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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

☀️	Friday	67° 46°
☀️	Saturday	67° 45°
☀️	Sunday	67° 42°
☁️	Monday	66° 46°
☁️	Tuesday	68° 45°
☁️	Wednesday	69° 45°
☁️	Thursday	63° 45°

Historic Fires Sweep Southland

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

Wildfires swept across Los Angeles County this week, leaving historic devastation in their wake. Two of those fires, the Sunset Fire in the Hollywood Hills and the Palisades Fire in Pacific Palisades, have affected Beverly

Hills and regions nearby.

The Sunset Fire broke out around 6 p.m. on Jan. 8 on the 2300 block of Solar Drive and soon encompassed 43 acres, according to Cal Fire. Evacuations were ordered between Laurel Canyon Boulevard on the west, Mulholland Drive on the north, the

101 Freeway on the east and Hollywood Boulevard on the south.

An evacuation warning was in place for areas north of Sunset Boulevard and east of Coldwater Canyon Drive, which encompasses parts of Beverly Hills.

See HISTORIC FIRES, page 14



Photo by Bianca Heyward

The Palisades Fire on Jan. 7, as seen from the edge of Beverly Hills

Navigating the LA Fires: How to Stay Safe and Supported

BY EVA RITVO, M.D.



As fires rage through our beloved city, we find ourselves in a crisis like no other. The widespread evacuations, the devastation of

lives, homes, and community spaces, the haunting images of destruction, and the thick, smoke-filled air have left us in shock. The reality of what's unfolding around us can feel utterly overwhelming and processing it all seems almost impossible. Right now, your safety must remain your top priority.

The fear, confusion, and numbness we're experiencing are natural responses to such an intense crisis. Our brains are simply not equipped to handle something of this magnitude all at once. These emotional responses—feeling disconnected, uncertain, or in disbelief—serve as a protective shield to help us cope with immediate danger. It's OK if you're not thinking clearly or feeling detached; it's normal to feel this way when your body is in survival mode. It can be

See STAY SAFE, page 14

BHHS Students Go Behind the Scenes at Golden Globes

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

Last week, a group of Beverly Hills High School (BHHS) students had the opportunity to go behind the scenes at the 82nd Golden Globes, participating and learning about the creation, production and execution of the esteemed award show. Made possible through a partnership with Dick Clark Productions, Kodai Consulting Group, Penske Media Group and the city of Beverly Hills, students selected for the immersive three-day program had unparalleled access to

See GOLDEN GLOBES, page 5

Courier Calendar

NOW - JAN. 19

GETTY CENTER: "PAPER AND LIGHT"
TUES.-FRI., SUN. 10 A.M.-5:30 P.M.
SAT. 10 A.M.-8 P.M.

For centuries, artists have creatively harnessed the interplay between paper and light. This exhibition showcases how artists have mastered the art of drawing on paper to convey light—whether through the basic modeling of form or the creation of spectacular effects. Drawings by contemporary artists, including Vija Celmins, will join sheets by Tiepolo, Delacroix, Seurat and Manet. Works include Carmontelle's 12-foot-long transparency, an 18th-century precursor to motion pictures. Guests may discover the innovative ways these artists have explored themes of translucency and the representation of light in drawing. Admission to the Getty Center is free, but a timed entry reservation is required. The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles.

getty.edu

NOW - JAN. 20

LACMA: "SIMONE LEIGH"
MON.-TUES., THURS. 11 A.M.-6 P.M.
FRI. 11 A.M.-8 P.M.
SAT.-SUN. 10 A.M.-7 P.M.

"Simone Leigh," a traveling exhibition organized by the ICA Boston and co-presented in Los Angeles by LACMA and the California African American Museum, is the first comprehensive survey of the richly layered work of this celebrated artist. LACMA's presentation features approximately 20 years of Leigh's production in ceramic, bronze, video and installation, as well as works from her 2022 Venice Biennale presentation. Over the past two decades, Leigh has created works exploring questions of Black femme subjectivity and knowledge

production. Addressing a wide swath of historical periods, geographies and traditions, her art references vernacular and handmade processes from across the African diaspora, as well as forms traditionally associated with African art and architecture. Accompanied by a major monograph, this exhibition offers visitors a timely opportunity to gain a holistic understanding of Leigh's complex and profoundly moving work. Tickets are free for members, L.A. County residents after 3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and for those 17 and under. Tickets for adults are \$20 and \$16 for seniors and students with ID.

lacma.org

NOW - APRIL 6

HAMMER MUSEUM: "OUT OF THE ORDINARY: UNCOMMON MATERIALS, MARKS AND MATRICES"
TUES.-THURS., SAT.-SUN. 11 A.M.-6 P.M.
FRI. 11 A.M.-8 P.M.

This exhibition explores contemporary artists' use of unusual mark-making devices, including blood, smoke, Kool-Aid, coffee, scrap metal, vegetable juice, pins, dryer lint and more, to create drawings and prints. With works drawn largely from the collection of the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, "Out of the Ordinary" examines artists' wide-ranging motivations for choosing such unorthodox media, from sensory play and experimentation to excavations of the charged historical and symbolic values of mundane substances. "Out of the Ordinary" includes works by Tara Donovan, Anya Gallaccio, Mona Hatoum, Richard Long, Umar Rashid, Sherrill Roland, Ed Ruscha and Zarina, among others. Admission to The Hammer is free. It's located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles.

hammer.ucla.edu

NOW - MAY 4

MOCA GRAND AVENUE:
"ORDINARY PEOPLE:"
PHOTOREALISM AND
THE WORK OF ART SINCE 1968"
TUES., WED., FRI. 11 A.M.-5 P.M.
THURS. 11 A.M.-8 P.M.
SAT.-SUN. 11 A.M.-6 P.M.

Reexamining the postwar art movement of photorealism and tracing its lineages in art of the present day, "Ordinary People: Photorealism and the Work of Art since 1968" includes more than 40 artists (largely though not exclusively North American), spans the 1960s to the present, and features paintings, drawings and sculptures. "Ordinary People" examines the representational politics of photorealist painting in the context of the recent rise of figurative portraiture, considering its key place in the ongoing remedial project to repopulate the museum with pictures of people and places historically excluded or disfigured. It further explores photorealism's significance as painting of everyday life, and pulls apart the intrinsic tension between ordinary images and extraordinary artistic methods by focusing on relationships of labor, value, populism and taste. General admission to MOCA is free. MOCA Grand Avenue is located at 250 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles.

moca.org

NOW - APRIL 12, 2026

THE ACADEMY MUSEUM
OF MOTION PICTURES:
"CYBERPUNK: ENVISIONING POSSIBLE
FUTURES THROUGH CINEMA"
WED.-MON. 10 A.M.-6 P.M.

"Cyberpunk: Envisioning Possible Futures Through Cinema" examines the global impact and lasting influence of the science fiction subgenre cyberpunk on cinema

culture. Featuring near-future scenarios set in worlds that resemble our own, cyberpunk films juxtapose technological advances with social upheaval, ecological crisis and urban decay. Central to these stories are outcasts and rebellious characters who fight against corrupt political systems, technology gone haywire, global mega-corporations and colonialism. The Academy Museum's exhibition features production materials, costumes, props and concept art from iconic cyberpunk films, including "Blade Runner" (USA, 1982), "Tron" (USA, 1982) and "eXistenZ" (Canada, 1999). It also spotlights international films like "Sleep Dealer" (Mexico/USA, 2008) and foundational animated features such as "Ghost in the Shell" (Japan, 1995). At the exhibition's core, an immersive installation explores themes and visual motifs of cyberpunk and futurist films. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$19 for seniors, \$15 for students and free for children. The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles.

academymuseum.org

JAN. 11

LACO @ THE WALLIS
7:30 P.M.

GRAMMY-nominated Countertenor Reginald Mobley, who sang at the coronation of King Charles III, interprets Vivaldi's "Stabat Mater," a meditation on sorrow and forgiveness, in Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra's engaging Baroque Series. Led by LACO Concertmaster and Director of Chamber Music Margaret Batjer, the repertoire also includes songs by Purcell and Dowland as well as Handel's "Eternal Source of Light Divine," written for Queen Anne's birthday in 1713. Paul Merkelo and LACO Principal Trumpet David Washburn display their considerable skills on the world premiere of Jeff Beal's LACO-commissioned "End of Empire," a concerto for two trumpets, as well as a selection of regal Baroque trumpet gems by Handel and Tartini. Tickets range from \$47 to \$84. The Wallis is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

laco.org

JAN. 19

THE WALLIS: RYAN SPEEDO GREEN
2 P.M.

The second installment of LA Opera and The Wallis recital series showcases two-time GRAMMY winning bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green, named "the real showstopper" by The New York Times. Fresh from his triumphant starring turns in the Metropolitan Opera's acclaimed productions of "Champion" and "Fire Shut Up In My Bones" and as Wotan in the LA Philharmonic's "Das Rheingold," this magnetic, fast-rising bass-baritone makes his first LA Opera and The Wallis appearance, joined by pianist Adam Nielsen. Tickets start at \$42.90. The Wallis is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills.

thewallis.org



Photo by Jiyang Chen

Ryan Speedo Green will perform at The Wallis on Jan. 19.



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BHUSD Athletic Director Faces Allegations of Sexual Harassment, Retaliation



BY JESSICA OGILVIE

The Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) is defending against a lawsuit filed by a former tennis coach alleging that the school's athletic director engaged in sexual harassment, discrimination, retaliation and wrongful termination. It is one of several claims currently underway against the district.

On Nov. 1, 2024, Robbin Cafagna, who served as an assistant and head coach of middle and high school tennis between June 2021 and June 2023, filed suit in Los Angeles Superior Court alleging that Tim Ellis, the district's executive director of athletics, subjected her to ongoing harassment and retaliation.

See BHUSD, page 7

Hochman Meets with Menendez Relatives



District Attorney Nathan Hochman

A family-led coalition trying to secure resentencing for Erik and Lyle Menendez, who are serving life in prison for the 1989 shotgun slayings of their parents in their Beverly Hills mansion, met with District Attorney Nathan Hochman on Jan. 3, but he has not decided whether he will support any actions that might lead to the brothers' release.

The Justice for Erik and Lyle Coalition included more than 20 members of Jose and Kitty Menendez's family, who organizers said are united in their support for a new sentence that "reflects Erik and Lyle's abuse, trauma, and demonstrated rehabilitation over the last 35 years."

Former District Attorney George Gascón had expressed support for resentencing, but Hochman has not yet said whether he will take a similar position, saying he wants the chance to review the voluminous evidence before making a decision.

Following the meeting, which lasted roughly three hours, Hochman called the discussion "productive."

"It was a very productive session where they gave me all their thoughts about what should happen in this case, their experiences that they wanted to share, the ultimate direction that they wanted this case to go,"

Hochman told reporters. "It was a very productive conversation over a number of hours. Again, I invite, I continue to invite any additional family member ... to speak with me, and that forms part of the data set that we will use to determine what the right result should be."

Hochman noted that he and a team of prosecutors are still reviewing thousands of pages of prison records and transcripts from the brothers' two trials and appellate court proceedings, and no decision has been made on whether he will support an effort to have their sentences reduced from life without the possibility of parole to a term that might allow them to seek parole. A hearing on the

possible resentencing remains scheduled for Jan. 30 and Jan. 31.

After initially canceling plans for a post-meeting news conference, members of the Menendez family ultimately decided to appear before TV cameras briefly to discuss their talk with Hochman. Anamaria Baralt, a niece of Jose Menendez, said the group was grateful for Hochman's time meeting with them. She said the family is hoping a judge will agree to an immediate reduction of the brothers' conviction to a lesser charge of manslaughter, which would potentially enable them to be released without the need for extensive parole hearings.

"This 35-year process has been incredibly traumatizing for us, as I'm sure you can all imagine," Baralt said. "We are very much hoping that we can find a path to manslaughter. That we can see the release of the brothers immediately. To understand that going to a parole board for our family will only serve to retraumatize us more. Two parole boards. Two brothers, again with victim statements. We have had enough. It is a lot. Thirty-five years is a very long time. So we hope that will happen."

Attorneys for the brothers are pursuing various avenues in hopes of securing their release from prison, contending that new evidence backs the brothers' claims that they were sexually abused by their father. The pair were convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without the chance of parole for killing Jose and Mary Louise "Kitty" Menendez at their home in Beverly Hills on Aug. 20, 1989. ●

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Photo courtesy BHUSD

BHHS students at the Golden Globes

GOLDEN GLOBES, from page 1
 From seeing firsthand how the Beverly Hilton Hotel installs set designs to talking with professionals who produce the event and conducting interviews with celebrities on the red carpet, the first Golden Globes x BHHS 2025 program was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for students.

“While many participants came from career technical education pathways such as fashion, journalism, TV production and audio media production, others applied because they were eager to explore areas they may not typically have access to,” said Rebecca Starkins, Executive Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives

for the Beverly Hills Unified School District.

“I didn’t realize prior to this day that there was a great amount of work done behind the scenes to create a polished and seemingly effortless show day,” said Aunaleah Ellis, a 12th-grade student at BHHS. “The Beverly Hilton was a beautiful hotel, and it was amazing how it was transformed for the ‘Hollywood’s Party of the Year,’ the 2025 Golden Globes. I loved seeing the different roles in the production and the individuals focused on their work. It was inspiring to see the production staff work together to create this beautiful event.”

With support from Golden Globes executives, city personnel, crew and celebrities, students developed their talents and gained invaluable insight into journalism, event production, fashion design, marketing, and public relations.

On the first day of the program, 22 students were selected to participate in the ‘Golden Globes Insider’ portion and tour the Beverly Hilton Hotel as it was being transformed. The group had the chance to see how the red carpet was constructed, tour interview booths and media trailers, and learn the technical elements of producing a globally broadcast event. According to the Golden Globes, the 82nd annual awards show ratings surpassed 10 million viewers

and had 40 million social media interactions.

On the second day of the program, nine BHHS students had the chance to interview key behind-the-scenes players, including Rick Pizante, Senior Vice President of Dick Clark Productions, Helen Hoehne, Golden Globes President, and Sam Kim, Hotel Manager of the Beverly Hilton. Additional interviewees included Golden Globes Executive Producer and Showrunner Glenn Weiss, Golden Globes Head Engineer David Crivelli, Golden Globes Art Director and Red-Carpet Designer Zeya Maurer and more.

The program culminated on the day of the Golden Globes, where six BHHS students, dressed in black tie, were strategically placed on the red carpet to attract the attention of celebrities and conduct interviews on the scene. Students spoke with over 30 Hollywood stars, including Kerry Washington, Nicole Kidman, Adam Sandler, Glenn Close and Jennifer Coolidge.

“She was so open and genuine,” BHHS student Nora Nikfarjam said regarding her interview with Glenn Close. “She talked about the importance of perseverance in a creative career, and I’ll never forget her saying that failure is just another step toward success.” ●



2025 RUBIN LECTURE

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This program is free and open to the public, but registration is required. For more information, please contact the Museum’s Western Regional Office at 202.817.4725 or westernteam@ushmm.org.

PHOTO: SS-Obersturmführer Karl Höcker eating blueberries with the SS Helferinnen (young SS women who worked as communications specialists) on July 22, 1944. US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Music in the Mansion Returns to Greystone

The Music in the Mansion chamber concert series is returning to Greystone Mansion & Gardens. The series kicks off on Jan. 19. and features a diverse lineup ranging from classical to jazz featuring Atral Mixtape. For tickets and information, visit beverlyhills.org/csevents.



Atral Mixtape

Ambassador Marc Nathanson Addresses Rotary Club of Beverly Hills



Photo by Reggie Sully

Ambassador Marc Nathanson (center) with his daughter Nicole and Rotary Club President, Fire Chief Greg Barton

BY ANA FIGUEROA

Ambassador Marc Nathanson addressed the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills' first luncheon meeting of the new year. One of the country's foremost communications entrepreneurs and philanthropists, Nathanson served as U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway from 2022 to 2024. His luncheon address offered insightful, humorous and sobering glimpses of that diplomatic experience.

Former Mayor Julian Gold, M.D., introduced Nathanson, noting that the ambassador's term coincided with the start of the current Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

"He had lots to do with strengthening the relationship between Norway and the United States and achieving significant milestones in many of the military sorts of cooperations that we created," said Gold.

Gold noted that the ambassador had earned "enormous accolades" for his accomplishments, which include the founding of Falcon Cable TV and serving as Vice Chairman of Charter Communications. Nathanson served as Chairman of the United States Agency for Global Media during the Clinton-Gore and Bush-Cheney Administrations; Representative to the Board of Governors of the East-West Center in Honolulu; Co-Chairman of the Pacific Council on International Policy; and Vice Chairman of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a long-standing Trustee of the Aspen Institute.

He was also familiar to the audience. Nathanson and his wife lived in Beverly Hills for 19 years, and two of his children graduated from Beverly Hills High School. His company, Mapleton Investments, is based in Beverly Hills, granting him, in Gold's words, the status of "Beverlyhillsian."

"I'd like to tell you about my experiences

as a U.S. ambassador for the last almost two years and a little bit about Norway in general, because I find most Americans don't know a lot about Norway, and it's a fascinating country," Nathanson began.

Norway, explained Nathanson, is small but mighty. Though its population is only 5.5 million, Norway holds critical importance on the geopolitical front for several reasons. Foremost among them is its border with Russia.

"The second fleet of Russia is based across from Norway in Siberia, across from the Norwegian city of Kirkenes. And in addition to that, Russia does all its testing of its weapons in that part of the world. So, the United States and Norway are very close in sharing intelligence about what the Russians are doing. And Norway was an original member of NATO as the United States. But one of our most important achievements as the U.S. ambassador, along with the other U.S. ambassadors in the Nordic countries, was to get Sweden and Finland to join NATO, which we're very happy that occurred," said Nathanson.

Norway, he noted, is the richest country in Europe, with a government sovereign fund of \$1.7 trillion. It is also a relatively new country, only gaining independence from Sweden in 1905. The country is 98% English-speaking.

Between 1880 and 1930, one million Norwegians settled in the United States. Many ended up in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas, as well as Seattle because of its shipping industry.

The current King of Norway happens to be staunchly pro-American.

"When I first presented my credentials to the King of Norway, he said to me, 'Let me tell you a story.' Now, he's 88 years old today, and he said the Nazis invaded Norway. Norway was neutral, but the Nazis and Hitler

See ROTARY, page 11

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BHUSD, from page 4

The suit alleges that officials at BHUSD, including Dr. Matt Horvath, the assistant superintendent of personnel services, did not act when Cafagna alerted them to Ellis' behavior.

"Not only was [Cafagna] subjected to unlawful sexual harassment that was out in the open and people knew about, but at the time when she gathered the courage and indicated that she would be reporting it, that's when she was unlawfully terminated," Claire-Lise Kutlay, an attorney representing Cafagna told the Courier.

According to Cafagna's lawsuit, the harassment began nearly as soon as she was hired. The complaint alleges that the first time Cafagna and Ellis met, he engaged her in an "uncomfortable hug," then began showing up regularly to her practices.

Soon, the complaint alleges, he began making inappropriate remarks such as "You look sexy today" and peppering her with graphic sexual questions and comments. The complaint goes on to allege that Ellis called Cafagna while he was drunk and "insinuated through innuendo that he wanted to have a sexual affair with her." This behavior continued, with Ellis calling Cafagna several more times while intoxicated and repeatedly implying she should come to his home to have sex.

The complaint also alleges that Ellis revealed to Cafagna his affinity for wearing women's underwear for sexual pleasure and that he frequently groped her under the guise of giving her hugs.

Cafagna claims that she did her best to rebuff Ellis' advances, and in return, Ellis "began depriving her of basic equipment, funding and access to courts where her students could play."

Once Cafagna informed Ellis that she would have no choice but to report his behavior, the suit alleges that he fired her on the spot.

Lawyers for Ellis and BHUSD declined to comment to the Courier for this article. A spokesperson for BHUSD said she could not comment at this time because the case involves a personnel matter.

BHUSD and Ellis denied all of Cafagna's allegations in their answer to the complaint. They additionally raised the defense that Cafagna failed to take steps to mitigate damages, that she failed to submit an administrative claim in a timely manner, and that she "consented to [Ellis'] conduct."

"I found it quite troubling that they included the affirmative defense of consent," Kutlay told the Courier. "We look forward to showing that there was no consent whatsoever to any of Mr. Ellis' unwanted sexual conduct."

Cafagna's lawsuit is one of several claims currently filed against BHUSD. Both Horvath and Ellis are named in other claims.

On Dec. 9, 2024, Bella Ivory, a teacher at Beverly Hills High School, along with another unnamed teacher, filed an administrative claim alleging they have both "been subjected to discrimination, harassment and retaliation in the form of racial comments, including being called the N-word."

That claim names Ellis, stating, "Athletic Director Tim Ellis often used the N-word at the school and in front of teachers/coaches." The claim is a precursor to a lawsuit.

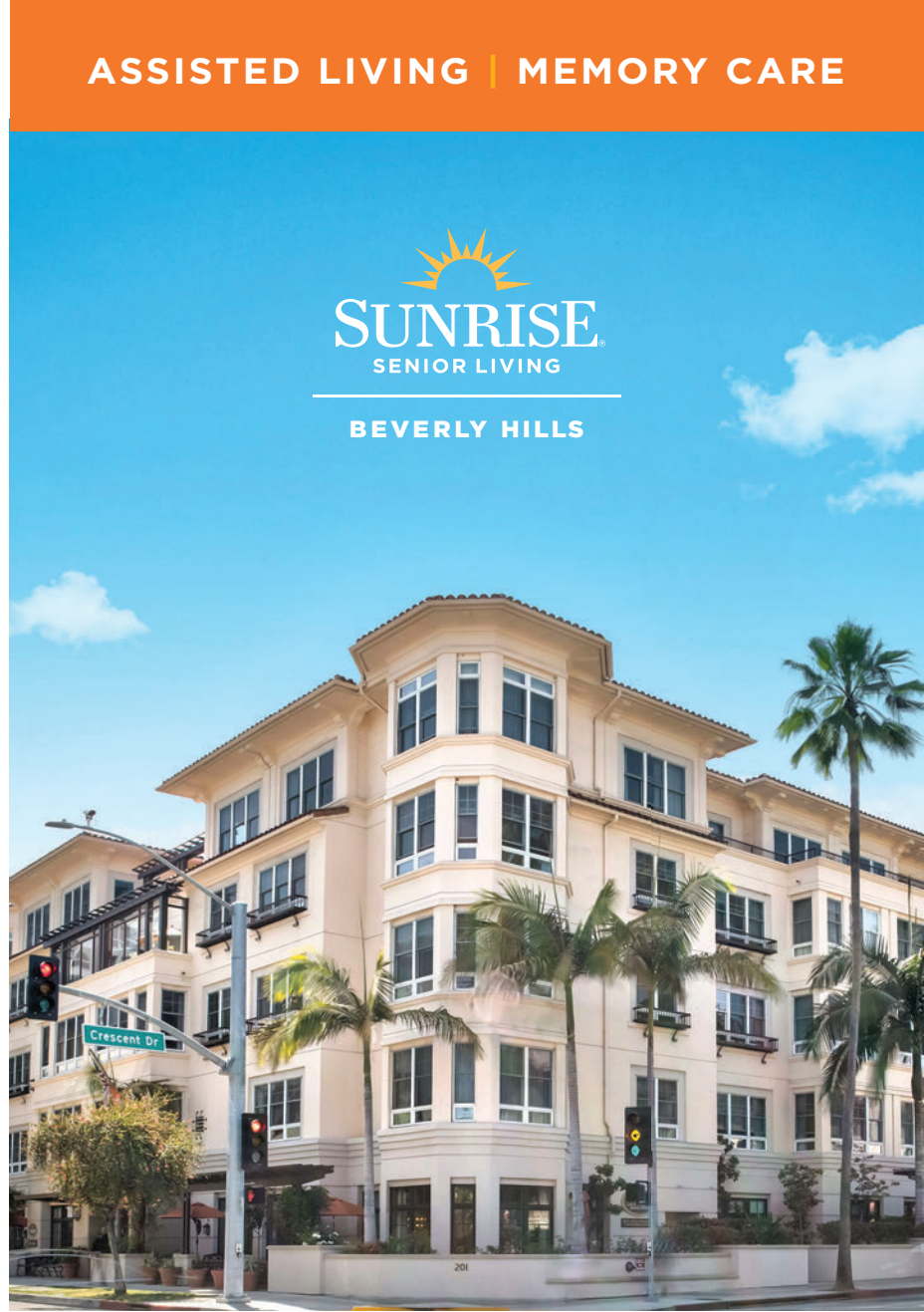
On Dec. 4, 2024, former BHHS teacher Joanie Garratt filed an administrative claim against BHUSD for wrongful termination and violation of her First Amendment

rights, alleging she was fired over a personal Facebook post. Garratt's claim names Horvath as the person who informed Garratt of her termination, during which he allegedly said, "We don't want you back here."

The next scheduled hearing in Cafagna's lawsuit is in May, at which point Kutlay says they plan to ask for the earliest available trial date.

"We believe that the evidence is going to show that the district, through its various agencies, including Dr. Horvath, just completely failed to protect not only [Cafagna], but likely other people from discrimination and harassment," says Kutlay. "My client is very motivated to have her day in court and to get the justice that she deserves." ●

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'Better Man'—And Pretty Good at That



Photos courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Top: On set, Jonno Davies was the performance capture actor for ape Robbie Williams and Williams voiced himself. Bottom: Jonno Davies and Raecchelle Bano

BY NEELY SWANSON

In the recent past, we've seen films where the protagonist seemingly turns into an animal ("Nightbitch"), is told through the eyes of the main character ("Nickel Boys"), tells an origin story ("A Complete Unknown"), is a flashback over a monumental career ("Maria") and ends in redemption after hitting rock bottom ("The Outrun"). "Better Man," about the rise and fall and rise again of one of the world's biggest rock stars, Robbie Williams, is all of that and more and you've probably never even heard of him.

Michael Gracey, the director, was entranced with Williams the first time he met him. The real-life Williams is a character straight out of a phantasmagoric music video, one that might have been created by Terry Gilliam or Luis Buñuel and choreographed by Bob Fosse, minus the jazz hands. In Williams, he saw a life lived at supersonic speed whose inevitable crash resulted in a fathomless crater only to rise again slowly like a phoenix out of the ashes. And who better to curate that story, a story that has been told a million times before but rarely as well or realistically, than Williams himself? And here is where maudlin reality meets surreal originality.

Williams has referred to himself on

multiple occasions as a performing monkey, whether showing off for his schoolmates, dancing to the tune of record executives and managers, performing on stage, or retreating into the pain from the poking and prodding of visitors to the zoo of his existence. And this is how Williams and Gracey chose to tell his story. The character of Robbie Williams is portrayed by an ape (with prosthetic makeup that defies description) and voiced by Williams himself. The effect is stunning. It both draws attention to his bizarre reality and becomes almost normalized while heightening the reality of Robbie's eccentric worldview from the beginning. You will be surprised how acclimatized you become to this anthropomorphic creature.

Born the son of pub owners and raised by his father on the music of Sinatra, Davis and Martin, his own personal Rat Pack touchstone, Williams, a poor student, knew that all he wanted out of life was to be famous. He didn't think he had any particular skills, but he knew he craved the spotlight fueled by a narcissistic father with unreachable entertainment expectations and a loving grandmother, Betty, who was always there with unconditional love. "I wouldn't change a thing about you," was her mantra to him. He was close to flunking out of school at age

15 when he spied an ad in the classifieds for singers who could dance for a new boy band being put together; manufactured is a better description. Audacious in his choice of music for the audition with manager Nigel Martin-Smith, his sheer chutzpah wins him the gig and the 15-year-old Robert, now rechristened Robbie, is off and running. Modeled after "New Kids on the Block," "Take That" was conceived in 1990 and built around singer/songwriter Gary Barlow, with bandmates Howard Donald, a car painter; Jason Orange, a break dancer; Mark Owen, a bank teller; and Williams, the youngest, having just turned 16.

Immature, insecure, with uncontrollable bouts of anxiety, Robbie not only finds courage in alcohol and drugs but also envy and jealousy. Wildly popular with tween girls, "Take That" is a well-choreographed, singing sensation and rises to the top of the charts. But everything is centered around Barlow with Robbie resentful of being relegated to the background. Robbie, the problem child (or in this case the problem performing monkey) becomes increasingly unpredictable, unhappy that his compositions have all been ignored in favor of Barlow. By 1995, upset by his temperamental instability and increasing drug use, the band drops him from their world tour, in

effect cutting him loose, eventually leading to the breakup of the band. Now, for better or worse, they are all on their own.

Not yet 22, Williams' solo career was a success from the beginning and continued unabated for almost 10 years despite his increasing use of drugs. Seemingly unable to stop the demons, his professional and personal relationships careen down the slope of steadily higher doses of narcotics and alcohol. Ironically, Robbie the monkey is the monkey on his own back and at some point something will give; but this is a journey for you to take and not for me to tell.

"Better Man" is precisely that, the story of a better man, or monkey if you will. Williams as a monkey at the beginning is different from the ape at the end. A genuinely affecting portrayal of mental illness hidden in the aura of the crowd's adoration, his depression and anxiety are as heartbreaking as they are horrifying. When told that mental maturity stops at the age when one achieves greatest success, he comments that he stopped growing at 15 and has been acting out as a 15-year-old ever since.

It's always hard to sympathize with the problems of the rich and famous, and equally hard to analyze the root causes. Certainly, success came suddenly for the



Top: Alison Steadman and Jonno Davies; Bottom: Jonno Davies and the cast on Regent Street

boy who wanted nothing more than to be famous without the need for that fame to come from achievement. Instead of recognizing his enormous talent, he retreated deeper into narcissism, allowing his bad behavior to mask the insecurity and lack of worth that he felt. Perhaps it can be traced to the 15-year-old's desires that never understood how to earn respect or, as is too often the case in psycho-dramas, it was daddy issues. His father, a man of little talent who left the family to chase his entertainment dreams, ignored Robbie, preferring to live in a trailer and perform in low life pubs for marginal pay. Certainly, he was willing to come back sporadically into Robbie's life when fame hit his son and might reflect off him. It didn't and this only seemed to magnify Robbie's lack of self-worth. But again, these are first-world problems and if this movie weren't so impossibly entertaining, you wouldn't care to follow the thread. But follow it you will, and willingly, because Gracey, co-writing the script with Oliver Cole, Simon Gleeson and Robbie Williams, has produced a wildly entertaining movie that doesn't just ask how Robbie was able to survive, but also, why haven't I ever heard of him. His voice is magic, his music compelling and his presence magnetic. He succeeded on the world stage without any

American hits.

Jonno Davies is the model for the monkey. Williams was digitally scanned and motion-captured as he sang so that his expressions and mannerisms could be incorporated into Davies' motion-captured performance. It's all above my pay grade, but suffice it to say, visual effects (VFX) and suits laden with LEDs played a major role in fusing Davies and Williams into the very realistic monkey.

Steve Pemberton played Robbie's father Peter Williams who eventually went by his stage name Peter Conway. Pemberton is the very embodiment of every man (or woman) who leaves a family in the lurch because he lacks the inner stamina to address an issue. The collateral damage in this case was the needy Robbie who idolized his dad. Pemberton brings ambivalence and jealousy into his performance. Kate Mulvany plays Robbie's mother, Janet. It was a shame that her character remained so undeveloped, because without her strong stability Robbie wouldn't have been able to fly on his own in the first place. Alison Steadman was Betty, his beloved grandmother. Steadman has the wonderful ability to convey depth of feeling with few words. Damon Herriman is Nigel, the creator and manager of "Take That." Herriman, an extraordinarily versatile actor

known for his portrayal of Charles Manson in "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" and as the criminally moronic redneck Dewey Crowe in "Justified," is the very embodiment of driven and ambiguously untrustworthy. It's all in the eyes and that tight smile. I can imagine that he feasted on that role. Raechelle Banno, an extraordinary dancer, is Nicole, Robbie's first love whom he betrays countless times until, recognizing the depth of his damage, she gives up. Her graceful fluidity envelops him and us; her eyes tell the story of the cost.

The production values are off the scale and this film will leave you reeling from the rock footage, putting you center stage with the boys. This is also a primer in rock show production and backstage preparations

and shenanigans. The choreography by Ashely Wallen is not just present in the dance sequences but in the way movement seems to blend into movement. The dance sequence on the yacht between Nicole and Robbie is a high point in the film, reminiscent of the duet between Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling in "La La Land."

I'm in love with this movie—the singing, the dancing, the drama, the hilarity. The story is as old as Greek mythology and only goes to prove that if you tell a story well, it doesn't matter if it's been told before. This story is exceedingly well told. I wish the Robbie of today would tour the U.S. Alas, no.

Opening Jan. 10 at the AMC Century City 15 and The Grove 14. ●



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.

82nd Golden Globes

The 82nd Golden Globes took place on Jan. 5 at the Beverly Hilton. The evening got underway with a philanthropic "Toast for a Cause" sponsored by Moët & Chandon, in partnership with "Entertainment Tonight." The initiative provides a platform for celebrities to give back to a charity of their choice. Photos by Michael Kovac/Getty for Moët & Chandon



Nicole Kidman



Kerry Washington



Melissa McCarthy



Angelina Jolie



Monica Barbaro and Elle Fanning



Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco



Glenn Close and Harrison Ford



Cynthia Erivo, Richard Gadd and Ariana Grande



Zoe Saldana, Adriana Paz, Selena Gomez, Jacques Audiard, Edgar Ramirez and Karla Sofía Gascón

ROTARY, from page 6

wanted oil, gas, iron ore, and shipping of steel from Sweden. The ports were in Norway. So, Hitler invaded Norway and stationed 250,000 Nazi troops in Norway. The current king's grandfather and his father fled to England to lead the resistance. But his mother, who was the Crown Princess Martha at the time, went to the United States with the current king and his two sisters. Where did they stay? In the White House with President Roosevelt. The current king was 5 years old and they lived there until he was 10 years old. In the last year or so, they moved to a home in Maryland. But the United States was the home for the royal family in Norway. And if any of you have seen the PBS series, 'Atlantic Crossing,' it is about the Norwegians living in Washington and about Roosevelt. Martha is very important historically because she was one of the many people who pushed Roosevelt into entering World War II. And that has been very well documented," said Nathanson.

In 1969, the country's fate changed dramatically after Exxon and Mobil discovered oil on Norway's continental shelf. The Norwegian government agreed to allow the extraction of its natural resources in exchange for, among other things, 50 percent of the profits.

The wealth of the country funds its famous socialism.

"It is a very socialistic country, even though it's a democracy, even though there are more billionaires per capita in Norway than in the United States. They have free healthcare, free medicine, free education through Ph.D. or medical school," Nathanson said.

The government also pays 25 % of all expenses of the country's 250 daily newspapers.

"They feel a free press, an active press is in the best interest of a democracy," he said.

Nathanson added, "There's no student debt, there is no homelessness. There is almost no crime in Norway now; it's a cashless society. Everything's done with credit cards. So that may have something to do with it."

On the other hand, the system is not utopian.

Nathanson relayed the story of his wife wanting a particular type of eye drop not on the approved government list. The price quoted was \$700.

"You don't have much choice. The government picks the medicine and it's only one brand, and you either have to take that brand, it doesn't cost you anything, but if you want another brand or you want to go to your own specialist, you have to go to Germany or England to see a doctor there. So, it's not a perfect system, but there is no poverty. There's a huge middle class in Norway. Now, I must say, I always felt when we lived in Beverly Hills, they had great police and fire and emergency responders. They have that in Norway as well, but it's throughout the country. It's not just in one area of the city or another area. And Oslo, a metro area, has nearly a million people now. It's very green. They have electric cars. Seventy percent of all cars and trucks are electric," said Nathanson.

He then touched on the country's relationship with firearms.

"Norwegians are avid hunters. Most Norwegians own rifles and hunt, even though there's very little violent crime in Norway with

firearms, because they use a system where when a boy or girl becomes 16 and they want to own a rifle, they have to go to training and then they have to join a club that does gun safety."

As for the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine, Nathanson noted, "Norway is the biggest provider of aid and military assistance to Ukraine. And that was a first, because Norway has always provided aid throughout the world to countries because of its great wealth, but they haven't provided military aid. They made an exception because of Ukraine. And I gave an address at a conference when I first arrived. I compared Hitler's invasion of Norway in April 1940 to Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Well, the Russian ambassador immediately attacked me on all of the services. And we spent the next day on the front lines of Russia and Norway. Shortly thereafter, as you know, Finland joined and later Sweden joined NATO, and today they have a united front against Russian aggression. So, this was a very, very important step of what was going on."

Toward the end of his remarks, Nathanson spoke of Norway as a gateway to one of the last frontiers on earth, the Arctic.

"As the ice is melting, not only Russia, but China is extremely interested in the polar route from China, and this is very important for Norway. And with the help of the Secretary of State Tony Blinken, we got permission from the State Department to open an American Presence Post in Tromso, the largest Norwegian city in the Arctic. And we now have American State Department people, a very small office up there, but to focus on the Arctic, not only because the Russians are there and all the Russian weapon testing is there, but because of the melting of all of the glaciers. They're melting four times faster than anywhere else on Earth," said Nathanson.

He urged the audience to visit Norway and the Arctic in particular.

"The northernmost city in the world near the North Pole is Longyearbyen, which is in Norway, and it's the closest city to the North Pole. It only has 2,500 people. But it's very, very interesting to see because you see the glaciers. And in addition to that, the seed vault is there. They actually take the seeds of all crops of all food, and they put the seeds in a permafrost in the ice in caves in Norway in case there's a disaster and they have to regrow the plants."

Nathanson then came full circle from his tales of the Arctic, back home to Beverly Hills.

He described one of his last official acts as ambassador.

"I had the great honor to pick the career State Department diplomat who would be the DCM (Deputy Chief of Mission), the number two person at the embassy. And when there's no ambassador, the DCM runs the embassy. They are the chargé d'affaires. And I chose, as I know, all of you would've chosen, an outstanding young man named Eric Meyer from Beverly Hills. He is now running everything, doing a much better job than I ever could, and I am so proud of Eric and his father and brother [Bruce and Evan Meyer] are right here, and I'm so proud of him." ●

California Contract Cities Association Urges Prop. 36 Implementation

Councilmember Mary Wells represented Beverly Hills at a California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) press conference at the Sacramento State Capitol on Jan. 6. The purpose of the conference was to urge the expeditious implementation of Proposition 36. The CCCA emphasized the importance of promoting balanced accountability by providing treatment as an alternative to incarceration. They called for the consistent application of the law across the state and advocated for collaboration with the state government to secure the necessary resources for effective treatment programs.

Jennifer Perez, CCCA President and Norwalk Vice Mayor, emphasized Prop. 36's role in addressing organized retail theft and related crimes. She outlined its potential to reduce crime and enhance economic stability, stressing consistent implementation and community collaboration.

CCCA leaders closed the conference with a call for unified support of Prop. 36, which aims to balance enforcement with rehabilitation, curb retail losses, and protect communities without reverting to mass incarceration. ●

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Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be around talented people. This variety pack of skill sets could create something truly remarkable together with the right leadership. You're a visionary. That leader could be you, if you dare take on the challenge.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's natural to be bothered by what you don't understand, but you don't stop at that. You let discomfort compel you to learn more. You'll have your bafflement to thank for the interesting people and knowledge you gain.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The pace will pick up and you'll match it without missing a beat. You would think that with this much going on, life would turn into a blur. The opposite happens. Experience becomes more vivid and memorable at this exhilarated pace.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A stressful situation has your attention. All it takes to relieve the pressure is one adjustment. You can either adjust the circumstances to better fit your preferences, or you can adjust your expectations to better fit the

circumstances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Though you dream of the day you're living the dream, you're well aware that these are the moments you'll cherish -- the climb. You're feeling your moments to their fullness, taking notes and packing in the experiences.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your genuine curiosity makes learning feel effortless. You'll dive into a subject or get to know someone intriguing. With curiosity as your guide, conversations naturally flow to places that spark connection and inspiration.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll extract the part of the plan that is not working. Don't replace it right away. It's better to have nothing in the space than a sub-par alternative. Your willingness to wait will give you power and choice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are choices and patterns that once worked for you but no longer fit the person you're becoming. Leave judgment behind. Embrace the change and savor the excitement of moving forward.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll get the most out of a situation with some higher-level thinking. Welcome

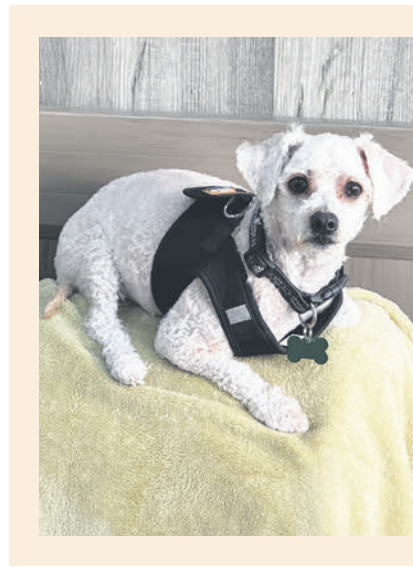
a perspective that lets you see the deep history and the future as well as the adjacent situations affected by your own.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Socializing outside your usual circle opens your life most auspiciously. Conversations with new people will spark ideas, perspectives and opportunities you hadn't considered. The connections you form now will prove pivotal down the line.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People

who are a good fit for you may not have the same opinion as you, and they may have very different beliefs, too, but they'll share your values such as integrity, cheerfulness and gentleness, and that's what matters.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Each person creates their own logical world. Much of it will come together on a subconscious level. You will become more effective as you better understand your own logic and how it has been constructed.



This is Simba, a 3-year-old, 12-pound poodle mix. If interested in giving Simba a new home, please contact Kim Sill at Shelter of Hope at 310-770-3571.

shelterhopepetshop.org

Fun and Games

SUDOKU
01/10/25 ISSUE

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SUDOKU ANSWERS
01/03/25 ISSUE

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PUZZLE ANSWERS
01/03/25 ISSUE

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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
01/10/25 ISSUE

MULTI-HYPHENATES
BY HARRY ZHENG / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Harry Zheng, of Carmel, Ind., is a second-year student at Purdue University majoring in computer science, math and physics. This is his second crossword for The Times. During high school, when Harry started submitting puzzles to the paper, his economics teacher said that if Harry got one in, he would frame it and hang it in the classroom. The teacher made good on his promise.

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| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 "The Soul ____ Itself"
(Emily Dickinson poem)</p> <p>5 Conceal</p> <p>10 Gamer's annoyance</p> <p>13 Wail, blubber, etc.</p> <p>17 One of six in garden croquet</p> <p>18 Emmy-winning drama series set in the Midwest</p> <p>19 Disney C.E.O. Bob</p> <p>21 Early phase of software development</p> <p>22 Electrician who might put in overtime after a bad storm</p> <p>24 Politico Buttigieg</p> <p>25 Partner of dreams</p> <p>26 Anesthetized</p> <p>27 Have a banquet</p> <p>28 Graphics that show trends</p> <p>30 Like cobras and some jackets</p> <p>32 Doc that ensures secrecy</p> <p>33 Rapsallion</p> <p>34 Dog with "small black eyes that twinkled merrily on either side of his funny, wee nose"</p> <p>35 Prepared</p> <p>37 Lion's prey</p> <p>39 Preceding times</p> <p>40 Loud whistlers</p> | <p>44 Unnecessarily lengthen, as an essay</p> <p>45 Brought aboard</p> <p>47 Language from which "curry" comes</p> <p>48 Increased suddenly</p> <p>51 "No time to lose!"</p> <p>53 Without help</p> <p>54 Step (on)</p> <p>55 Dien Bien ____, 1954 battle site in Vietnam</p> <p>56 Dough dispenser</p> <p>59 Hard hits off the bat</p> <p>61 McEvoy of cosmetics</p> <p>63 Dish of chopped meat, potatoes and onions</p> <p>66 Portrayer of Grindelwald in "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald"</p> <p>67 Author Zola</p> <p>68 Large Starbucks size</p> <p>69 Fascinated by</p> <p>70 Potatoes, on an Indian menu</p> <p>71 Nb3, Bxh7, Ra4, etc.</p> <p>72 The Macarena and Cha Cha Slide, for two</p> <p>74 Education support grp.</p> <p>76 "The Simpsons" character who says "I've done everything the Bible says! Even the stuff that contradicts the other stuff!"</p> <p>77 Love affair</p> <p>78 Corrupt</p> <p>79 Snack brand with "Classic" and "Wavy" varieties</p> <p>81 Iced coffee drink</p> <p>82 Colorings</p> | <p>83 Jamie who pitched on eight major-league teams over his 25-year career</p> <p>86 Weigh (down)</p> <p>87 Wild tours</p> <p>89 Grave</p> <p>90 They might make you jump</p> <p>95 Winter mo.</p> <p>96 Praiseful poems</p> <p>97 Attack from all sides</p> <p>98 Solar wind particle</p> <p>100 Places to dock</p> <p>105 Defensive position</p> <p>107 Catch</p> <p>109 Man's name meaning "strong" in Hebrew</p> <p>110 Director Sam</p> <p>111 Exude, as charm</p> <p>112 Indication of where to cut ... or something written five times in this puzzle?</p> <p>114 Gave support</p> <p>115 Seeks compensation, maybe</p> <p>116 Relative of a badger</p> <p>117 Starter with chips?</p> <p>118 "____ Turismo" (2023 film)</p> <p>119 Certain fantasy football stats</p> <p>120 Part of MGM</p> <p>121 Rise dramatically</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOWN</p> <p>1 "Don't even think about it"</p> <p>2 Proscribed action</p> <p>3 Kind of list</p> <p>4 Opinion piece</p> <p>5 Exec in charge of investments</p> |
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ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...

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| <p>58 Henry who composed the theme for "The Pink Panther"</p> <p>60 Sleep stage</p> <p>61 Rating that signifies lewdness or violence</p> <p>62 Concealed</p> <p>64 Medical inserts</p> <p>65 Parasites' needs</p> <p>73 Quite fond of, with "to"</p> <p>75 Hefeweizen, e.g.</p> <p>77 Jason's ship</p> | <p>80 Vacation destination in the Caribbean</p> <p>81 Stronghold</p> <p>83 Place to hover</p> <p>84 Big name in frozen food</p> <p>85 Obsequious types</p> <p>86 Sauntered (in)</p> <p>88 Meager</p> <p>89 Closefitting headwear, in a variant spelling</p> | <p>91 ____ Bill, folk hero who is said to have ridden a tornado like a bucking bronco</p> <p>92 Invite on a date</p> <p>93 "Honesty is the first chapter in the book of ____": Thomas Jefferson</p> <p>94 Piece of classical music</p> <p>99 Repulsive</p> | <p>101 Strongman of myth</p> <p>102 "I Know a ____" (rhyming children's book)</p> <p>103 Soda with strawberry and pineapple flavors</p> <p>104 Derisive expression</p> <p>106 Auction action</p> <p>108 Clarified butter</p> <p>113 Botch things</p> |
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STAY SAFE, from page 1

challenging to get your nervous system out of the state of hyperarousal. Here are some steps you can take.

1. Get to Safety

Above all, your safety—and the safety of those around you—must be the highest priority. If you are in an evacuation zone, follow the instructions of local authorities immediately. Fire spreads unpredictably and quickly, so don't wait until it's too late. Whether you're heading to a shelter, a friend's home, or a family member's house, the key is to get to safety as soon as possible. Once you're safe, find a secure, calm space to sit, breathe, and work on regaining your bearings. If you are not currently under evacuation orders, pack a bag with essentials and have it by your door.

2. Stay Connected to Friends, Family and Neighbors

Connection is our lifeline in times of crisis. Reach out to those you care about via text, phone calls or social media. Knowing that others are thinking of you and offering support can significantly ease feelings of isolation and anxiety. Consider creating a communication plan with family and friends—perhaps having one point of contact outside the area to check in on everyone. Reach out to neighbors, even if you don't know them well—sometimes, a simple “How are you doing?” can offer profound comfort.

3. Stay Informed, but Take Breaks From the News

While staying informed is crucial, constant exposure to distressing updates can heighten anxiety. Limit your news intake and check reliable sources (such as emergency services and official city updates) at regular intervals. It's OK to step away from the media to focus on self-care and remember that your mental health is just as important as staying updated on the fire's progression.

4. Avoid Alcohol, Marijuana or Other Numbing Substances

In stressful times, some people may turn to substances to numb their emotions. However, using alcohol or drugs to cope can actually worsen the situation. Alcohol interferes with sleep and hinders your body's ability to process trauma, which you need to heal. It's important to acknowledge the fear and pain you're feeling, and if necessary, reach out to someone who can offer support.

5. Take Care of Your Children

Children process trauma differently from adults. They may not fully understand the situation, which can leave them feeling confused or scared. Provide reassurance and stability during this uncertain time. Try to maintain familiar routines and let them know that you are there for them. It's also important to validate their feelings—if they are frightened, acknowledge their fears. Be patient if they show signs of regression, such as wanting to stay close to you or having trouble sleeping. If possible, explain the situation in simple terms, emphasizing that they are safe.

6. Care for Your Pets

Pets, too, are impacted by the stress of the situation. Animals are highly attuned to their owners' emotions, so if you're anxious, they may feel that way as well. Keep them close and provide comforting items like their favorite blanket or toy. If you need to evacuate, be sure to bring a pet carrier, leash, food and water to ensure they are safe and comfortable during the journey.

7. Avoid Major Decisions Right Now

In a crisis, our brains are flooded with stress hormones, which can impair our ability to make clear decisions. For now, avoid making major choices that can wait. It's OK not to have all the answers right away. If you must make a decision, try to do so with the support of a loved one or trusted community member. Take things one step at a time—focus on the essentials and move forward carefully and calmly.

8. Sleep: Your Brain's First Line of Defense

Sleep might feel elusive right now, with adrenaline and anxiety running high. But it's essential to give your body and mind time to recover. If you can, find a quiet, dark space to rest. Even if you can't fall asleep immediately, simply lying down and closing your eyes allows your body to process the stress. If you're struggling to sleep due to anxiety, deep breathing exercises or meditation can help calm your nervous system. If sleeplessness continues, consider seeking professional help, as short-term medication may be helpful in managing overwhelming stress. And if you're not eating, that's OK for a short time as cortisol dampens our appetite—but address it if it persists for more than a couple of days.

9. Get Help When You Need It

Mental health experts are available to offer support during this trying time. Professionals trained in trauma care can help you process your feelings and navigate through this crisis. If you or someone you know is affected by a fire in Los Angeles and needs counseling, you can reach out to the Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990 for 24/7 crisis support. You can also text "TalkWithUs" to 66746 to connect with a trained counselor. Dial 211 to access information and referrals for emergency services, including mental health support. Local resources for the Beverly Hills community include the Maple Counseling Center, which can be reached at 310-271-9999.

The situation we face in Los Angeles is tragic and unprecedented. By taking small steps, staying connected, and showing kindness to ourselves and others, we will get through it. The road to healing will take time, but remember that even in the darkest moments, we are designed to be resilient. Together, we will rise from this crisis and rebuild our community to the vibrant place we love. The fire will be extinguished shortly, but the spirit of our community will never be. ●

HISTORIC FIRES, from page 1

All of those evacuation orders were lifted by the morning of Jan. 9. A statement from the city of Beverly Hills indicated, “As of approximately 7:30 a.m., the city of L.A. lifted its voluntary evacuation order that impacted the area north of Sunset and east of Coldwater Canyon Dr. related to the Sunset Fire in the Hollywood Hills. The Beverly Hills Fire Department continues to work closely with its neighboring partners and is monitoring any updates that could impact Beverly Hills.”

The Palisades Fire was first reported on Jan. 7 in the area of Piedra Morada and Monte Hermoso drives. Unrelenting Santa Ana winds have continued to propel the fire, which has burned more than 20,000 acres and destroyed or damaged more than 5,000 structures. One fatality has been reported in Malibu as a result of the fire. As of press time, the Palisades Fire continues to burn with 0% containment.

“It is safe to say that the Palisades Fire is one of the most destructive natural disasters in the history of Los Angeles,” said Los Angeles Fire Department Chief Kristin Crowley at a Jan. 9 press conference. During that conference, L.A. County Sheriff Robert Luna indicated that at least 20 arrests had been made for suspicion of looting. Also present was L.A. County District Attorney Nathan Hochman, who warned that looters will be prosecuted under the fullest extent of the law.

“Not since the 1990s when Los Angeles was hit with the fires, the flood, the earthquake and the riots have I seen such disaster in our city,” said Hochman. “But like back then, Los Angeles has true grit, it has resilience.”

Mandatory evacuation orders were still in place as of Jan. 9 across Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica and Malibu. Schools in the central and eastern part of Los Angeles Unified School District were closed on Jan. 8. All LAUSD schools were closed Jan. 9 and will remain closed Jan. 10. All school campuses in the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District were closed Jan. 8 and 9. Schools in the Beverly Hills Unified School District were closed on Jan. 9.

Road closures have effectively blocked all of the Pacific Coast Highway between the Santa Monica Freeway and Topanga Canyon. Historic and iconic structures that have been reported damaged or destroyed by the Palisades Fire include the Reel Inn, Cholada Thai, the Will Rogers historic ranch house and the Topanga Ranch Motel.

Further east, a fire in Altadena, which is being called the Eaton Fire, also continued to burn as of Jan. 9. Five people have been reported dead from the blaze, which had burned almost 14,000 acres and was 0% contained as of press time. As of Jan. 9, the blaze was also approaching dangerously close to the vital transmission towers set up at Mt. Wilson.

More than 32,500 residents were placed under evacuation orders in regions close to the Eaton Fire, including parts of Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge, Glendale and Altadena. Erratic winds grounded aerial firefighting assets, and ground crews were unable to keep pace with the flames' advance overnight. Firefighting aircraft were able to resume flights on Jan. 8.

As a result of the fire, classes were canceled Jan. 8 and 9 for schools in the Pasadena, Glendale, Alhambra, South Pasadena, San Marino, La Cañada, Burbank, Arcadia and Monrovia Unified School Districts.

Los Angeles County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone said that in addition to the five fatalities, there were “a number of significant injuries” due to the Eaton Fire. He also said that roughly 1,000 structures had been “damaged or destroyed.” Among the structures destroyed was the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center.

In Sylmar, the Hurst Fire has burned more than 850 acres with 10% containment as of press time. Evacuations were ordered for the area north of the 210 Freeway from Roxford Street to the 5 Freeway and 14 Freeway split, according to the LAFD.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, whose Third District includes Beverly Hills, has issued frequent notifications to constituents. “There are now four major fires in the County and three in the Third District: The Palisades, Hurst, and Sunset Fires. The Red Flag warning will remain in place through 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10,” Horvath said in one communique.

She also joined the ranks of those in the line of fire, literally, after receiving an evacuation warning for her own residence.

The ongoing fires have thrown a wrench into Hollywood's awards season, with some events postponed or altered.

The 30th annual Critics Choice Awards ceremony, which was scheduled for Jan. 12 at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, was postponed until Jan. 26. The American Film Institute's annual AFI Awards luncheon that had been scheduled for Jan. 10 at the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills was also postponed. No new date was immediately announced.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced that in light of the Southern California wildfires, the nomination voting period for the Oscars that began Jan. 8 and was scheduled to end Jan. 12 has been extended until Jan. 14. The Oscar nominations announcement that had been scheduled for Jan. 17 was pushed back to Jan. 19.

The wildfires are set to be the costliest in United States history, analysts said on Jan. 9, as the initial estimates of damage from the infernos soared. Total economic losses from the fires are now pegged at close to \$50 billion, double the previous estimate. ●

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Police Blotter

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



ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED

1/1/2025, 1:46 a.m. at 800 Block of SIERRA DRIVE

ASSAULT - SIMPLE

1/5/2025, 8:37 a.m. at N. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD / WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

1/3/2025, 1:15 p.m. at 200 Block of S. BEVERLY DRIVE

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

BURGLARY - COMMERCIAL BUILDING

1/1/2025, 1:40 a.m. at 9300 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

1/1/2025, 12:46 a.m. at 8300 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

BURGLARY - CONSTRUCTION SITE

1/4/2025, 9:06 a.m. at 500 Block of ARDEN DRIVE

1/3/2025, 9:38 p.m. at 500 Block of ARDEN DRIVE

BURGLARY FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

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

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (ACCESSED GARAGE ONLY)

1/4/2025, 2:30 p.m. at 400 Block of N. ROXBURY DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (NO ONE HOME)

1/1/2025, 12 p.m. at 100 Block of S. SWALL DRIVE

DUI ARREST

1/1/2025, 7:44 a.m. at CHARLEVILLE BOULEVARD / S. ALMONT DRIVE

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

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

12/12/2024, 8 p.m. at 500 Block of EVELYN PLACE

THEFT FROM COMMERCIAL BUILDING

1/1/2025, 5:28 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

THEFT - GRAND

1/3/2025, 4:20 p.m. at 400 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

THEFT - GRAND (FROM VEHICLE)

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

12/12/2024, 9 p.m. at 100 Block of N. GALE DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY

1/7/2025, 4:19 a.m. at 200 Block of EL CAMINO DRIVE

1/6/2025, 7:35 p.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

1/4/2025, 4:33 p.m. at 9400 Block of OLYMPIC BLVD.

1/2/2025, 10:55 a.m. at 200 Block of REEVES DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY (FROM VEHICLE)

1/2/2025, 4 p.m. at 1200 Block of BEVERLY GREEN DRIVE

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

VANDALISM

1/1/2025, 10 a.m. at VIRGINIA PLACE / S. RODEO 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
(UCC 6105)
Escrow No. BU-3874-YL**

Notice is hereby given that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name and business address of the Seller is:

- (1) The name of the Seller: DOGUE, LLC A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
- (2) Name of the Business being sold: DOGUE SPA
- (3) Business address(es) of the Seller(s) is: 8278 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046
- (4) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is: 8278 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046

(5) All other business names and addresses used by the Seller within the past (3) years, as stated by the Seller is: NONE

(6) The name of the Buyer is: LE COOKIE BEAR LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (7) The address of the Buyer is: 44880 VIA VAQUERO, TEMECULA, CA 92590

(8) General description of the assets of DOGUE SPA to be sold is described as: FURNITURE, FIXTURE, AND EQUIPMENT located at: 8278 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046

(9) The Bulk Sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: SECURED TRUST ESCROW, INC., C/O BELL SANTIAGO, ESCROW OFFICER, 21111 VICTOR ST, TORRANCE, CA 90503, TEL: (310) 318-3300; EMAIL: INFO@SECUREDTRUST-ESCROW.COM; Escrow No. BU-3874-YL

(10) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is JANUARY 30, 2025

(11) The last day for filing claims by any creditor shall be JANUARY 29, 2025, which is the business day before the anticipated sale date specified above.

(12) This Bulk Sale is not subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.

DATE:
BUYER: LE COOKIE BEAR LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
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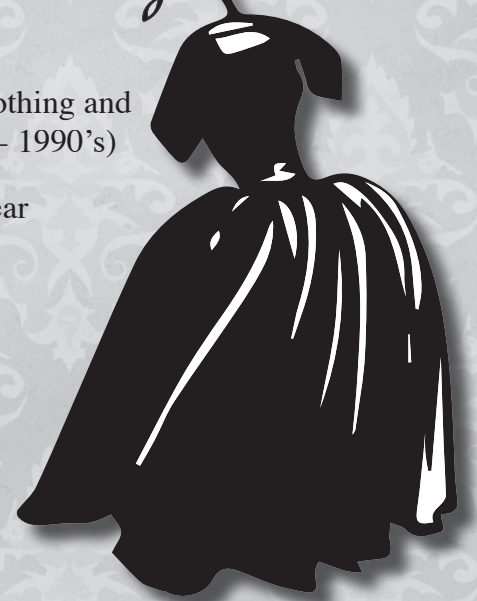
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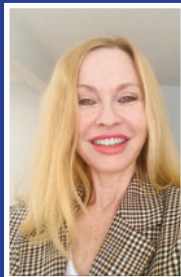
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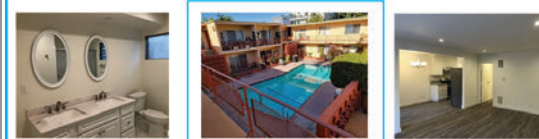
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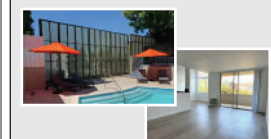
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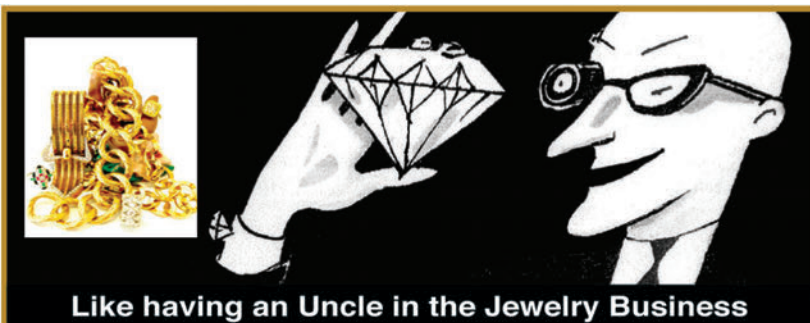
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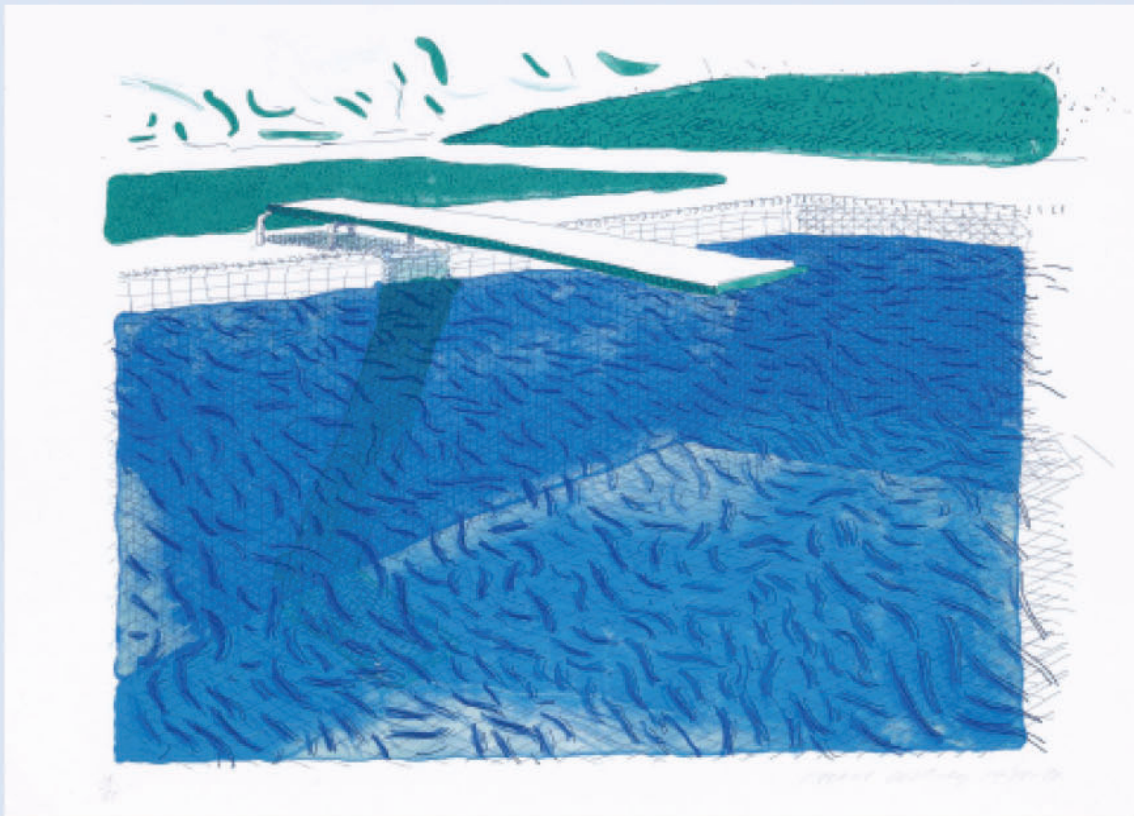
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