibition of Rhoades’ sculptures, drawings, videos and multiples—enriched by archival materials, public programs and contemporary perspectives. The current and final iteration is “The Garage,” which features a selection of framed works on paper and a major sculptural installation. Admission to Hauser & Wirth is free. It is located at 901 E. 3rd Street, Los Angeles.
hauserwirth.com

NOW - MARCH 23

THE BROAD: “JOSEPH BEUYS: IN DEFENSE OF NATURE”

TUES., WED., FRI. 11 A.M.-5 P.M.

THURS. 11 A.M.-8 P.M.

SAT.-SUN. 10 A.M.-6 P.M.

The Broad presents a free collection exhibition, offsite public reforestation

project, and series of programs connected with the legacy of Joseph Beuys’s art and environmental advocacy. The exhibition presents over 400 artworks that illuminate Beuys’s practice as a model for direct environmental action, drawing from The Broad’s extensive holdings of the artist’s work. “Joseph Beuys: In Defense of Nature” prominently highlights the artist’s “multiples.” Arranged thematically throughout the first-floor galleries, the multiples are editioned objects made to be sold or given away, more accessible than singular, large-scale pieces. The Broad is located at 221 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles. General admission to The Broad is free with advanced timed reservations.
thebroad.org

JAN. 15

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM LA:

“ONLINE CLASS: THE HISTORY OF ANTISEMITISM”

4-5:15 P.M.

Holocaust Museum LA presents the opportunity to learn from renowned scholar Dr. Michael Berenbaum. This three-session class will address the roots of antisemitism and its shifting context through millennia. The class will begin

with an overview of religious-based antisemitism in Christianity and Islam, including the ramifications of “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.” This is a three-part course, with classes on Jan. 15, 22 and 29. Admission to this class is \$36.
holocaustmuseumla.org


JAN. 18-19

SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE:

“ALEICHEM SHOLOM”

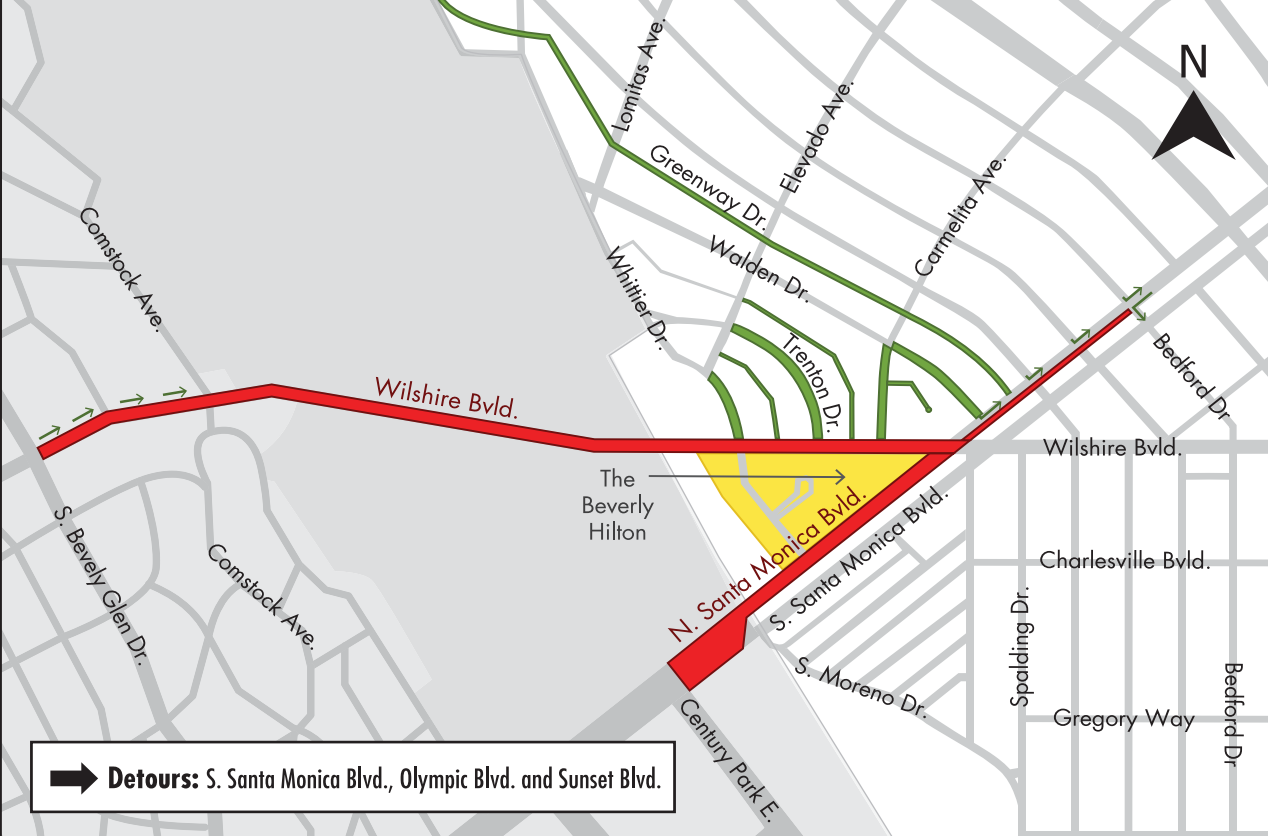
3 P.M., 7 P.M.

“Aleichem Sholom: The Wit and Wisdom of Sholom Aleichem” will be presented by the Santa Monica Playhouse Jewish Heritage project. This musical is performed in English with just a taste of Yiddish and follows the life of the beloved Yiddish storyteller Sholom Aleichem and his mespoche, spinning tales of his loves and losses, his fame and his failures, his travels, his travails and the tremendous joy and optimism that kept him going against all odds. Tickets are \$35, with discounts available for students, seniors, and members of the military. Santa Monica Playhouse is located at 1211 4th Street, Santa Monica.
santamonicaplayhouse.com



2025 GOLDEN GLOBES ROAD CLOSURES

January 3, 2025 - January 6, 2025
Event Date: **January 5, 2025**



North Santa Monica Blvd.:

- **Westbound Lanes:** Complete lane closures, from Wilshire Blvd. to Century Park East, from **9:00 p.m. on Friday, January 3, 2025, through 5:00 a.m. on Monday, January 6, 2025.**
- **Eastbound Lanes:** Complete lane closures, from Century Park East to Wilshire Blvd. from **2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 4, 2025, through 5:00 a.m. on Monday, January 6, 2025.**

Wilshire Blvd.:

- **Eastbound/Westbound Lanes:** Lane reductions take place at **9:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 4, 2025.**
- **Eastbound/Westbound Lanes:** Complete lane closures, all of Wilshire Blvd. between Comstock Ave. and South Santa Monica Blvd. will be closed from **5:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 5, 2025, until 5:00 a.m. on Monday, January 6, 2025.**
- **Eastbound Lanes of Wilshire Blvd.:** Limited closure at Beverly Glen Blvd. with local access only to residents in the 10200 - 10300 blocks of Wilshire Blvd. beginning **9:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 4, 2025, until 5:00 a.m. on Monday, January 6, 2025.**

Whittier Dr., Trenton Dr., Greenway Dr., Carmelita Ave., Elevado Ave. and Lomitas Ave.:

- Select streets will have limited closures beginning at **5:00 a.m. Sunday, January 5, 2025, to 5 a.m. Monday, January 6, 2025.**

For questions or concerns, please call our askBH Customer Service line at 310-285-1000 and the after-hours Golden Globes Hotline from 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at 310-550-4680.

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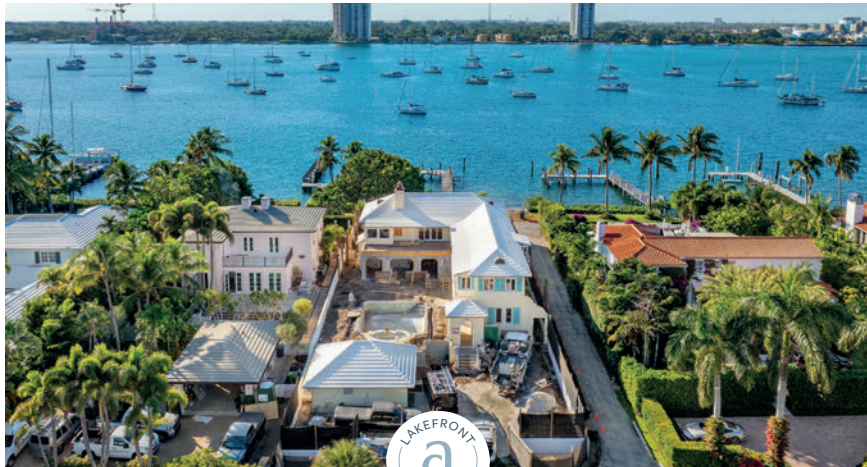
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Mayor and BHHS Students Attend Golden Globes Kick-Out



Photo by Colby Gilardian

The 82nd Annual Golden Globes will take place on Jan. 5 at the Beverly Hilton. On Jan. 2, Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman attended a Red Carpet Kick-Out at the venue. Friedman is pictured alongside Richard Pizante (BHHS Class of '97 and Senior VP of Production at Dick Clark Productions) as well as the Beverly Hills High School students selected for the "Golden Globes Insider" program.

Building Sustainable Gardens, One Tower at a Time



Photo courtesy City Greens

City Greens hydroponic tower

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

City Greens Community Farm, a local non-profit organization dedicated to education and advocacy for hydroponic farming, saw significant growth in 2024.

Formerly known as the Beverly Hills Community Garden, the West Los Angeles-based organization increased the number of schools they work with, raised substantial funds through development efforts and strengthened their ties to the local and national community.

Hydroponic farming allows plants to grow in a liquid solution instead of in soil, allowing for growth year-round and indoors. The practice uses less water than traditional farming, and often allows plants to grow more quickly.

"We really feel that growing food [hydroponically] on a big scale in cities is the future of where our food is going to have to come from," says Jen Levy, City Green's founder and executive director. "We can't really rely on the land anymore, and water continues to be an issue everywhere. So, the more people we can educate, the better."

As part of their widespread education programming, City Greens works closely with Beverly Hills Unified School District, where Levy offers classes and workshops for students.

In 2024, the organization strengthened its program at Beverly Vista Middle School. The school has one hydroponic tower, and Levy teaches sustainable growth practices to sixth-grade science classes.

At Beverly Hills High School, Levy works with students in Advanced Placement Biology, Advanced Placement Human Geography and Environmental Science, as well as the special needs program. The school has five hydroponic towers, and in 2024, students began taking a more active role in tending them.

"One thing that we added this year [was] a City Greens Club at the high school that the students are running, along with one teacher," Levy says. "For the first time, the students are taking part in the maintenance and the planting and the seeding of what goes into each hydroponic tower."

In addition to its work in Beverly Hills, City Greens offers education programs at Los Angeles schools, including Temple Israel of

Hollywood, Brentwood School, Crescenta Valley High School, Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic School and Middleton Elementary School. Outside of Los Angeles, City Greens has programs in Beachwood, Ohio and Maui, Hawaii.

Both the Ohio and Maui programs use food grown in their hydroponic towers for school lunch.

"Everything they grow in the towers goes directly into their salad bar and their hot lunch program," says Levy.

Levy notes that the City Greens program in Maui has also helped the community reach its goal of increased sustainability following the 2023 wildfires that damaged large swaths of the island.

"After [the fires], they really wanted to start establishing and building an on-campus garden, and to figure out how to grow their own food and teach the students about that," says Levy. "I go every few months to do some education with those students, and I also meet with those teachers virtually to help with the maintenance and any questions or updates they have."

In addition to its ongoing work with schools, City Greens this year established a partnership with Gro iQ, a company that offers, in part, high-quality sensors that can accurately test hydroponic growth elements such as light, heat and carbon dioxide.

"The sensors that they have are significantly more comprehensive than what we're already using," says Levy. "We're trying to figure out how to be as precise and accurate as possible with our growth cycles, and they're helping us do that."

Locally, City Greens has also donated a hydroponic container to the Beverly Hills Fire Department station on Rexford Drive, which uses some of the plants produced therein for their cooking.

Having a container at the fire station is "a way for people to see the difference between locally grown hydroponic food versus non-hydroponic local food," says Levy.

Local organizations and groups supporting City Greens include the city of Beverly Hills, Beverly Hills Education Foundation, We Benefit Children, Beverly Hills Rotary Club and the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles. ●

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Charges Filed Against Beverly Hills Doctor in Sexual Assault



Babak Hajhosseini

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman announced that Beverly Hills physician Babak Hajhosseini, 42, has been charged with sexually assaulting a woman in the city of Los Angeles on Aug. 18.

“Our office’s Sex Crimes Division is working diligently to bring justice to the victim in this case,” Hochman said in a statement. “The case remains under investigation, and we encourage anyone with information about the defendant or similar incidents to contact the Los Angeles Police Department.”

The felony charges include rape by use of drugs and rape of an unconscious or asleep person. Hajhosseini was arrested on Nov. 26 by the Los Angeles Police Department and pled not guilty to all charges on Dec. 27. A preliminary hearing setting is scheduled for Feb. 13. He is currently out on a \$2,175,000 bond.

If convicted as charged, Hajhosseini faces a maximum sentence of 34 years in prison.

Additional victims or anyone with information are asked to contact Detective Esther Lee, LAPD West Bureau, at 213-473-0447. ●

TONY LEE, from page 1

Before joining the BHPD, Lee studied criminal justice at California State University, Los Angeles and received an MPA degree from California State University, Northridge. After graduating, he undertook executive-level training at the FBI National Academy, Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, the Senior Management Institute for Police and the Los Angeles Police Department West Point Leadership Program.

This extensive training helped Lee become an indispensable asset to the BHPD over his 26-year tenure. In 2017, he took over as police chief at UCLA, marking history as the first Asian American chief to assume the role.

While at UCLA, Lee led the largest of the 10 University of California police departments and implemented several changes to

help promote a safer campus. For instance, he strengthened the department’s community policing efforts through the creation of a new role for a Community Relations Lieutenant. Lee also formed a Threats Management Unit while at UCLA, which helped monitor workplace safety issues such as violence, harassment, and stalking.

The city of Ventura has been recruiting a new chief following the retirement of former Chief of Police Darin Schindler. Ventura City Council finalized their decision to appoint Lee as interim police chief on Dec. 17.

“[Lee] is a great fit for Ventura PD as interim chief,” Subin said. “He has always been a great leader.”

Lee assumed the role on Dec. 28, 2024, where he will oversee a department of over 250 sworn officers, staff and volunteers. He will serve until a new police chief is hired. ●

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Last year, my family was victimized by a coyote. Our beloved cat was torn to pieces and eaten by one of them. We tried very hard to always keep Mojito indoors; but that night it somehow got out. It didn’t take long; by next morning, Mojito was dead. My children are still devastated. Someone from BHPD explained to me that animal control is in the jurisdiction of LA County. I made countless calls to the appropriate county department. Literally, nobody picked up the phone. I just gave up.

The reason many of us live in Beverly Hills is because of the good governance benefiting its residents. We don’t rely on the city of LA or the county for police, fire or paramedics because of the inferior levels of services they provide. Why are we then relying on LA

County for protection against wild animals roaming our streets day and night. I am not an expert on animal travel routes; but it seems to me that for the coyotes to reach the Flats and areas south of Wilshire, they would need to travel all the way from Franklin Canyon and through the northern part of Beverly Hills. That’s quite a long distance. What if, along the way, they encounter a small child? Do we need to wait for a tragedy of that magnitude to happen before we take action? We need to be proactive by urging our City Council members to take action now to avert preventable and foreseeable tragedies.

Kamyar Mahboubi
Beverly Hills

MENORAH LIGHTING, from page 1
by a brief speech by Bachar.

Addressing the large crowd, which was seated and standing, Bachar spoke about the meaning of Hanukkah and the holiday’s relevance in the current moment.

“The lighting of this menorah tells the world that Israel’s light will never be dimmed,” said Bachar from behind a podium, flanked by two statues of dreidels. “The Maccabees fought for national Jewish freedom ... The biggest miracle of the last 2,000 years is the creation of the State of Israel. That’s basically the ultimate victory for the Maccabees. They kept the Jewish identity.”

Bachar was referring to the story of Hanukkah, which tells the tale of the Maccabees, a group of Jewish warriors who revolted against the Seleucid Empire in the second century BCE. The Maccabees were victorious; they recovered Jerusalem and rededicated their temple. As part of that rededication, oil that was expected to burn for only one night burned for eight. In Judaism, this is known as the miracle of Hanukkah and is the reason for the celebration lasting eight nights.

In his remarks, Bachar went on to express gratitude to the city of Beverly Hills.

“Hanukkah is also about unity,” he said,

“So the State of Israel, the people of Israel, say thank you to the Beverly Hills community, that it is [in] unity with the people of Israel every day of the year, not only in Hanukkah.”

Friedman added that the evening’s event should be a reminder of uniting against hate, particularly as the current war between Israel and Hamas rages on.

“As we all know, this has been a very, very difficult time in the world for so many,” said Friedman. “Words cannot express the sadness that we all feel for the horrific events that occurred on Oct. 7, and here we are over a year later, in the second Hanukkah, and the pain is still there as more lives continue to be lost, and the hostages are still held captive. Now more than ever, we must remain strong and resilient.”

Friedman then invited the other councilmembers in attendance to join him in lighting the menorah.

“As customary lights are displayed in our homes, in the windows, to show that there is light and the light is there,” Friedman said. “In the spirit of Hanukkah and inclusivity for all, we wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.” ●

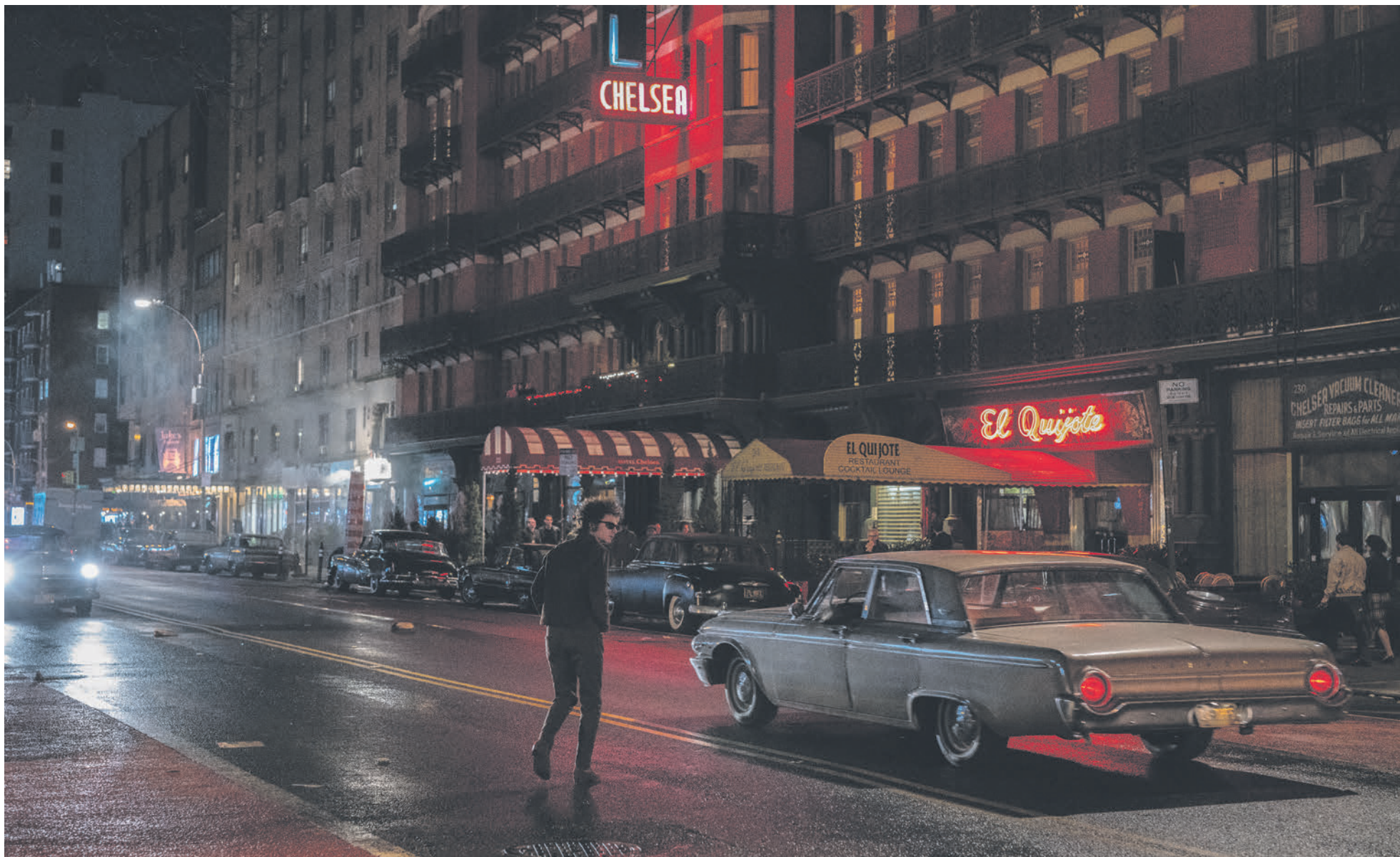
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‘A Complete Unknown’—Like a Rolling Stone



Photos courtesy of Searchlight Pictures

Timothée Chalamet

BY NEELY SWANSON

He's just a kid, squashed into the back of some family's station wagon, guitar propped against a small backpack, staring intently at the lights passing through the wet haze. Dropped off on an empty New York street in the Greenwich Village of decades ago, the village of garbage in the streets, derelicts and dozens of small nightclubs with signs held on by gum and string, he makes his way to a club. Asking a denizen of the bar how to get to the nursing home where Woody Guthrie is hospitalized, he is told it's in New Jersey. He had just come from there and now must go back, a pilgrimage to the man, musician and icon he reveres the most. So opens James Mangold's masterpiece, "A Complete Unknown." Co-written by Mangold and Jay Cocks and directed by Mangold, this is the breathtaking, fully realized, in-depth story of Bob Dylan's earliest years when he was more loaded with ambition and talent than he was with contacts.

Arriving from Minnesota, a 19-year-old vagabond longing for a platform with a steadfast belief in his overpowering talent, Dylan did make his way back to New Jersey to the hospital where his hero, Guthrie, was incarcerated, not so much by the doctors and nurses but more by the end-stage

Huntington's disease that has him locked into palsies, slurred incomprehensible speech and immobility. It is Guthrie, the troubadour of the Depression and Dust Bowl, composer of "This Land is Your Land," "John Henry," "Hobo's Lullaby" and "House of the Rising Sun," that he sought out to pay homage to the man who has inspired him to follow in his footsteps. Auspiciously, Pete Seeger, the folk singer who popularized many of Guthrie's songs and took over the mantle of the people's balladeer fighting for justice, was there that evening as well. After hearing one of Dylan's compositions, he's moved to mentor him in the folk song clubs that dotted the Greenwich Village landscape.

Seeger gave Dylan the credibility that opened doors; Dylan's outsize talent, immediately evident, brought him onto those stages where he interacted with the stars of the day, foremost among them a soon-to-be-smitten Joan Baez. Although his love affairs and dealings with agents, record company executives and fellow musicians are all presented, this is primarily about Dylan's astonishing rise and evolution as his generation's voice, one that continued to morph, over the unbelievably short span from 1961 to 1965. These were the years of "Blowin' in the Wind," "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall," "Like a Rolling Stone," "Tambourine Man"

and "Times They Are A-Changing," among too many to mention. In that short period he changed the face of music, not just folk music.

What Mangold has given us is a deep dive into the psyche of a man people thought they knew and understood but didn't. From the outset, Dylan's arrogance was not the arrogance of youth but the self-confidence of someone who didn't need the approval of others. His goal was fame and recognition, but he was totally unprepared for the lack of privacy and the public's expectations that came with it.

He knew who he was and if others, a group that would include almost his entire circle of friends, gave him their interpretation, that wasn't his fault. He was who he was. This portrait of Dylan's genius is also unapologetically narcissistic, manipulative and cruel. He'll allow nothing or nobody to get in the way of his vision, and there is a body count along the way that includes Pete Seeger, Joan Baez and Sylvie Russo, a stand-in for Suze Rotolo, the girlfriend who left him.

Biopics of the living are notoriously difficult to make. Too often they are either hagiographic or disparaging. Mangold presents what seems to be a clear-eyed vision of a complicated man with singular focus.

The actions speak for themselves as does the talent. Even in "No Direction Home" (2005), Martin Scorsese's outstanding documentary of these same years in Dylan's career and "Don't Look Back" by D.A. Pennebaker that follows Dylan's 1965 tour in the U.K., Dylan, the man, remains an enigma. From the moment he left home, he determined to be knowable only to himself, unknowable to others, a process that allowed him to morph fully into whatever he wanted to be whenever he chose. Most impressively, Mangold avoids those expositional passages that are meant to supply backstory, whether necessary or not. Watch Sylvie as she discovers his personal album marked Robert Zimmerman, her first clue that he hasn't been entirely forthcoming about his background. It is further proof that he is who he creates himself to be, regardless of past lives.

Mangold has not cracked the enigma code of Dylan, but he has presented a version that operates on a more visceral level. His choice of actor to portray a Dylan who plays at being Dylan was sheer genius, completely out of left field. Timothée Chalamet's almost translucent features intensify his Dylan's inscrutable motivation and fluid loyalties or rather lack thereof. Unlike Dylan's rough-hewn appearance, Chalamet has a delicate physical beauty that is used to underscore



Monica Barbaro and Timothée Chalamet

his musical talent with a faux vulnerability that projects animal magnetism. The wispy nature of his frame leaves the false impression of weakness, something that Chalamet's Dylan uses to great advantage, lulling his supporters into viewing him as an ally rather than a competitor. Most surprising is that he has a voice and vocal range that are spot on, an audible doppelganger that knows how to deliver the emotion, anger, loss and love that resides in the lyrics to perfect effect.

Chalamet makes you want to like his character even when he manipulates others to his advantage and their failure. He plays with the likeability of his character like a cat plays with a shiny object. Does his talent, his genius, excuse some of his behavior? You'll have to answer that question yourself, but for me, and I am nothing if not judgmental, it does. His Dylan does not hide who he is or what his motivations are; it is others who recklessly choose to view him through a different lens. He seemingly betrays so many around him, but it's all in support of his work. That others project their own values or feelings onto him is not his problem.

Chalamet's portrayal is the work of a master who completely and believably transformed himself into another. Certainly that is what acting is all about but rarely, very, very rarely, does anyone succeed at the level

Chalamet has succeeded in this incredibly difficult role. He's made us understand the unknowable, if not permanently, at least for a moment.

Edward Norton as Pete Seeger delivers a man so thoroughly tied to his generation that he cannot move beyond it. As his followers diminish in number, he continues on. He truly believes in Dylan's talent but is perplexed that it leaves no room for him. Norton's Seeger is both victim and enabler, whose sense of fair play commends and ultimately undoes him. Norton gives three dimensions to a truly good man lost in time. He was caught up in Guthrie's depression-era mentality that was, to Seeger's detriment, a stepping stone to the disenfranchisement of the younger generation. Norton's Seeger didn't understand the angry young man of the '60s. Norton's marvelous rendition of "This Land is Your Land" was, in effect, the bridge between Guthrie and Dylan.

Other notables in the cast were Monica Barbaro, who was able to play the emotions of Joan Baez, but whose nice voice was not good enough to illustrate how much brighter her star shone for a time. It is, perhaps, unfair to hold her singing to such a high standard, but it is a standard already set by Chalamet's vocal interpretations. Elle Fanning plays Sylvie with possibly a bit too

much co-dependence considering that she should have been seen as independent of her boyfriend's self-focus. Whether this was in the writing or directing, Fanning's Sylvie feels slightly less complete. Scoot McNairy as Woody Guthrie has the unenviable task of embodying a horrible disease that locks him into spasms and incomprehensibility. His eyes, however, are his weapon and the non-verbal communication between the young Dylan and the dying Guthrie are some of the most resonant moments in the film.

Using downtown Jersey Avenue, production designer François Audouy transformed this Jersey City street into MacDougal Street of the early '60s in exhaustive, realistic detail from the garbage in the streets to

the overflowing ashtrays in the bars. His New York becomes a defined character in this film. The hair, makeup and costume design subtly but effectively transformed Chalamet's delicacy into Dylan without mimicking the man.

"A Complete Unknown" is a must-see triumph. James Mangold has always been a force to reckon with but never more so than now. See it in a theater and be prepared to be swept up by this master work.

Now playing at AMC Theaters throughout L.A. including the AMC Century City15 and the Santa Monica 7. ●



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 tomatometer-approved critic.

'The Count of Monte Cristo' - Swashbuckling All the Way



Photo courtesy of Samuel Goldwyn Films

Pierre Niney

BY NEELY SWANSON

"The Count of Monte Cristo," a new edition of this oft-told tale, adapted and directed by the team of Matthieu Delaporte and Alexandre de la Patellière, is a sweepingly romantic adventure full to overflowing with love, hate, greed, betrayal, revenge and resurrection. The villains are painted in the blackest blacks, but what makes it most interesting are the innocent victims who propel so much of the action and the complex and conflicted hero who is both valiant and vengeful.

It is the best of times and the worst of times in France. Napoleon is exiled to Elba and the royals are back in power. But that tenure is in danger because of rumors that Napoleon's legion of followers are planning his return.

There has been an accident at sea and a ship is on fire, its passengers lost with the exception of a woman floundering in the water. Captain Danglers has ordered his crew to charge ahead and ignore any survivors from the other ship. Sailor Edmund Dantès, ignoring the order, dives into the water and rescues the woman. Enraged that his orders were disobeyed, he restricts the woman, Angèle, to cramped quarters, commandeers her belongings, including a hidden letter, and tells Dantès that his career is over. The letter? A missive signed by Napoleon to his followers in France. The woman? A spy and anti-royalist. Danglers will find a use for that letter and will profit handsomely. As for Dantès, things don't go as planned. The owner of the fleet is impressed by his bravery and promptly fires Danglers and replaces him with Dantès, making the 22-year-old Dantès one of the youngest captains in France. Seething, Danglers is unhinged but with a plan to even the scores.

Dantès, a man of humble origin, is thrilled that he now has the means to marry the woman of his dreams, Mercédès, the

aristocratic daughter related to the owners of the estate, the Morcerfs, for whom the Dantès family has served for years. It was Mercédès' relatives, the Morcerfs, who sent Dantès to the Naval Academy and will be thrilled with his promotion; less thrilled, perhaps, with the engagement of their daughter to the son of a servant. But love should conquer all and even Mercédès' cousin, Fernand de Morcerf, seemingly supports him, all the while secretly fuming with jealousy.

To round out the trio of anti-Dantès schemers is Gerard de Villefort, the king's prosecutor. Angèle, rescued from drowning by Dantès, is Villefort's sister and a follower of Napoleon, something that would derail his promising career with the royalists. When Danglers appears with her letter, Villefort is ensnared in a trap, one where Danglers offers him a convenient out benefiting them both. Villefort must make sure that no one discovers who was carrying it, and when Danglers offers the prospect of framing Edmund Dantès with the letter, he jumps at it.

The King's guards are sent to the church where Dantès and Mercédès are about to say their wedding vows, taking him away to the prosecutor's offices. Proclaiming to be convinced of his innocence, Fernand rides to his rescue. Instead, Villefort convinces Fernand that bringing Dantès to trial will sully the Morcerf name. Morcerf immediately changes sides and swears in a letter that he knew Dantès to be a follower of Napoleon and a traitor to France. Rather than put him before a jury, Villefort has Dantès spirited away to the Chateau d'If, an impregnable prison fortress on an island off the coast of Marseilles, never to be seen again, or so they all assume.

Already imprisoned for four years, ragged, starving, without hope, Dantès is contemplating suicide when he hears noises behind one of his walls. A prisoner in the adjacent, seemingly impenetrable, cell has

broken through, mistakenly thinking that he was about to reach the outer wall to the sea. He is the Abbé Faria, imprisoned when, as the last guardian of the fortune amassed by the Knights Templar, he refused to divulge its location. He had been digging for years to arrive at Dantès cell and, with Dantès' help, and if they're lucky, it might only take another 10 years to make it to the outside wall and freedom. Recognizing that Dantès is poorly schooled, he offers to teach him while they work. It will be a university of one where he will learn modern and ancient languages, philosophy, history, mathematics and science. And when they reach their goal, Faria has promised to split the hidden spoils with him, making him rich beyond measure.

But this is less than an hour into the movie because it's not about his escape, it's about what he does afterwards. Edmund Dantès has understood one thing perfectly. Revenge is a dish best served cold. As the mysterious Count of Monte Cristo, returning to Paris where all his targets now live, he is sought after by one and all. Wealthy, educated, sophisticated, aristocratic, what he has in store for his enemies will surprise even them. Dante's wiles and long-range planning beg the question, how much is enough retribution or can it ever be enough?

Written by Alexandre Dumas, a prolific author of adventure novels, denigrated by academics and revered by readers of all ages, he was almost as interesting as the characters he wrote. His father, Thomas-Alexandre, was the illegitimate product of a slave and a nobleman, the Marquis de La Pailleterie. The Marquis took Thomas back to Paris to educate him, but in a parting blow to his concubine and their daughters, he sold them to another. Thomas, ineligible to inherit the estate of the marquis, was granted his freedom and sent to a military school. He started his career in the army as a lowly soldier, rising to the rank of general at the age of 31 under Napoleon.

Upon his early death in 1806, Alexandre, aged 4, and his sisters would suffer greatly until he began his writing career, first as a journalist and then as a playwright. His plays and minor works, works that were written with collaborators, brought him wealth but nothing like the acclaim and fortune he received for his most important novels, "The Corsican Brothers," "The Three Musketeers" and "The Count of Monte Cristo." With the money he earned from the latter two, he built a country home outside Paris and called it the Château de Monte-Cristo.

Dumas wrote in an almost cinematic style. His books were page-turners with scenes that were visual, exciting and visceral, making them easy to translate to the big screen. And they have been, over and over again since 1905. De la Patellière and Delaporte have taken minor liberties with some of the characters but those changes are almost seamless in terms of the original story.

No one does period drama better than the French. The British come close and Americans get it right more often than not, usually using locations in Czechoslovakia and Hungary that double for 18th and 19th-century Western Europe; but nothing like the French who have preserved more of their landscape and architecture. This "Count of Monte Cristo" is a feast for the eyes using existing chateaux and surrounding grounds to lend an authenticity that is hard to duplicate. Employing sleight of hand, the hair and makeup department create character and plot points with wigs and masks. The costuming is period perfect befitting the wealth portrayed by the main characters and the rags of the wretched, especially those of Edmund as he suffers in the prison fortress. The cinematography by Nicolas Bolduc is peerless, capturing the lushness of the countryside and the austerity of the unlit prison.

But this is nothing without the superb actors, many of whom are stars of the Comédie Française, attesting to their theatrical experience and the subtlety they bring to their roles. Of special note are the villains. Bastien Bouillon brings an ambivalence to the evil narcissism of Fernand de Morcerf, whose betrayal of Dantès may be the greatest. Patrick Mille, as Danglers, has the self-satisfied air of a man who cheats, schemes and is unapologetic about his lack of moral compass. It is Laurent Lafitte as Villefort who brings a gravitas to the prosecutor who distrusts all and, in having the most to lose, treads more carefully around the others, always setting up a fall guy whenever possible. But there is no Count of Monte Cristo without the breathtaking performance of Pierre Niney, who brings a believability to his Edmund Dantès who uses all the colors of an emotional palette and his expressive eyes to tell a story even when there is no dialogue. He is a veritable marvel of depth, character and believability.

If you like a good story, there is none better than this must-see movie.

In French with English subtitles.

Now playing at the Laemmle Royal, opening wider on Jan. 3. ●



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

DATE: Tuesday, January 28, 2025
TIME: 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard
LOCATION: **Meeting will be held in person at:**
Council Chamber
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Members of the public may also participate via teleconference; details provided below

PROJECT ADDRESS: **450 North Roxbury Drive**

The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at a REGULAR meeting on **January 28, 2025**, will hold a public hearing beginning at **7:00 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider:

A RESOLUTION MODIFYING THE CITY'S GENERAL PLAN LAND USE MAP AND AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE §10-3-2745 TO MODIFY MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE FLOOR AREA RATIO (FAR) LIMITATION FOR CERTAIN BUILDINGS LOCATED IN C-3 COMMERCIAL ZONES.

On November 14, 2024, the Planning Commission considered the proposed amendments to the City of Beverly Hills Municipal Code and the City's General Plan Land Use Map at a duly noticed public hearing. A Development Plan Review proposal to allow for the conversion of existing parking spaces located on the ground floor of an existing parking structure at 450 North Roxbury Drive to retail uses was also considered. At the meeting, the Planning Commission adopted the Initial Study and Negative Declaration of the project and forwarded a recommendation that the City Council approve the proposed General Plan Amendment and Zone Text Amendment, and conditionally approved the Development Plan Review for the proposed project.

The proposed amendments to the City of Beverly Hills Municipal Code and the City's General Plan Land Use Map introduces the following changes:

1. Amend the maximum allowable floor area ratio (FAR) limitation for certain buildings located in the C-3 Commercial zones to allow properties within the Business Triangle to increase the maximum floor area ratio (FAR) as a result of the conversion of the ground level of an existing parking structure abutting a public street to retail business(es), subject to the approval of a Development Plan Review;
2. Amend the City's General Plan Land Use Map accordingly to note the change in permissible density for certain buildings.

The foregoing summary of the ordinance is prepared and published in accordance with the requirements of Government Code §36933. Pursuant to the requirements of Government Code §36933, a certified copy of the entirety of the text of the proposed ordinance will be available for review during normal business hours at the Office of the City Clerk Office located at City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Second Floor, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 at least five days before the City Council will consider adoption of the ordinance.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000 et seq.), and the environmental regulations of the City. An Initial Study and Negative Declaration was

prepared to evaluate the potential environmental effects that could result from the construction and operation of the Project. The analysis concluded that the project would not result in any significant environmental impacts and that no mitigation is necessary. Upon review, the Planning Commission adopted the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the Project. The City Council will also consider adopting the Initial Study and Negative Declaration in conjunction with consideration of the General Plan Amendment and Zone Text Amendment.

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 **Minjee Hahm, AICP, Associate Planner** in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1136**, or by email at mhahm@beverlyhills.org. Please also contact us to add your email to the interested parties list for this ordinance, 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.

www.beverlyhills.org



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, **January 28, 2025, 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 ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING SHORT TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS (TRANSIENT USES) FOR SINGLE FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONES, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The City Council will consider adoption of an ordinance to amend the short term rental regulations applicable to single-family and multifamily residential zones, which are referred to as "single-family and multifamily transient uses" in the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC). The Planning Commission previously reviewed this topic at the August 8, 2024 study session and at their November 14, 2024 regular meeting adopted Planning Commission Resolution No. 2076 unanimously recommending the City Council adopt the draft ordinance. The draft ordinance includes, but is not limited to the following changes:

- A prohibition on short term rental uses in any residential zone of the City, including the use of accessory features such as pools or tennis courts;
- A minimum initial lease term of one year for the rental of units in single-family residential zones and a minimum initial lease term of 6 months for multi-family units in the City; and
- Changes to other sections of the BHMC related to short term rentals, such as a penalty fee structure specific to short term rentals.

This summary of the ordinance is prepared and published in accordance with the requirements of Government Code §36933. Pursuant to the requirements of Government Code §36933, a certified copy of the entirety of the text of the proposed ordinance will be available for review during normal business hours at the Office of the City Clerk Office located at City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Second Floor, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 at least five days before the City Council will consider adoption of the ordinance.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. Since the project does not authorize construction, and actually imposes greater use restrictions on certain properties to protect the public health, safety and general welfare, there is no possibility that it may have a significant effect on the environment. In addition, the project reflects minor changes in land use limitations, and do not result in changes to land use or density. Accordingly, the City Council will consider a recommendation to find the project categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15305 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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Public Comment Participation:

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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 **Chloe Chen, Principal Planner** in the Planning Division of the Community Development Department at (310) 285-1194, or by email at cchen@beverlyhills.org. Please also contact us to add your email to the interested parties list for this ordinance, so that important updates and notifications may be sent to you.

HUMA AHMED
City Clerk

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its meeting to be held on **Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 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 SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 INCOMPLETE APPLICATION DETERMINATION, PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65943(c), PERTAINING TO THE REVIEW OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED 14-STORY MIXED USE BUILDING AT 9229 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD.

The proposed project is a new 14-story, 163' tall, mixed use building at 9229 Wilshire Boulevard. The proposal includes 116 rental units inclusive of 24 units allocated for lower income households, and a 60-room hotel located on floors 11 through 14. A total of 140 parking spaces are proposed within a three-level subterranean parking structure. 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.

Scott M. Kalt, Esq., on behalf of the property owners (Hamburg Properties LLC, Frosenfelt LLC, Mimilee Properties LLC, Barry & Beth Rosenbloom Properties LLC, KDR Golden LLC, Double Decker Partners LLC, JD Tower LLC, and Reggio Mayo 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 September 12, 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.

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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

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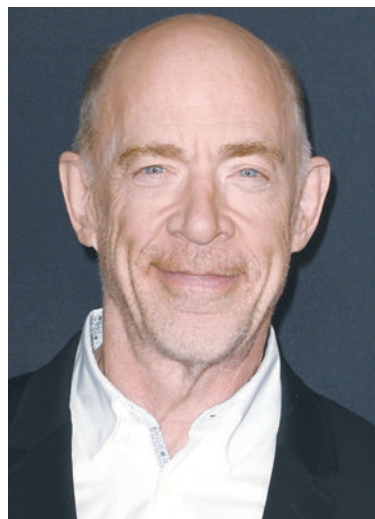
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January 5



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January 6



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Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's not like you to keep tabs on every minor interaction, but today it will help you to have at least a general sense of the give and take. No one is trying to take advantage, but people have different ideas about what constitutes a fair contribution.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though you don't align with every aspect of a group's philosophy, and you probably never will, there's enough value to justify your involvement. Contributing your service could yield surprising benefits of connection and belonging.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The current distribution of power exists for a reason, but that doesn't make it immutable. Challenging the status quo will invite resistance. Change takes time; don't expect overnight victories, but know the effort matters.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). No one enjoys making mistakes, let alone repeating them, but the more times you get it wrong, the sweeter success tastes when you finally get it right. A

hard-won victory will be worth the struggle.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your charisma will be amplified when you celebrate what's unique about others. Generosity of spirit is your calling card. You'll make people feel special by noticing their talents, and they'll be eager to mirror your shine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Whatever your project, a little extra research will save you time and effort in the long run. Seeking advice also creates a natural opportunity to network, expanding your circle and influence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Not everyone has a mental filter that keeps thoughts inside their head. This could cause hurt feelings, offended parties and general confusion. You'll be the one to step in gracefully and smooth things over.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Isaac Newton's law that objects in motion stay in motion holds true in your world today. You'll intuitively grasp the flow of events around you, allowing you to make spot-on predictions. Stay tuned in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Liking someone doesn't mean you want to do everything together. To

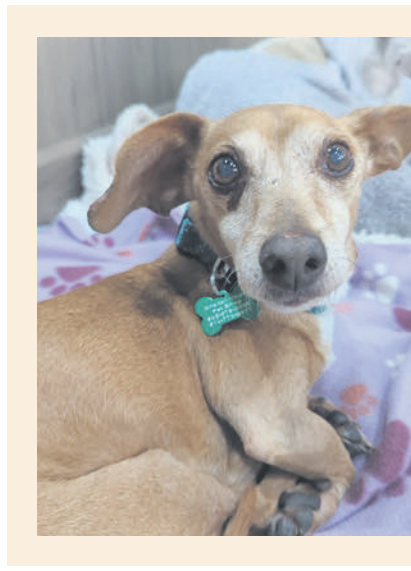
want to connect is human. To make subtle assertions of your autonomy so as not to hurt the other person's feelings is divine.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It will be exceptionally lucky to make your wish list and then expand it to include a bigger fantasy about the future than seems reasonable. Someone has to have incredible luck, why not you?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). One good friend in life is more than some people get. You can never have

enough good friends, and there's no benefit to having any number of bad ones. Take advantage of your current social stars and make connections today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Some of the requests made of you seem like a stretch. More than likely, some people simply don't know what they are really asking and it's not your job to educate them unless you want to make it your job. You don't owe anyone your time and attention.



This holiday season, many old dogs are left in shelters, like this senior dog, Barnie. He's the last of four dogs left without a home after their owner passed suddenly. Barnie is a dachshund, 14 pounds and 12 years old. If interested in Barnie, an older, but friendly pup with people and dogs alike, please contact Kim Sill at Shelter of Hope at 310-770-3571.
shelterhopepetshop.org

Fun and Games

SUDOKU
01/03/25 ISSUE

	2	1			6			3
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SUDOKU ANSWERS
12/27/24 ISSUE

5	7	8	1	6	3	2	9	4
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PUZZLE ANSWERS
12/27/24 ISSUE

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BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
01/03/25 ISSUE

GO WITH THE FLOW
BY ADRIAN JOHNSON / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Adrian Johnson, from Laramie, Wyo., is currently a substitute teacher in Knox County, Tenn., where he is affectionately known as "Mr. A. J." He sold his first crossword to The Times three years ago when he was 21. This is his ninth puzzle for the paper — and the seventh one that is unthemed (his favorite type of crossword to make). Puzzles like this are built on the interlock of long, colorful answers throughout the grid. Many, like 1-, 27- and 91-Across, are making their Times debut.

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Reality show about the perils of crabbing in the Bering Sea</p> <p>15 Apple cores, for short?</p> <p>19 Fast lane</p> <p>21 "____ No Sunshine" (1971 Bill Withers hit)</p> <p>22 "God forbid!"</p> <p>24 "O Rei do Futebol," to Brazilians</p> <p>25 Sporty car roof options</p> <p>26 Subsequently occur</p> <p>27 Bioré product</p> <p>29 Sitters on the farm</p> <p>30 Sheets of floating ice</p> <p>31 Shanghai or Shenzhen</p> <p>32 Grp. that's a year above 41-Across</p> <p>33 Vaquero's ties</p> <p>34 1/48 of a cup: Abbr.</p> <p>37 Wipe out at one's desk, say</p> <p>38 Cut down</p> <p>39 Rentals at a bowling alley</p> <p>41 Grp. that's a year below 32-Across</p> <p>42 Solidify, as a jiggly dessert</p> <p>43 Rhyming toys with colored pegs</p> <p>46 Online initialism of excitement</p> | <p>49 Rhyme for "soul" in "Frosty the Snowman"</p> <p>50 One catching bugs</p> <p>51 Jungle warning</p> <p>52 Amusement park attraction that often ends in a splash</p> <p>54 Doo-wop's ____ Na Na</p> <p>55 Frozen yogurt chain with a fruity name</p> <p>57 Pretends all is well</p> <p>59 Part of many an anniversary celebration</p> <p>60 Wrap sheets?</p> <p>61 Many a Christmas tree</p> <p>62 Part of a jail cell</p> <p>63 New Mexico's ____ Pueblo</p> <p>64 Godsend</p> <p>67 Souvenir from an international vacation, maybe</p> <p>68 Latin "is"</p> <p>69 Travel-size makeup bag</p> <p>70 Multitude</p> <p>71 Space station from 1986 to 2001</p> <p>72 Some volunteer babysitters</p> <p>73 Way to be brushed or pulled</p> <p>75 Medicare section that covers ambulance services</p> <p>77 Windows might be found on these</p> <p>78 ____ pan</p> <p>79 Cry during an argument between siblings</p> | <p>82 Neighbor of Latvia</p> <p>84 Stopping points for runners</p> <p>85 Public squares</p> <p>86 Court staffers</p> <p>88 Brought to tears, say</p> <p>89 Object of knightly quests</p> <p>90 Eight, in Italian</p> <p>91 Only African nation where Spanish is an official language</p> <p>94 Author Silverstein</p> <p>95 Second-place finish?</p> <p>96 One of four for F.D.R.</p> <p>97 They're usually written in December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOWN</p> <p>1 Shipwreck's resting place, with "the"</p> <p>2 English city in the county of Devon</p> <p>3 Garments with strings</p> <p>4 Makes like a melting icicle</p> <p>5 You shouldn't settle for it</p> <p>6 "Well, kinda"</p> <p>7 One-named singer of 2008's "American Boy"</p> <p>8 Hybrid dog breed with curly hair</p> <p>9 Master's musts</p> <p>10 Whale constellation</p> <p>11 Feel sore</p> <p>12 It's a bout done!</p> <p>13 Despot's undoing</p> <p>14 Annual science fiction awards</p> <p>15 Tradition at the end of a graduation ceremony</p> | <p>16 Second-smallest U.S. state capital by population, after Montpelier</p> <p>17 Like new matches</p> <p>18 Out of ____</p> <p>20 What a waltzer counts to</p> <p>23 Emotion picture?</p> <p>28 Trades jobs</p> <p>30 Any of the meats in a turducken, e.g.</p> <p>33 Cocktail made from peach nectar and Prosecco</p> <p>34 Letter before iota</p> <p>35 Drink brand with lizards in its logo</p> <p>36 Sweats</p> <p>38 Members of a publishing dynasty</p> <p>39 "60 Minutes" journalist Lesley</p> <p>40 Protest that goes nowhere?</p> <p>42 Relaxed gait</p> <p>44 "We're being framed!"</p> <p>45 Sport with a chair umpire</p> <p>46 Briefly</p> <p>47 Textile with roots in the Scottish Highlands</p> <p>48 More sardonic</p> <p>49 Ski lodge beverages</p> <p>50 Most populous city in the European Union</p> <p>51 Prominent feature of Rudolph</p> |
|--|---|--|---|

ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>52 Drink made with steamed milk</p> <p>53 Chain store that sells many of its items for \$1.25, curiously</p> <p>56 Dudes abide by it</p> <p>58 Party game in which participants try to identify a secret assassin</p> <p>59 Demanding sorts</p> <p>61 Bits of trivia</p> | <p>65 Align, as audio to video</p> <p>66 Foldable parts of some cars</p> <p>69 Widely shared, say</p> <p>70 Hula swayers</p> <p>71 ____ X</p> <p>74 Small plant germ</p> <p>75 Alloy containing tin</p> <p>76 Head-to-toe Islamic garment</p> | <p>78 Expensive appetizer</p> <p>79 Jazz standard with the lyric "I'm so tired of paying my dues"</p> <p>80 Get acclimated</p> <p>81 Spanish city where Picasso was born</p> <p>82 Cats do it with their tongues</p> <p>83 Día de los Muertos prop</p> | <p>84 Transported, as by water</p> <p>85 Surrealist Kahlo</p> <p>86 Without a clue</p> <p>87 Fully fill</p> <p>88 French for "death"</p> <p>89 Revs, as an engine</p> <p>92 Holiday in which bánh chung cakes are eaten</p> <p>93 Prefix with -graphic</p> |
|---|---|--|--|

NEW 2025 LAWS, from page 1

that Los Angeles County was one of four counties responsible for more than 90% of the statewide rise in 2023, along with Alameda, Sacramento and San Mateo.

AB 3209 will allow retail stores to apply for restraining orders against people sentenced for stealing, vandalizing or assaulting an employee.

AB 1779 provides that California district attorneys can coordinate with other DAs to consolidate charges for suspects in retail theft crimes which occur across county lines.

AB 1960 creates sentencing enhancements for taking, damaging or destroying property while committing a felony if the property value exceeds \$50,000.

SB 1242 increases sentencing for those convicted of organized retail theft if they set a fire within a merchant's premises and considers it an aggravating factor.

Social Media

SB 764 provides that social media posts using children will require their parents to set aside some of the earnings for them in a trust. AB 1880 also expands the Coogan Law to include minor content creators on online platforms. Parents must keep records of how much time their children appear in monetized social media posts and how much money they earn.

Food Delivery

AB 375 requires food delivery services to provide the first name and photo of delivery drivers beginning on March 1. While several food delivery companies already require this, it could provide an extra layer of safety.

SB 1490 requires food delivery applications to provide an itemized receipt of a transaction including purchase price and fees/commissions charged to both the restaurant and the customer. It also bans applications from limiting the number or value of transactions disputed by restaurants and provides a way for restaurants to remove themselves from a food delivery application.

Cannabis

AB 1775 allows for local jurisdictions to license cannabis cafes or lounges by allowing cannabis retailers to make and sell food and nonalcoholic beverages. Previously, dispensaries could only sell prepackaged food and drinks. The bill also allows for live events such as comedy shows and music on the site of the cafes. The bill also requires several employee protections, and a similar bill without the protections was vetoed last year. California Governor Gavin Newsom said in a statement, "I commend the author for incorporating additional safeguards, such as expressly protecting employees' discretion to wear a mask for respiration, paid for at the expense of the employer, and requiring employees to receive additional guidance on the risks of secondhand cannabis smoke."

Firearms

California is often one of the first states in the nation to create laws restricting the use or carrying of firearms, and 2025 will continue that trend. New firearm purchasers will now see a requirement to confirm possession of every firearm they possess, and a new safety pamphlet will have to be provided by licensed firearms dealers.

Additionally, a new law allows courts to weigh a person's threats towards groups when deciding whether to bar them from purchasing guns.

AB 574 requires all purchases or transfers of firearms to include an acknowledgment by the purchaser or transferee that they have, within the last 30 days, confirmed possession of every firearm that they own or possess.

AB 1483 eliminates an existing private party transaction exemption from a prohibition on more than one firearm purchase in 30 days.

AB 1598 requires safety pamphlets to be provided by licensed firearm dealers for purchasers and transferees, as well as those being loaned a firearm.

AB 2917 threats directed towards a group or location will be permissible in court when deciding whether to prohibit a person from purchasing or possessing a firearm or ammunition.

Education

New legislation in the state expands protections for transgender students and adds to the public school curriculum the impact of European settlement and the Gold Rush on Native Americans in the state.

Several years after the college admissions scandal, a new law now bars preferential treatment for "legacy" students as well as the children of large donors.

AB 1955 prohibits school districts in the state from policies forcing educators to notify parents if students identify as transgender or if they request to use a different name. The last several years have seen pushes from various groups to force teachers to inform parents in Los Angeles County, and a new law will largely make that impossible.

AB 1821 requires California public schools to teach the impact of the Mission Period and Gold Rush on California Native Americans.

AB 1780 prohibits legacy and donor preferences in the admissions process for private, nonprofit higher learning institutions. Both have been officially excluded from the state's public university admissions process. The University of California system eliminated legacy preferences in 1998.

Several states have enacted similar bans on legacy and donor admissions in the wake of a Supreme Court ruling in June 2023 banning affirmative action in college admissions.

Of the bill, Governor Gavin Newsom said "Everyone should be able to get ahead through merit, skill, and hard work. The California dream shouldn't be accessible to just a lucky few, which is why we're opening the door to higher education wide enough for everyone, fairly."

Healthcare

New laws in 2025 will increase coverage of IVF, require pharmacies to provide accessible labels for those with vision issues and ban a potentially toxic substance from feminine hygiene products in the state.

SB 729 requires insurance companies to cover IVF and expand access to LGBTQ families.

AB 2515 bans the sale of menstrual products that contain potentially toxic perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

AB 1902 provides that pharmacies must

Beverly Hills Resident Indicted in Cryptocurrency Scheme

BY SEAN BECKNER-CARMITCHEL

Gabriel Hay, 23, of Beverly Hills and Gavin Mayo, 23, of Thousand Oaks were charged on Dec. 20 with scamming investors out of more than \$22 million in cryptocurrency. An indictment filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California charges each of the men with a single count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, two counts of wire fraud and one count of stalking. The United States Attorney's Office said in a statement that the two engaged in a series of "rug pulls," in which they created NFT projects, solicited people to invest and then abruptly canceled the project and kept the money. Both men were arrested by investigators

with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Los Angeles. They face up to 20 years in prison for each of the conspiracy and wire fraud counts, and five years on the stalking count.

According to the indictment, from May 2021 to May 2024, the defendants sponsored several NFT and other digital asset projects and then promoted them. They then are alleged to have made materially false and misleading statements regarding the projects being launched and provided false and misleading project "roadmaps" detailing plans for the assets they never intended to fulfill.

Both men pled guilty and were released on \$200,000 bail. A trial date is set for Feb. 11. ●

provide to any customers (or authorized representative thereof) who are blind, have low vision or are otherwise print disabled, at no additional cost, an accessible prescription label affixed to the container accessible to that person.

SB 639 requires continuing education in geriatrics and dementia care for health care professionals providing care to people 65 and older.

Employment

In addition to minimum wage increases, a number of new laws will affect the workplace. Areas affected include the classification of sick days and family leave, payment schedules for independent contractors and rules regarding employee meetings.

The state minimum wage will increase by 50 cents to \$16.50 per hour in 2025. (A ballot measure was rejected in November which would have increased it to \$18 per hour in 2026.) Countywide, the minimum wage rose to \$17.27 per hour, which will apply to Beverly Hills. The minimum wage in West Hollywood will increase to \$19.65 per hour in the new year.

SB 988 requires independent contractors to be paid on or before the date specified in their contract, or no later than 30 days after completion of services if no date is specified.

AB 2123 allows employees to use paid family leave without using vacation hours first.

SB 1105 allows agricultural workers to use paid sick days when they are working outdoors in dangerous conditions such as smoke or extreme heat.

AB 2499 expands the definition of paid sick leave to include situations when an employee's family member is a victim of violence or the threat of violence. It allows employees to use sick leave to help family members obtain a restraining order or seek

out services related to domestic violence or assault.

AB 399 bars California employers from discriminating or retaliating against employees who refuse to attend any employer-sponsored meeting related to matters that are religious, political or related to the decision to support or not support a labor organization/union.

Housing

The topic of housing continues to loom large in Beverly Hills and across the state. While the rate of homelessness in L.A. County decreased by .27%, housing costs in the state continue to be well above the national average. One bill could make it easier for homeowners to divide their homes to rent. Another will make cities planning to build "tiny homes" for unhoused residents experience less red tape.

SB 450 requires local governments to drop certain zoning requirements, making it easier for homeowners to divide their homes into as many as four separate units.

SB 1395 makes it easier for cities to build "tiny homes" for unhoused residents.

AB 2347 raises the amount of time tenants have to respond to eviction notices from 10 business days up from five.

Miscellaneous

AB 1825 prohibits public libraries from banning books due to race, nationality, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or socioeconomic status as well as the political affiliation of a book's subject, author or intended audience.

AB 413 allows cities to fine drivers parking any vehicle within 20 feet of any unmarked or marked crosswalk or 15 feet of any crosswalk where a curb extension is present. The law will allow cities to fine drivers starting Jan. 1. It was designed to increase the visibility of bicyclists. ●

www.beverlyhillscourier.com

Police Blotter

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



ASSAULT - SIMPLE

12/29/2024, 4:50 p.m. at 200 Block of S. BEVERLY DRIVE

12/28/2024, 7:45 p.m. at 9600 Block of SUNSET BLVD.

12/24/2024, 7:26 p.m. at WILSHIRE BOULEVARD / N. RODEO DRIVE

12/17/2024, 1:04 a.m. at 700 Block of N. REXFORD DRIVE

BURGLARY - COMMERCIAL BUILDING

12/27/2024, 6:15 p.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

BURGLARY - CONSTRUCTION SITE

12/25/2024, 2:32 p.m. at 500 Block of DOHENY ROAD

BURGLARY FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

12/27/2024, 6:11 p.m. at 8400 Block of GREGORY WAY

12/27/2024, 2:20 p.m. at 100 Block of S. SWALL DRIVE

12/26/2024, 8:07 p.m. at 400 Block of N. CAMDEN DRIVE

12/26/2024, 3 p.m. at 700 Block of TRENTON DRIVE

12/16/2024, 12:30 a.m. at 400 Block of S. OAKHURST DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (HOME OCCUPIED)

12/29/2024, 9:30 p.m. at 1000 Block of N. ROXBURY DRIVE

12/28/2024, 8:12 p.m. at 700 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

DUI ARREST

12/29/2024, 7:23 a.m. at WILSHIRE BOULEVARD / N. LA CIENEGA BOULEVARD

12/26/2024, 11:35 p.m. at ELEVADO AVENUE / N. ELM DRIVE

12/15/2024, 9:13 p.m. at N. LA CIENEGA BOULEVARD / WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

12/26/2024, 5 p.m. at 100 Block of N. LA PEER DRIVE

12/24/2024, 9 p.m. at 300 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

THEFT FROM COMMERCIAL BUILDING

12/28/2024, 4 p.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

12/24/2024, 12:29 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

THEFT - GRAND

12/29/2024, 5:30 p.m. at 9900 Block of DURANT DRIVE

THEFT - GRAND (FROM VEHICLE)

12/26/2024, 12:58 p.m. at 500 Block of DOHENY ROAD

12/15/2024, 9:30 p.m. at 100 Block of N. PALM DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY

12/29/2024, 5:24 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

12/29/2024, 12 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

12/28/2024, 1:12 p.m. at 9500 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

12/28/2024, 11:57 a.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

12/26/2024, 1:18 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

12/25/2024, 5:23 p.m. at 400 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

12/24/2024, 4:30 p.m. at 200 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

12/16/2024, 11:06 a.m. at 9600 Block of S. SANTA MONICA BLVD.

THEFT - PETTY (FROM VEHICLE)

12/28/2024, 10:30 p.m. at 300 Block of S. LA CIENEGA BLVD.

12/16/2024, 5:59 p.m. at 100 Block of N. PALM DRIVE

VANDALISM

12/26/2024, 3:08 a.m. at 300 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

Public Notices

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CASE NO: 24SMCP00646
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

In the Matter of the petition of:
PHILIP CHARLES ROSENBLUM
To all interested person(s): Petitioner:
Philip Charles Rosenblum
Presently over 18 years of age, current residence: 469 1/2 S. Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212 filed a petition with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 on December 12, 2024 for a Decree changing names as follows:

Present Name: **Philip Charles Rosenblum**
Proposed Name: **SAMUEL PHILIP CHARLES ROSENBLUM**

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

NOTICE OF HEARING:

Date: JANUARY 24, 2025
Time: 8:30 AM **Department:** K

The address of the court is:
1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Reason for name change: Petitioner is already known by his proposed name wishes to be known by his proposed name in all personal/business affairs. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed: **Philip Charles Rosenblum**

Judge of the Superior Court: Lawrence H. Cho

Clerk: David W. Slayton **Deputy:** L. Kulkin

Dated: December 12, 2025

Published: 12/20/24, 12/27/24, 01/03/25, 01/10/25
BHC-R29176

**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
150 Commonwealth Avenue, Alhambra 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: 10/30/24
By: David W. Slayton, Clerk • C. Padilla, Deputy
Judicial Officer: Ian C. Fusselman
BHC• Published 12/27/24, 01/03/25, 01/10/25, 01/17/25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024254004 The following is/are doing business as: LINCOLN OAKS VILLAGE 140 WEST HILLCREST DRIVE, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360; PROPERTIES, LLC, 9201 Wilshire Boulevard suite 305, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registrant(s) has HAS begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on December 2024: PROPERTIES, LLC, Michael Moray, Managing Member. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 16, 2024; Published: December 27, 2024 January 3, 10, 17, 2025 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024252183 The following is/are doing business as: DAVID ABRAMS DBA GRAND JEWELERS 287 S. ROBERTSON BLVD #197 BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210; DAVID ABRAMS, 197 S. Robertson Blvd #197, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL registrant(s) has HAS begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on December 2024: David Abrams, Owner. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 12, 2024; Published: January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025 LACC N/C

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
OF BULK SALE AND
OF INTENTION TO
TRANSFER ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGE LICENSE
(UCC Sec. 6101 et seq. and
B & P Sec. 24074 et seq.)**

Escrow No. 003376-CK
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale of assets and a transfer of alcoholic beverage license is about to be made. The names of the Seller/Licensee are: OCEAN RESTAURANTS GROUP, INC., 8163 SANTA MONICA BLVD., WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046. The business is known as: OCEAN SUSHI AKA OCEAN RESTAURANT. The names of the Buyer/Transferee are: JJ OCEAN SUSHI INC., 8163 SANTA MONICA BLVD., WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046. As listed by the Seller/Licensee, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller/Licensee within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer/Transferee are: NONE.

The assets to be sold are described in general as: FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT, TRADENAME, GOODWILL, LEASE, LEASEHOLD I M P R O V E M E N T, COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE WITH ABC LICENSE together with the following described alcoholic beverage license(s): 41-648573 and are located at: 8163 SANTA MONICA BLVD., WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046. The kind of license to be transferred is: ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE now issued for the premises located at: 8163 SANTA MONICA BLVD., WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046.

The anticipated date of sale/transfer is: JANUARY 17, 2025 at the office of: HANA ESCROW, 3580 WILSHIRE BLVD, STE 1170, LOS ANGELES, CA 90010

It has been agreed between the Seller/Licensee and the intended Buyer/Transferee, as required by Sec. 24073 of the Business and Professions Code, that the consideration for the transfer of the business and license is to be paid only after the transfer has been approved by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Dated: OCTOBER 30, 2024

OCEAN RESTAURANTS GROUP, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION Seller/Licensee(s)
JJ OCEAN SUSHI INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, Buyer/Transferee
ORD-3092016
BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

RFQ #25-350-12

**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
345 FOOTHILL ROAD
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210**

**REQUEST FOR PREQUALIFICATION
OF BIDDERS AND PREQUALIFICATION
INSTRUCTIONS FOR:
NOTICE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
QUALIFIED MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS
LIST FOR VARIOUS HVAC REPLACEMENT
PROJECTS**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Beverly Hills ("CITY") has determined that all bidders for Notice of the Establishment of a Qualified Mechanical Contractors List for Various HVAC Replacement Projects ("Project") must be pre-qualified prior to submitting a bid. It is mandatory that all Contractors who intend to submit a bid, fully complete the prequalification questionnaire, provide all materials requested herein, and be approved by the CITY to be on the final qualified Bidders list.

No bid will be accepted from a Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements. If two or more business entities submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, or expect to submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, each entity within the Joint Venture must be separately qualified to bid. The last date to submit a fully completed questionnaire is **5:00 PM Thursday, January 9, 2025**.

Contractors must register as a vendor at the following website in order to download the prequalification package, and to receive clarifications and notifications when issued.

The Prequalification package may be viewed on, and downloaded from the City's PlanetBids portal: <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/39493/bo/bo-detail/104883>

This item is listed as: Notice of the Establishment of a Qualified Mechanical Contractors List for Various HVAC Replacement Projects. Answers to questions contained in the questionnaire are required. The CITY will use these documents as the basis of rating Contractors with respect to whether each Contractor is qualified to bid on the Project, and reserves the right to check other sources available. The CITY's decision will be based on objective evaluation criteria.

The CITY reserves the right to adjust, increase, limit, suspend or rescind the prequalification rating based on subsequently learned information. Contractors whose rating changes sufficiently to disqualify them will be notified, and given an opportunity for a hearing consistent with the hearing procedures described below for appealing a prequalification rating.

While it is the intent of the prequalification questionnaire and documents required therewith to assist the CITY in determining bidder responsibility prior to bid and to aid the CITY in selecting the lowest responsible bidder, neither the fact of prequalification, nor any prequalification rating, will preclude the CITY from a post-bid consideration and determination of whether a bidder has the quality, fitness, capacity and experience to satisfactorily perform the proposed work, and has demonstrated the requisite trustworthiness.

All qualification submittals are required to be submitted electronically via PlanetBids. The electronic submittal system will close exactly at the date and time set forth in this request for qualifications.

Any questions regarding the questionnaire and qualification package should be submitted via PlanetBids by 2:00PM, December 31, 2024. Questions sent via email or over the phone; with the exception of those related to accessing or using PlanetBids, will not be answered.

Contractors are responsible for submitting and having their documents accepted before the closing time set forth in the request for qualifications. **NOTE:** Pushing the submit button on the electronic submittal system may not be instantaneous; it may take time for the Contractor's documents to upload and transmit before the documents are accepted. It is the Contractor's sole responsibility to ensure their documents are uploaded, transmitted, and arrive in time electronically. The

City of Beverly Hills will have no responsibility for documents that do not arrive in a timely manner, no matter what the reason.

The prequalification packages submitted by Contractors are not public records and are not open to public inspection. All information provided will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. However, the contents may be disclosed to third parties for purpose of verification, or investigation of substantial allegations, or in an appeal hearing. State law requires that the names of contractors applying for prequalification status shall be public records subject to disclosure, and the first page of the questionnaire will be used for that purpose.

Each questionnaire must be signed under penalty of perjury in the manner designated at the end of the form, by an individual who has the legal authority to bind the Contractor on whose behalf that person is signing. If any information provided by a Contractor becomes inaccurate, the Contractor must immediately notify the CITY and provide updated accurate information in writing, under penalty of perjury.

The CITY reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and omissions in the information contained in the prequalification application submitted, and to make all final determinations. The CITY may also determine at any time that the prequalification process will be suspended for the Project and the Project will be bid without prequalification.

Contractors may submit all qualification submittals electronically via Planet Bids. Contractors who submit a complete prequalification package will be notified of their qualification status no later than ten business days after submission of the information.

The CITY may refuse to grant prequalification where the requested information and materials are not provided by the due date indicated above. There is no appeal from a refusal for an incomplete or late application, but re-application for a later project is permitted. Neither the closing time for submitting prequalification packages for this Project will be changed in order to accommodate supplementation of incomplete submissions, or late submissions, unless requested by the CITY in its sole discretion.

In addition to a contractor's failure to be pre-qualified pursuant to the scoring system set forth in the prequalification package, a contractor may be found not prequalified for either omission of or falsification of, any requested information.

Where a timely and completed application results in a rating below that necessary to pre-qualify, an appeal can be made by the unsuccessful Contractor. An appeal is begun by the Contractor delivering notice to the CITY of its appeal of the decision with respect to its prequalification rating, no later than two business days following notification that it is not pre-qualified. The notice of appeal shall include an address where the Contractor wishes to receive notice of the appeal hearing. Without a timely appeal, the Contractor waives any and all rights to challenge the decision of the CITY, whether by administrative process, judicial process or any other legal process or proceeding.

If the Contractor gives the required notice of appeal, a hearing shall be conducted no earlier than five business days after the CITY's receipt of the notice of appeal and not later than five business days prior to the date of the Notice Inviting Bids for this Project. Prior to the hearing, the Contractor shall, in writing, be advised of the basis for the City's pre-qualification determination.

The hearing shall be conducted by a panel consisting of three members of the Public Works Department senior management staff (the "Appeals Panel"). The Appeals Panel shall consider any evidence presented by the Contractor, whether or not the evidence is presented in compliance with formal rules of evidence. The Contractor will be given the opportunity to present evidence, information and arguments as to why the Contractor believes it should be pre-qualified. Within one day after the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeals Panel will render a written determination as to whether the Contractor is pre-qualified. It is the intention of the CITY that the date for the submission and opening of bids will not be delayed or postponed to allow for completion of an appeal process.

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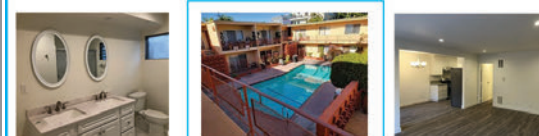
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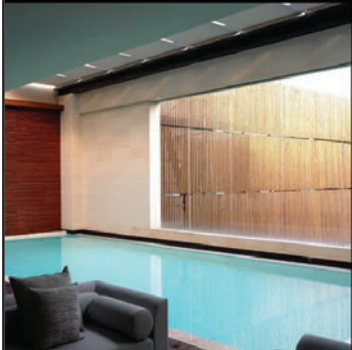
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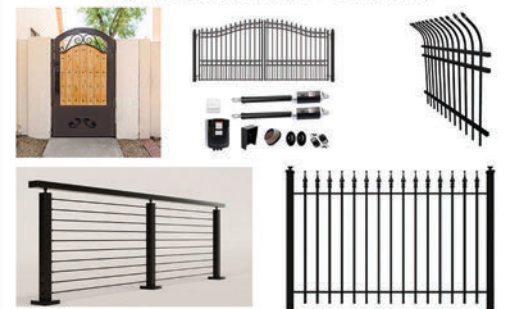
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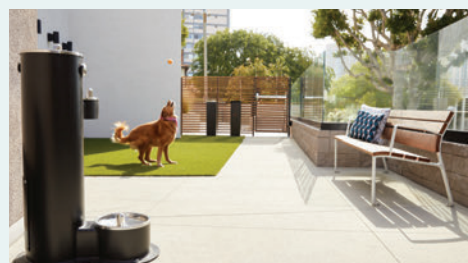
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