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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

☁ Friday	74° 50°
☁ Saturday	75° 51°
☀ Sunday	77° 54°
☀ Monday	76° 54°
☁ Tuesday	81° 57°
☁ Wednesday	82° 57°
☁ Thursday	76° 55°

BHPD Launches 'Beverly Hills Connect'

BY SELINA KAUSAR

The Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) has announced a new public safety program entitled "Beverly Hills Connect." The initiative aims to strengthen the city's public safety efforts by leveraging the use of technology to foster stronger community collaboration.

Residents and business owners can voluntarily participate in Beverly Hills Connect through two different avenues. The first is by registering their privately owned, public-facing security cameras online at beverlyhills.org/bhconnect.

Registration is free and does not provide police with direct access to your live feed. Rather, investigators will be able to quickly identify potential sources of video evidence and request footage from specific camera owners near a crime scene, saving time and mitigating the need for door-to-door canvassing.

The second option for participation in Beverly Hills Connect requires a device to be purchased to integrate your cameras with BHPD's Real Time Watch Center. Access to See BEVERLY HILLS CONNECT, page 3

Beverly Vista Middle School Hosts Dr. Jill Humphries for Black History Month



Photo courtesy BHUSD

Beverly Vista Middle School hosted Dr. Jill Humphries on Feb. 12 for a special Black History Month presentation. Humphries (in white sweater, center) spoke about the Double Victory campaign, a movement launched in 1942 advocating for Black soldiers who served their country while also facing discrimination at home.

Dr. Sharona Nazarian's Installation as Mayor Set for April 1

The installation of Sharona Nazarian as the next mayor of Beverly Hills will take place on April 1 at 7 p.m. at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. For the first time in the history of the city, two vice mayors, John Mirisch and Craig Corman, will also be installed. As reported in the Courier's Feb. 7 issue, Mirisch will serve a six-month term as vice mayor followed by Corman's six-month term. Additional details about the installation will be forthcoming in the Courier.



Nazarian at her Vice Mayoral installation in April 2024

City Council Proposes Changes to Mayoral and Vice Mayoral Rotation

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

The Beverly Hills City Council at a Feb. 19 Study Session directed city staff to make changes to the conditions of councilmembers' rotations into the office of mayor and vice mayor. The proposed policy, should it be formally approved, would prevent councilmembers who place third in June elections from serving as mayor during that term.

Four councilmembers agreed to the decision, and one abstained.

The resolution came after discussions at the Feb. 5 and Feb. 19 Study Sessions and stems from a statutory quandary. The offices of vice mayor and mayor are held by city councilmembers on an annual, rotating basis, determined by their date of election and the number of votes they receive. Installations of both offices take place every April.

However, the passage of one local measure and two state measures in the past decade created problems with the existing structure. SB 415 and SB 970, passed in 2015 and 2020, respectively, altered the schedule of local elections. In their wake, elections

See MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR, page 13

Ad Hoc Committee Discusses Commission Mergers

BY SELINA KAUSAR

During a meeting on Feb. 18, the Commission Standardization Ad Hoc Committee discussed the possible merger of the Human Relations Commission with the Health and Safety Commission, and the Recreation and Parks Commission with the Arts and Culture Commission. The committee members, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Councilmember Craig Corman, reviewed the similarities and differences between the roles carried out by each of the commissions to decide whether the mergers would be in the city's

See COMMITTEE, page 3

Courier Calendar

NOW - MARCH 22

GAGOSIAN: "ALEX ISRAEL: 'NOIR'"
TUES.-SAT. 10 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

Gagosian hosts the debut of a new series of paintings by artist Alex Israel, the first gallery exhibition in his hometown in nearly a decade. The exhibition, "Noir," embodies the perspective of a native of Los Angeles and the inexorable relationship between the city and the genre of Noir. The works present Los Angeles in its most iconic and seductive, but also most false form. The exhibition presents the external, illusory version of the city, whose contrast with reality is most intensely appreciable by Los Angeles natives. Admission to the Gagosian is free. It's located at 456 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills. gagosian.com

NOW - JUNE 1

HAUSER & WIRTH:

"GEORGE ROUY:

"THE BLEED, PART II"

This February, Hauser & Wirth Downtown Los Angeles will host "The Bleed, Part II," British artist George Rouy's first U.S. solo exhibition with the gallery. Following Rouy's recent

London presentation, this "second chapter" will feature all new works extending his exploration of human mass, multiplicity and movement. In works characterized by a distinctive dynamism, Rouy captures essential experiences of contemporary life—desire and vexation, the urge to connect frustrated by alienation—to address emotional extremities in a globalized, technologically-driven age. The exhibition will be accompanied by the US premiere of "BODYSUIT," a collaborative creation between Rouy and internationally acclaimed choreographer Sharon Eyal. Admission is free. Hauser & Wirth is located at 901 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles hauserwirth.com

NOW - JULY 6

MOCA GEFFEN:

"OLAFUR ELIASSON: OPEN"

THURS.-FRI. 11 A.M.-5 P.M.

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

Icelandic-Danish artist Olafur Eliasson (b. 1967, Copenhagen; lives and works in Berlin) presents a new site-specific installation made for The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. In line with

Eliasson's career-long exploration of light and color, geometry and environmental awareness, the installation playfully engages with material and immaterial qualities of the museum's architecture. A series of large-scale optical devices designed specifically for MOCA Geffen responds to the building itself, as well as to the ever-changing atmosphere of Los Angeles. Visitors encounter a dazzling range of sensory experiences that harness the laws of geometric optics to address feelings and concepts of embodiment, perception and participation. "Olafur Eliasson: OPEN" features low lighting in some galleries and one artwork with flashing lights. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$10 for students with ID and seniors, and free for children 12 and under. MOCA Geffen is open late with free admission from 5-8 p.m. on the first Friday of every month. The museum is located at 152 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles.

moca.org

NOW - AUG. 24

ICA LA: "DEMIAN DINÉYAZHI"

Presented as part of "Scientia Sexualis," "POZ Since 1492" (2016/2024) by Demian DinéYazhi' (b. 1983, Diné/Navajo) elongates the timescale of the ongoing AIDS crisis. With the alternate title "The First Infection and appropriating imagery from Jean Leon Gerome Ferris' infamous painting The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth, 1621" (c. 1912), the artist connects the violence of settler colonialism and germ warfare to government neglect and Western epistemologies of health. DinéYazhi' is a trans nonbinary visual artist, writer and organizer of R.I.S.E.—Radical Indigenous Survivance & Empowerment—a direct action initiative to amplify Indigenous art and culture. Moving between art museum and protest rally, they use institutional critique as a mirror to turn the colonial gaze back onto their audience. With "POZ Since 1492," the artist transforms the museum's façade into a public service announcement: we live on stolen land. Admission to ICA LA is free with timed-entry reservations. It is located at 1717 E. 7th St., Los Angeles. theicala.org



Save the Date

The Beverly Hills City Council Invites You To The Installation of

MAYOR SHARONA R. NAZARIAN

&

Vice Mayors John A. Mirisch & Craig A. Corman

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025 · 7 PM

Wallis Annenberg Center For The Performing Arts

Details To Follow

BEVERLY HILLS CONNECT, from page 1
live feeds will allow investigators to gain immediate insight into events unfolding during an incident, in real-time. This will enable better coordination of police resources, leading to a more effective response.

Speaking to the Courier, Lieutenant Executive Officer Kevin Orth said, "We have been exploring this technology and hope it will bridge the gap with our community members, residents and businesses. It will bring their cameras onto our network so we're able to view them in cases of emergent calls or progress."

"Beverly Hills Connect underscores

our commitment to working hand-in-hand with the community to create a safer, more connected city. This innovative program empowers residents to actively contribute to safety," said BHPD Chief of Police Mark Stainbrook.

Mayor Lester Friedman added, "Public safety has always been a top priority of mine. This program will further strengthen BHPD's partnership with residents and business owners, providing a valuable tool to hold criminals accountable and reinforce our commitment to keeping Beverly Hills a safe and secure community." ●

COMMITTEE, from page 1
best interest.

The discussion at the Feb. 18 meeting follows previous committee meetings regarding the standardization issue. Staff reviewed commission agendas from the last few years to help identify similarities and differences between the commissions.

The staff report identified significant overlaps between the Health and Safety Commission and the Human Relations Commission, suggesting a merger. The Health and Safety Commission focuses on topics such as smoking, emergency preparedness and water quality. Topics of discussion unique to the Human Relations Commission involve civility programs and various cultural initiatives in the city. Despite this, more similarities than differences were found between the two commissions. Namely, both commissions receive monthly reports about the Beverly Hills Police Department, Beverly Hills Unified School District, housing issues, mental health, safety and Community Assistance Grant Funding.

"I do see certain areas that overlap, and I certainly am concerned about the number of hours that are being utilized because these are hours that can address other issues happening in the community," Nazarian said.

In addition to time spent reviewing overlapping topics, staff reported that significant resources are required to support commission meetings. These include staff hours for creation of reports, commissioner training, printing of agenda packets and online broadcasting of meetings, with the annual cost of running a single commission often running into six figures.

The committee decided to merge the two commissions and asked city staff to consolidate the duties between the two to make the new, merged commission more efficient.

Nazarian said a new title will be created for the merged commission and reiterated the reasons behind why the committee decided to pursue this decision in the first place. "I just wanted to bring to everyone's attention how initially this was brought to us by our city clerk because we were having a hard time filling commission vacancies. It's not only a budgetary constraint and issue," she said.

While the committee was in favor of merging the Health and Safety Commission and the Human Relations Commission, the decision to do the same with the Recreation

and Parks Commission and the Arts and Culture Commission remains under consideration. The committee received public comments, including from former commissioners who objected to the decision to merge the two.

Topics of discussion common to both commissions involve events and programming at the Greystone Mansion and Gardens as well as events such as Festival Beverly Hills and the Beverly Hills Art Show. There are also differences between the two. The Recreation and Parks Commission focuses extensively on park projects and programming, while the Arts and Culture Commission prioritizes fine art acquisition, maintenance and funding alongside artist resources and cultural recognitions.

City staff recommended an alternative to a merger, which would see the Arts and Culture Commission revert back to the Fine Art Commission, which was its previous title. They would then meet quarterly rather than monthly and focus solely on fine art. Staff will revise plans for the Recreation and Parks and Arts and Culture Commissions to see how responsibilities can best be shared between the two. The committee will present final recommendations to the entire council.

After the committee meeting, Nazarian told the Courier, "First and foremost, we deeply value our commissioners and the important work they do. As a former commissioner myself, I understand the significance of their role. However, as a councilmember, it is my responsibility to ensure our city government operates as efficiently as possible. The Commission Standardization Ad Hoc Committee carefully reviewed the structure and relevance of our commissions, particularly as some date back to the 1950s and have either completed their purpose or become outdated. In this case, the Human Relations Commission and the Health and Safety Commission had overlapping responsibilities and had shifted from their original missions. As I mentioned during the meeting, these areas of redundancy and duplication of work made it clear that streamlining was necessary. This is not about eliminating commissions but rather merging them to create a stronger, more effective body that can better prioritize its work and more efficiently support the City Council in serving our community. Additionally, we have faced challenges in filling commission positions, which reinforced the need for this thoughtful restructuring." ●

Rooftop Dining Permit Approved for 499 N. Canon Drive



The Beverly Hills Tower

BY SEAN BECKNER-CARMITCHEL

Beverly Hills' first rooftop restaurant application was approved during a Beverly Hills Planning Commission hearing on Feb. 13. After some discussion regarding both traffic and noise concerns, the commission conditionally approved the Rooftop Dining Use Permit for the Beverly Hills Tower, located at 499 N. Canon Drive. The condition placed on the approval was that live or prerecorded music will not be allowed at the venue.

Previously, the only rooftop dining available in the city was limited to specific types of structures like hotels. Restaurants sit atop several city hotels, including the Peninsula Beverly Hills, Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills, the Beverly Hilton, Maybourne Beverly Hills and SIXTY Beverly Hills.

An ordinance passed in Aug 2024 allows applications for rooftop restaurants and open-air dining within the area which encompasses most of Beverly Hills' Business

See ROOFTOP, page 5



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Policy Manual Ad Hoc Recommends Changes



BY JESSICA OGILVIE

The City Council Policy Manual Ad Hoc Committee convened on Feb. 18 to discuss revisions to the City Council Policy and Operation Manual. City staff was directed to refine the language of a policy addressing whether councilmembers may take formal action at study session meetings.

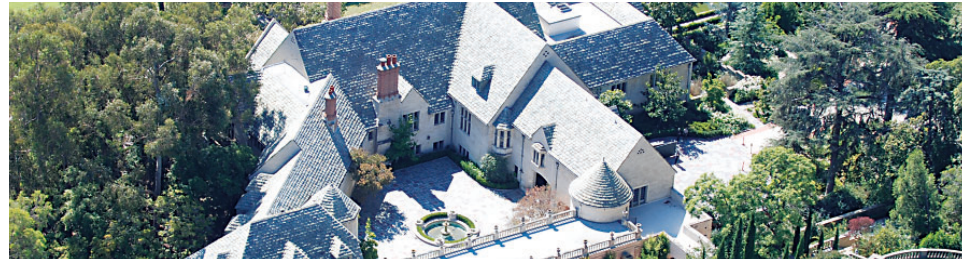
City Councilmember Craig Corman and Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, the members of the ad hoc committee, agreed to recommend language clarifying that City Council will only take formal action at study sessions if it is reasonably necessary or appropriate.

The language builds on an ordinance passed previously which caused considerable concern among community members.

"This was a hot potato last time we had this discussion at the City Council level," said Corman. "There were people who felt that the ordinance that allows actions to be taken at study sessions was changed in the dead of night many years ago, and they didn't know about it. We're changing the policy manual to be consistent."

The City Council Policy and Operation Manual was written in 2009. The current revision process began in August 2021, at See **POLICY MANUAL, page 13**

Council Allows Palisades Seniors to Hold Events in Beverly Hills



BY SELINA KAUSAR

The Beverly Hills City Council approved fee waivers at its Feb. 19 Regular Meeting for Palisades Charter High School seniors to use city parks and facilities for their upcoming events and also adopted new changes to city housing law.

Speaking on behalf of the Associated Student Body (ASB) and parents of Palisades Charter High School 2025 Senior Class, Ava Friedman, a senior at Palisades Charter High School and secretary of the ASB, addressed the council. She requested permission to host senior activities and events at Beverly Hills parks and facilities following the impact of the January 2025 wildfires, which left the Palisades Charter High School in an uninhabitable state. The request is also to waive field use, facility rental and parking fees associated with

hosting these events, which include the school's annual Soccer Banquet, Senior Class Breakfast and Senior Movie Night. Fees and costs for the events are estimated at \$8.876.

The ASB is planning to host senior activities at Roxbury Community Center and Park, La Cienega Park and Greystone Mansion and Gardens. "This would provide our seniors with the opportunity to celebrate together and create spaces where students can gather, reflect, connect and enjoy these milestones," Friedman said. "We appreciate the support that the city of Beverly Hills has shown our school ... over the last month, we have been granted access to tour these venues and the Beverly Hills staff have been kind and very accommodating." The council adopted the request to waive field use and facility rental fees for Palisades Charter High School events. ●

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*Must take financial possession by 2/28/25. Offer exp. 2/28/25.

Beverly Hills Christian Science Church

Community Fellowship Event

Sunday, February 23rd

Church Service at 11 a.m.

Subject: Mind

Readers: Debby Holcomb, Lewis Hall; Pianist: Amelia Thompson; Soloist: Sam Capella

Order of Service:

Prelude (begins at 10:50): A musical meditation; Hymn; Scriptural selection; Prayer; Hymn; Announcements;
Solo: "Lord, You Have Searched Me and Known Me" by Daniel Burton; Text: Psalm 139;
Lesson-sermon - readings from the Bible, and correlative passages from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy; Hymn; Closing citations; Postlude: Musical conclusion

Light Lunch at 12 Noon

Recital at 1 p.m.

12:55 - Information and Introductions

Mozart Piano Sonata No 9 in D major, K.311
and
Vocal works both gospel and contemporary

Amelia Thompson, piano
Sam Capella, tenor

Where?

The church auditorium at 141 S. Rexford Drive
<https://christiansciencebeverlyhills.org>

Self-parking in the garage or on the street. Or after 12 Noon in the lot across the street

All are welcome to attend the church service OR the recital OR both.

Architectural and Design Review Commission Approves New Developments



Rendering of the front elevation of the proposed single-family residence at 519 N. Roxbury Drive

BY SELINA KAUSAR

In a meeting on Feb. 18, the Architectural and Design Review Commission conditionally approved several new developments, including a single-family home at 519 N. Roxbury Drive and multiple retail requests.

The commission first reviewed a request for an R-1 Design Review Permit for the construction of a new two-story, single-family residence at 519 N. Roxbury Drive. The residence features a contemporary modern design with minimalist materials and a water-efficient landscape design.

Commission member Jeffrey Daniels liked the design overall but raised concerns about the heaviness of the stone at the proposed residence's entryway. "It's very substantial and I don't feel that it lives comfortably with the other homes on the street," Daniels said. "I like the assortment of materials you've selected. I think that the color palette is quite attractive."

Speaking on behalf of the applicants, a representative for the architectural firm behind the project said the entryway is their favorite part of the design, but they had also prepared an alternative design featuring inset paneling and darker stucco around the entryway rather than stone. Commissioners viewed a rendering of this alternative design. Commission member Terri Smooke said, "I like the alternate plan more with the darker stone; I think it's richer ... I think it creates a more cohesive appearance for the house."

Vice Chair Rebecca Pynoos asked about the landscaping options for the property. "This particular block of Roxbury is heavily green and landscaped ... and I feel this house, while modern, seems more of a departure from what is on the rest of the street," she said. The architect plans to keep the main tree in front of the house intact, which commission members appreciated, although they suggested planting more in the front yard to allow for tall growth and enhance the privacy of residents and neighbors.

Chair Evan Meyer was complimentary toward the development, expressing support for the modulation, color palette and mix of materials, but was unsure about the use of a bright white paint for the landscaping walls. "I'd personally love to see that color toned down a little bit and more in line with the stucco on the structure of the building," Meyer said.

The commission passed a resolution conditionally approving an R-1 permit for the

construction of a new single-family residence for the property. Conditions include updating the architectural plans to reflect the alternative design presented during this meeting, as well as using a warmer white paint to match the stone materials. The applicant must also specify the proposed location of the use of obscured glass on the window and door schedule in locations consistent with the elevations presented to the commission. The front yard wall should also be revised to match the condition along the southern property line and must wrap along the north side property line. Commissioners agreed that the landscaping plan be revised to include more plants and taller landscaping, subject to final review and approval by the director of community development.

The commission also reviewed a request for approval for a temporary mural on the facade of the Van Cleef and Arpels building at 300 N. Rodeo Drive. The retailer wishes to install a seasonal art mural for their "Lucky Spring" collection, designed by the artist Alexandre Benjamin Navet. Spring and winter art installations have been installed biannually at the Van Cleef and Arpels Rodeo Drive storefront in the past, with commissioners expressing that shoppers look forward to the new designs and how they enliven the street. The Spring 2025 mural involves large, colorful, illustrated flowers with LED strips for nighttime illumination. The commission approved the installation with a condition for an encroachment permit from the Public Works Department, should any part of the installation encroach into the public right-of-way.

Another retail request was received from Wilson Sporting Goods. The request was for a facade renovation, a flag sign and a sign accommodation for multiple business identification signs for a new retail store at 328 N. Beverly Drive. The subject property was previously occupied by the brand AllSaints and has been split into two separate tenant spaces since. Wilson requests to occupy the southerly half, with minimal updates to the existing storefront. They plan to install an oversized tennis ball display inside a display case. Commission members asked some clarifying questions about the size and placement of the Wilson sign but overall expressed support for the playful and creative design. The commission approved the proposal with a condition that the applicant must clarify how the tennis ball display area will be demised to ensure it is contained within the Wilson tenant space.

A similar request was made by Pura Vida Miami, a new restaurant at 439 N. Beverly Drive. They requested approval for a facade renovation, a sign accommodation for multiple business identification signs, an outdoor seating area and landscaping. The commissioners discussed the lighting plan and had some suggestions for additional lighting but overall were supportive of the restaurant's coastal, contemporary design. The project was conditionally approved, with the amendment to require an 8-foot vertical clearance for the projecting sign, as required by the city's municipal code. ●



Rendering courtesy of Gabbay Architects, Inc.

Rendering of proposed rooftop restaurant at 499 N. Canon Dr.

ROOFTOP, from page 3

Triangle. The ordinance requires the permits to be reviewed directly by the commission and thereafter by Community Development Director Ryan Gohlich.

Under the plans of the approved application, patrons of the restaurant will arrive via a new elevator within the building located adjacent to the entrance of the parking area. A valet stand would be located in front of the elevator entrance. The dining area will be 2,765 square feet and includes a 182-square-foot bar area and 270-square-foot kitchen. The restaurant will total 128 seats. A retractable canvas cover will sit atop, and there will be a nine-foot trellis structure.

During the Planning Commission meeting, Alan Berro, a neighbor who lives nearby, shared

concerns about late-night noise.

The owner of the building, Shawn Far, stated, "I understand that everyone is concerned about the noise. Our concern is not to create a restaurant with loud noise. This rooftop is so beautiful that you don't need anything else to be added to it to bring a beauty out of it."

Architect Hamid Gabbay, who submitted the application, told the commission, "One thing I have to say, the noise of Santa Monica Boulevard is much, much more than what possibly this small space could generate."

However, the commission ultimately placed conditions on the permit approval pertaining to the live or prerecorded music.

Gabbay later told the Courier, "Our opinion was that this rooftop is extremely far away from the houses." ●

Thank you,
First Responders...



Essential doesn't begin to describe how we feel about our community and each of you.

POPPY BANK



‘Sondheim’s Old Friends’—Everybody Rise!



Photo by Matthew Murphy

Jacob Dickey and Bernadette Peters

BY NEELY SWANSON

“Sondheim’s Old Friends,” now playing at the Ahmanson Theatre in its pre-Broadway run, will make you want to get up and sing and dance with the marvelous cast on stage. This is the third Sondheim-Cameron Mackintosh collaboration, and it is truly a meeting of the titans. Mackintosh had his first major hit with “Side by Side by Sondheim” in 1976, which predated “Cats.” He went on to produce “Putting it Together” in 1992 and now he has gifted us with “Sondheim’s Old Friends.” He and Sondheim, close friends, conceived this idea during the COVID-19 lockdown, talking often, discussing what they wanted to feature and what songs to include. Unlike the previous two productions, there would be no plot and no narrator tying everything together. This time the music would speak for itself, and it does, loud and clear.

Sadly, Sondheim passed away before the show was little more than a concept, but Mackintosh, a true believer, has come up with an amazing array of songs performed by a very talented cast, headlined by Bernadette Peters and Lea Salonga.

Sondheim got his start at the ripe old age of 27 writing the lyrics for “West Side Story,” and Lea Salonga’s solo of “Somewhere” will send shivers. But his goal was to write the words and music and almost got that chance with “Gypsy” when Ethel Merman, its star, demanded someone more experienced for the music. Still, his lyrics for that show are amazingly smart, sharp, pungent and funny. Lea Salonga, once again, brings down the house with her rendition of “Everything’s Coming Up Roses.”

“Sondheim’s Old Friends” has an

interesting and engaging structure. Performed on an essentially bare stage with risers on the right and left delineated by streamers of light and a small orchestra upstage. Even if the songs are unfamiliar to you, and some will be, they are choreographed and staged as little plays unto themselves. If you’ve never seen “Into the Woods” (and I haven’t), you will still recognize its fairy tale structure and story. “Agony” is a tale unto itself about the frustrating quest of two entitled princes longing for their lady loves (Cinderella and Rapunzel), just out of reach as Cinderella’s fella holds tightly to her glittery shoe and Rapunzel’s suitor can’t quite reach her tresses. In “I Know Things Now” and “Hello, Little Girls,” Bernadette Peters is a fetching Red Riding Hood wary of and then wooed by the unctuous, handsomely evil wolf sung by Jacob Dickey.

I had completely forgotten Sondheim’s early musical, “A Little Night Music,” based on the Ingmar Bergman movie, “Smiles of a Summer Night.” But I was transported to long-ago memories as the cast sang a clever ode to the pitfalls of “A Weekend in the Country.” It highlighted the complicated relationships the characters had with one another, but especially with the owners of the country chateau to which they were invited. It leads directly to said chateau and into Bernadette Peters singing “Send in the Clowns” as the melancholy dirge about bad timing and lost love that it is. That song has been covered so many times, most memorably, I think, by Judy Collins, that it was nice to be reminded where it came from. Although Peters has lost some of her range and her edges are occasionally rough, she makes up for it all in her amazing, poignant

and dramatic delivery.

I could go on and on, parsing each and every wonderful song, but it would be better for you to see this fantastic production. Most are from shows you might recognize like “Company” and “Into the Woods.” We are treated to a veritable “Reader’s Digest” condensed version of “Sweeney Todd” that highlights the dark humor of Mrs. Lovett, the worst pie maker in London, and the steadfast murderous vengeance of Sweeney Todd, all sung stunningly by Jeremy Secomb and Lea Salonga.

Beth Leavel channels her best Elaine Stritch in a stringent delivery of “Ladies Who Lunch,” and Bonnie Langford belts that formidable number, “I’m Still Here” from “Follies” that documents the ups and downs of a life in the theater, but really, any life lived for passion.

By taking all of these songs, some from shows that are famous and others that aren’t, most notably, the hilarious “The Boy From,” a collaboration with Mary Rogers (the daughter of Richard) for the off-Broadway show “The Mad Show,” Cameron Mackintosh hasn’t just created an ode to Sondheim but

also a love letter to musical theater. And he’s done it without plot or narration. The songs speak, or rather sing for themselves and immerse you in the messages that each puts forward, whether of love lost and/or found, cynicism, joy, sadness and regret.

Directed seamlessly by Mathew Bourne, who redefined ballet with his “Swan Lake,” and choreographed by Stephen Mear, whose dance numbers seem effortless (they’re not) and contribute greatly to how the production flows. So great is the direction and choreography that it seems invisible but, like the music, it will carry you away.

It is a very large cast of 15 extraordinarily talented singers and dancers, all with multiple Broadway and West End credits under their belts. There isn’t space to mention them all, but they all deserve mention.

My advice? Get tickets while you can to this limited pre-Broadway run.

Now playing through March 9 at the Ahmanson Theatre, 135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles. Check with Audience Services (213-628-2772) for matinees and performance times. ●



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.

In an effort to inspire a conversation about the issues facing homeowners—especially after the recent wildfires—the Courier is launching this Real Estate Opinion page. The inaugural entry by Melody Avecilla focuses on California’s insurance market.

California Insurance Crisis: From Haven to Havoc—Is Hope on the Horizon?

BY MELODY AVECILLA

California’s insurance marketplace is in turmoil—and there is no denying it. From rising premiums to fewer carriers, many homeowners are left questioning: why is this happening, and how long will it last? To understand the full picture, we need to peel back the layers and examine three main factors: wildfire risks, regulatory constraints, and economic pressures.

1. Wildfire Risks and Catastrophic Losses

California has long battled wildfires, but recent years have seen these disasters reach record-breaking levels. Wildfires have become more frequent, intense, and destructive, largely due to climate change, droughts, and forest mismanagement. Hotter temperatures, prolonged droughts, and stronger winds have lengthened fire seasons, creating the perfect storm for catastrophic fires.

Look at some of the most damaging fires in recent history. The Cedar Fire (2003) and Witch Fire (2007) in San Diego County caused billions in damages, prompting insurers to reassess their exposure in fire-prone areas. The 2017-2018 wildfires were especially catastrophic, with the Camp Fire (2018) wiping out the entire town of Paradise and causing over \$16 billion in insured losses.

And just last month, the Pacific Palisades fire made headlines for its scale. This fire burned 23,448 acres and destroyed over 6,800 structures in Pacific Palisades, Malibu, and Topanga—further straining insurance reserves and drawing more attention to the risks insurers face.

2. Regulatory Constraints: The Role of Prop 103

One unique element that exacerbates the crisis is California’s Proposition 103, a consumer protection measure passed by voters in 1988. The law requires insurance companies to seek approval from the California Insurance Commissioner before raising rates. While the intent is to prevent rapid rate hikes, the system has its consequences.

In practice, insurers often face long delays before their rate requests are reviewed. During the 2021-2022 period, some insurers had to wait over two years for rate hikes, leaving them operating at a loss. The inability to adjust rates quickly enough, combined with mounting claims, has led many insurers to exit the state entirely. As a result, close to 70% of major carriers have left California, pushing remaining insurers to increase premiums for those who stay.

This regulatory logjam has also contributed to the rise of the California FAIR Plan, the state’s insurance of last resort. With more homeowners turning to the FAIR Plan for coverage, its market share has grown dramatically, from about 127,000 policies in 2023 to over 400,000 policies. The FAIR Plan, however, faces its own financial dilemma.

3. Economic Pressures: Rising Costs and Reinsurance

Economic pressures also play a significant role in the current crisis. Rising construction costs due to inflation, supply chain disruptions, and labor shortages have driven up the cost of home repairs and rebuilding. Insurers are finding that their policies are underpriced compared to the actual costs of rebuilding homes after disasters.

Moreover, insurance fraud, legal expenses, and skyrocketing reinsurance costs have made it even harder for carriers to stay afloat. While insurers need to charge more to cover these rising costs, the regulatory environment slows down their ability to adjust premiums in time. This mismatch between pricing and expenses only adds to the pressure on insurers.

Where We Are Now

The situation is fragile. While regulatory reforms are being discussed, progress has been slow. Insurance companies continue to struggle, and homeowners are facing higher premiums and fewer choices. The market is delicate, and with the right changes and adjustments, there’s of course a strong possibility for improvements. From here on out, things can only improve.

What Needs to Happen?

Several reforms are needed to stabilize California’s insurance marketplace:

Revise Prop 103: The state may need to allow insurers to use predictive catastrophe modeling (as other states do) rather than relying on outdated historical data. This could help insurers better assess rising risks due to climate change and wildfires.

Restructure the FAIR Plan: The FAIR Plan needs a considerable overhaul. This could involve increasing coverage limits (currently capped at \$3 million) and providing more sustainable solutions for homeowners seeking coverage.

Public-Private Partnerships: One potential

solution is a public-private partnership that helps share the financial risks between the state and private insurers. This could help stabilize the market and reduce the burden on individual carriers.

Final Thoughts

The root of California’s insurance crisis is clear: a mix of outdated regulations and rising wildfire risks. Until the state can find a way to balance consumer protection with insurer profitability, the situation is unlikely to improve. Homeowners should brace for continued premium hikes, potentially ranging from double to quadruple or much more than what they’re currently paying.

For those with homes valued over \$5 million, it’s crucial to start shopping around for insurance quotes early—allowing 3-4 days or preferably longer to gather quotes. Note

however that most carriers will not give quotes earlier than 60 days before policy renews. It is crucial to work with an experienced insurance broker to navigate these challenging waters.

Is There Hope?

Despite the significant challenges, there is a glimmer of hope. Talks are underway to modernize the insurance rating, and with the right reforms, a more balanced and resilient marketplace could emerge. However, the timeline for these changes is uncertain, and the ultimate cost remains to be seen.

For now, Californians must remain vigilant, aware that the road to recovery may be arduous—but with collective effort, progress is on its way. Stay informed, stay prepared and know that better days must be on the horizon. ●



D LINE SUBWAY EXTENSION PROJECT
Section 2 – Beverly Hills

We’re building better transit from DTLA to the Westside.

February Updates

Piling activities taking place on Wilshire Bl from 9am to 4pm.

There are curb lane closures between Crescent Dr and Beverly Dr. Station construction continues underground.



Melody Avecilla, MBA, is an insurance expert with more than 20 years’ experience specializing in high-value residential properties. She is the principal agent and president of Cost Wise Insurance Center.



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D LINE EXT COBH 2

9153 JANICE PLACE

— BEVERLY HILLS POST OFFICE —



The Janice Place Estate is a stunning contemporary masterpiece nestled on an approx 28,965 SF lot in a secluded cul-de-sac just north of the prestigious Trousdale Estates. This newly built, single-story home spans 6,194 SF and features six en-suite bedrooms and nine bathrooms. Designed for seamless indoor-outdoor living, the home boasts retractable floor-to-ceiling glass doors that open from the great room to a lush backyard oasis with an infinity pool, spa, and breathtaking canyon views.

6BD | 9BA | \$12,495,000 or \$65,000/mo

THE BEVERLY HILLS ESTATES

BRANDEN & RAYNI WILLIAMS | 310.626.4248 | THEBEVERLYHILLSESTATES.COM

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1136 CALLE VISTA DRIVE, BEVERLY HILLS

5 BD + 4 BA | 7,864 SQFT | 31,875 SQFT LOT
\$17,995,000 | VIEWSTATEBEVERLYHILLS.COM



500 LESLIE LANE,
BEVERLY HILLS

1 HALF ACRE LOT
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POCKET LISTING
IN BEVERLY HILLS

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BEVERLY HILLS

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\$65,000,000*
REPRESENTED THE BUYER AND SELLER

1006 N ROXBURY DRIVE
\$37,110,000
REPRESENTED THE BUYER

OFF-MARKET ESTATE
\$35,000,000
REPRESENTED THE SELLER

948 N ALPINE DRIVE
\$33,000,000
REPRESENTED THE SELLER



616 N BEVERLY DRIVE | \$66,000,000
SUSAN SMITH, RICHARD MASLAN 310.415.5175 DRE 01187140, DRE 01304570



1005 N ALPINE DRIVE | \$65,000,000
DREW FENTON 310.623.3622 DRE 01317962 RENDERING



1118 CALLE VISTA DRIVE | \$29,995,000
DREW FENTON 310.623.3622 DRE 01317962



13961 AUBREY ROAD | \$22,995,000
JAMES HARRIS, DAVID PARNES 310.733.8038 DRE 01909801, DRE 01905862



1054 ANGELO DRIVE | \$22,500,000
RICHARD ERHLICH 310.968.8881 DRE 01267136



9509 HEATHER ROAD | \$21,995,000
JAMES HARRIS, DAVID PARNES 310.733.8038 DRE 01909801, DRE 01905862

CAROLWOOD
CAROLWOODRE.COM

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EST. **a** 2006
CHRISTIAN ANGLE
 REAL ESTATE



1610 N. OCEAN BOULEVARD, PALM BEACH, FLORIDA



EXCLUSIVE: \$69,500,000

Stunning Lakefront 6BR/7.2BA home built in 2018. Gorgeous blue wide water views from all primary rooms. Highlights include library, elevator, home gym, and 4 car garage. Gorgeous tropical landscaping. Pool, spa, and loggia with fireplace overlooks Intracoastal. Dock with boat lift and seating area.



150 EL VEDADO ROAD, PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

Stunning Palm Beach classic Regency estate with 7BR/9.1BA and library. Beautifully landscaped motor court with a grand sense of arrival.

EXCLUSIVE: \$32,500,000



1090 N. OCEAN BOULEVARD, PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

Stunning reimagined 5BR/5.1BA home just one house from the beach. Gorgeous backyard with oversized loggia, dining patio, and beautiful pool.

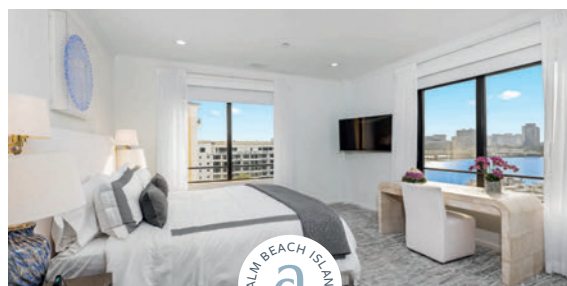
EXCLUSIVE: \$24,900,000



241 EL DORADO ROAD
 PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

Beautiful 7BR/7.1BA home in the Near North End with 6,493+/- SqFt on fabulous double lot.

EXCLUSIVE: \$22,900,000



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499 N. Canon Drive
Suite 212
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
310-278-1322
Fax: 310-271-5118
BEVERLYHILLSCOURIER.COM

Publishers

Lisa Friedman Bloch

John Bendheim

Executive Editor

Ana Figueroa

Writers

Sean Beckner-Carmitchel

Selina Kausar

Jessica Ogilvie

Neely Swanson

Advertising Directors

Rod Pingul

Dina Figueroa

Business Operations Manager

Beverly Weitzman

Production Director

Ferry Simanjuntak

Prod. Manager/Assoc. Editor

Jamison Province



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Birthdays



TRACEY WILEN-DAUGENTI
February 21



JOSH JOHNSTON
February 22



EMILY BLUNT
February 23



JAD MAAMARI
February 23



STEVE WEBB
February 23



DANIEL KALUUYA
February 24



BERNARDO PUCCIO
February 24

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Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). "Am I OK?" is a question many wouldn't think to ask. Asking already puts you in the realm of self-reflection that means you're so much more than OK. Go deeper today and ask, "What might bring about my thriving?"

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Not everyone in your circle is living up to the values you hold dear. You may worry about being guilty by association, but you needn't. You're building a legacy that's entirely your own, and that's something the faults of others cannot touch.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You honor a person's preferences, which speaks to the deep respect and care you show others. You'll give the sweetest gestures, celebrating someone while respecting their wishes.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Good will come out of your interactions with people who think differently. Sometimes people are thinking small, but they have big hearts. You don't have to change another person's mind to connect in some way. While

intending to find common ground, you will.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's OK to feel nervous; it means you care, and that caring is what drives you forward. Wishing for support is natural, but even without someone beside you in a moment, you're still capable of navigating this on your own terms.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Emotions have their own timing. When you're going through something, just remember that it's temporary. You have a very stable set point you will return to. There's a cheerful vibe just waiting on the other side of this with open arms.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Some believe we're born unknowing, while others argue we enter the world fully aware, only to spend our lives unlearning, striving to rediscover that knowledge. Whatever your theory may be, today will put it to the test.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your priorities will shift again, and as they do, you'll think about making tweaks to your current lifestyle in the interest of creating a more supportive and nourishing environment for your thriving.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your relationship with earth signs -- the Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn types

-- will help you stay calm and grounded, work through problem-solving strategies, and provide a sounding board for any ideas or challenges that come up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's no reason to force things. It may feel like people are asking you to feel differently than you do, which is not only rather controlling of them; it might be an impossible ask. Still, you can move forward graciously choosing what to engage with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You seek

connection and lightness and thrive in dynamics that feel mutual. So, when someone operates with a different approach, it could throw you for a loop, which is a sign that you are alert and all systems are working correctly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've already proven your creativity and drive. You may wonder if you can stay calm and solve the problems that come up, but others believe you can, so you may as well believe right along with them.



This week's adoptable dog is Brandi. She is a 7-pound, 8-year-old Shih Tzu who was hit by a car and subsequently lost an eye. She's recovering thanks to the veterinary care provided by Shelter of Hope. If interested in this very sweet girl, please contact Kim Sill at Shelter of Hope at 310-770-3571.

shelterhopepetshop.org

MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR, from page 1
 are held in June for three city councilmembers in non-presidential election years. In presidential election years, elections are held in March for two city councilmembers.

Additionally, Beverly Hills voters approved Measure TL in 2022, which imposes a limit of three terms of four years each for councilmembers.

Due to these state laws and city practices, it is possible for a councilmember to be elected mayor in April of the last year of their term, then cease to hold office in July of the same year because he or she is not reelected, terms out or decides not to run for office. In such a case, that individual would hold the office of mayor for just three months.

After several potential solutions were eliminated at the Feb. 5 Study Session, City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey presented the council with two revised options in the Feb. 19 Study Session. Both effectively prevented councilmembers who received the fewest votes in June elections from serving as vice mayor or mayor.

During a 1.5-hour discussion, councilmembers weighed the pros and cons of the proposals. Most were concerned that preventing the councilmember with the fewest votes from serving as vice mayor was inequitable.

"If three people are elected, then that's the will of the people, and they want all three people to serve at some point," said Vice Mayor Nazarian. "Removing the third person altogether from the election cycle seems a little unfair."

The councilmembers largely agreed that

no options existed in which no one would be negatively affected. They also agreed that the individual with the fewest votes should be allowed to serve as vice mayor. However, this did not eliminate the possibility of a person who had never served as vice mayor to be installed as mayor.

The final proposal was put forth by Councilmember Craig Corman, who suggested a solution based on the council's recent decision to split the 2025-2026 vice mayorship. Corman reiterated that the councilmember who receives the fewest votes in June elections should be allowed to serve as vice mayor but not mayor, with the caveat that if the individual who is next in rotation has never served as mayor, the vice mayorship would be split.

"This basically conforms with what we're [already] doing," said Corman.

Nazarian agreed, adding that the issue can always be brought back to council, particularly given that several of the potentially problematic outcomes would not happen for at least 10 years.

"I don't think that anybody sitting up here is unreasonable, and I'm hopeful for the future, and I would leave that up to the council in 10 years to make that decision with their colleagues," she said.

Councilmember Mary Wells and Mayor Lester Friedman were in agreement. Councilmember John Mirisch maintained that denying one councilmember from serving as mayor, specifically, particularly if they serve more than one term, was unfair, and abstained. ●

POLICY MANUAL, from page 4
 which time the sitting City Council agreed to split the document into a handbook and a manual.

The handbook, once complete, will contain historical and general information about the city, and the manual will contain the city's policy and procedural information.

City staff has since drafted edits to both the handbook and the manual. Those edits include proposed updated language for policies regarding study sessions.

The 2009 version of the manual states that the council "shall not take any formal or binding action upon any resolution, ordinance or other action required by law to be taken by the council," adding that such actions are reserved for formal City Council meetings.

The new language proposed by city staff and discussed at the Feb. 18 meeting would change that language to read, "While the City Council may take formal action at a study session meeting, it is the aim of the City Council that the public comment on

major items should generally occur at the formal session."

Nazarian and Corman agreed that the proposal needs to be clarified and sent it back to staff to edit. Both wanted the language to make explicit that the council's intent is not to take action during study sessions.

"The language, right now, isn't quite as clear as I think it could be," said Corman. "We made the change years ago, and we're making the policy manual change to be consistent, but it is not something we are going to regularly do or intend to do to somehow short circuit public comment or public input."

According to City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey, there have been several occasions upon which formal decisions have been made at study sessions, but it's unusual.

"I believe one of the Oct. 7 meetings where we needed to approve funding for the flags ... we took that action at that meeting," she said at the Feb. 19 meeting. "It's pretty rare, but I understand tightening up the language." ●

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Traffic will be impacted as lane restrictions will be in place due to equipment and crews





-  **WILSHIRE BLVD:**
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Work dates are February 26 – March 25; intermittent work daily
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-  **Road Closure (No Access)**
-  **City Boundary**

For more information, please contact the Construction Hotline at (424) 252-1338.

Fun and Games

SUDOKU
02/21/25 ISSUE

			5	3		2		
				6	7			8
9	7							5
	8	6						1 5
3		4				8		2
7	5					4	3	
	4							2 1
1			4	7				
		9		5	1			

SUDOKU ANSWERS
02/14/25 ISSUE

7	1	8	5	6	9	2	4	3
2	9	4	3	8	1	7	6	5
6	5	3	7	4	2	9	1	8
9	6	5	4	1	7	8	3	2
1	4	2	9	3	8	6	5	7
8	3	7	6	2	5	1	9	4
5	7	1	8	9	3	4	2	6
3	2	6	1	7	4	5	8	9
4	8	9	2	5	6	3	7	1

PUZZLE ANSWERS
02/14/25 ISSUE

MART	SAY	PRADA	HAWK
ARIA	SPREE	DOGES	AMIE
RACHE	LW	ISZ	QUICK
STOOL	IE	MRMAGOO	CARED
	MMMD	CV	ARCH
ALFAS	COG	SHADE	ESTAS
REL	TROLLED	GEM	DU/TCH
ETAS	OPTIMA	ESPY	TOK
ATTICA	DISS	COOKS	
METRO	D/NOME	HOMERUN	BAO
ARE	NONEOF	CANINE	EMP
PAR/Y	GITANOS	STAGT	ENAME
	JASON	ELEC	USEDON
CIA	EAST	INABAR	TONI
LONGO	STA	CDRACKS	LIN
ENSUE	TORME	ANO	US/F
AVIAN	TARP	GUMMI	
PEDRO	BANDSAW	SAMEOLD	
TREXK	J/P	OKER	T/OA
OGRE	ELISE	H/E	RNIA
NESS	GLOSS	DOC	ASST

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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
02/21/25 ISSUE

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
BY RICH KATZ AND JEFF CHEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Rich Katz, of Park City, Utah, does freelance work in corporate restructuring and bankruptcy liquidations. Jeff Chen, of Seattle, is a professional puzzlemaker and editor who's a frequent contributor here. This puzzle started when one of them noticed the double entendre at 86-Across. They thought 116-Across made a nice exclamation point to the theme set. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dressed (in)
 - 5 Facial cream amount
 - 8 Harriet Tubman was one for the Union
 - 11 Place in a pyramid, say
 - 17 Site of the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial
 - 18 Head of a noted animal rescue project
 - 20 Prospectors' targets
 - 22 "Take me to your _____" (alien demand)
 - 23 TV's "Search for the Titanic," for one?
 - 26 Fifth-century conqueror who tried (and failed!) to take Rome
 - 27 Charcuterie assortment
 - 28 It's hard to see
 - 29 Champagne name
 - 31 Honk
 - 32 Chestnuts
 - 35 Instructions for slaying Dracula?
 - 38 Tibetan beasts
 - 40 Realm
 - 41 Concern in data transmission
 - 42 Shoppers' conveniences
 - 46 Tributary of the Colorado River
 - 48 Bit of Rasta headwear
 - 49 Tribe along the Missouri River
 - 51 Broadway offering titled with dots and dashes?
 - 54 Ones moving with the music?
 - 58 High-protein diet
 - 59 Nat _____ (channel)
 - 60 Prove untrue
 - 63 Farm call
 - 64 Belfry locale
 - 67 Indian dish featuring potatoes and cauliflower
 - 69 Rear
 - 70 TED Talk about neuropsychology?
 - 73 Syllables of reproof
 - 75 "So is this our plan or not?"
 - 76 Ones whistling while they work?
 - 79 "May Day is _____ Day in Hawaii" (holiday slogan)
 - 80 Like tightwads
 - 81 Poetic tribute
 - 83 Lose ground, say
 - 84 Scout's container
 - 86 U-Haul ad?
 - 89 Sister of Hades
 - 90 Picture of Pluto, for instance
 - 92 Org. holding an annual basketball championship since 1939
 - 93 Metaphorical bit of progress
 - 94 Spiced quaff
 - 96 Bud after Jack, perhaps?
 - 99 _____ mind
 - 101 Email thread with a "Donate now!" message?
 - 104 "Chow time!"
 - 109 Chuck
 - 110 "I solemnly swear ...," for one
 - 111 Longtime restaurant critic _____ Greene
 - 113 Feature of the Niña, but not the Pinta
 - 114 Milan fashion house
 - 116 Giddiness at completing this crossword puzzle?
 - 120 Flattened, in a way
 - 121 Contribution to a pot
 - 122 Reason someone might go streaking
 - 123 To be, in Gay Paree
 - 124 Common sonata enders
 - 125 Pluto, e.g.
 - 126 Aired of the game show "The Cube"
 - 127 Off to someone's inbox
 - 21 Vodka brand, informally
 - 24 "My goodness!"
 - 25 Thigh muscle, informally
 - 30 Toy inventor with a background in sculpture and architecture
 - 33 Living _____
 - 34 Take off the top
 - 36 Thurman of film
 - 37 Partner of dagger
 - 39 Hardly a romp
 - 42 Wrigglers by the Nile
 - 43 "Like _____," rap hit fueling the Drake/Kendrick Lamar beef of 2024
 - 44 Fabric similar to suede
 - 45 _____ week (TV ratings period)
 - 47 Cover for a hardwood floor
 - 50 This evening, in commercialese
 - 52 Climber's aid
 - 53 Alone
 - 55 What face emojis with hearts for eyes mean
 - 56 Long, long time
 - 57 Roll of green
 - 60 Harmonic R&B subgenre
 - 61 Goaded
 - 62 When doubled, chocolate treat
 - 65 Journalist Holt
 - 66 Herbal supplement used as a cold remedy
 - 68 Condition that may involve repetitive behaviors, for short
 - 69 Dragster
 - 71 Term of endearment
 - 72 It's a thing
 - 73 R&B trio with the 1999 No. 1 hit "No Scrubs"
 - 74 Something blue that follows Black or Red
 - 77 Adam's apple locale
 - 78 Spanish muralist whose "American Progress" is in the lobby of 30 Rockefeller Plaza
 - 80 Welcome at the door
 - 82 Imprint, as a lasting memory
 - 85 Home of Si Racha, where the hot sauce was invented
 - 86 Did some winter riding
 - 87 The third one is often dangerous
 - 88 Roof overhang
 - 90 Computers' process of storing data
 - 91 Superlative suffix
 - 94 Cylindrical Mexican pastry
 - 95 Actor Mark of "NCIS"
 - 97 Yoga type
 - 98 Crowd noise
 - 100 "Oh, you're in on this, too?"
 - 101 Be in charge of, as a committee
 - 102 Substances in sports scandals, familiarly
 - 103 Require
 - 105 Listings on a blogroll
 - 106 In the 1%
 - 107 Decorate
 - 108 Believe it!
 - 112 It's passed on the way to the bar, for short
 - 115 Keanu's role in "The Matrix"
 - 117 Classic muscle car
 - 118 Ball
 - 119 Tous _____ jours (every day, in French)

ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...

- 73 R&B trio with the 1999 No. 1 hit "No Scrubs"
- 74 Something blue that follows Black or Red
- 77 Adam's apple locale
- 78 Spanish muralist whose "American Progress" is in the lobby of 30 Rockefeller Plaza
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Public Notices

OBITUARIES

Michele Mary Merrill

(October 24, 1949 - January 18, 2025)



With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Michele Mary Merrill, 75 years old, who peacefully passed away on January 18, 2025, after a long illness. Michele was born on October 24, 1949 in San Francisco, California. She was the cherished sister of Shirley Kliman-Landau, a wonderful, fun-loving aunt to her niece and nephews, Jeffrey, Corey, Kelly and Bradley, a loving daughter to Lillian Martha Merrill and Elbert Edward Merrill and a friend to many. Michele was known for her creativity, kindness and carried a wonderful sense of humor. Michele was a dedicated employee in the City of Beverly Hills for 30 years, serving as Recreational Service Manager within the Cultural Art Department. She developed many ongoing events for the city, some continue today, such as Affairs in the Gardens, A Fine Arts Show, Greystone Park Jazz and Classical Concert Series, Catskills West Summer Art Camp, many youths/teen/adult leisure and cultural workshops and was an organizer of the Meals on Wheels program. Through the local cable television channel, Michèle hosted or produced Recreational News, Community Focus of Beverly Hills, Arts and Aesthetics, and other programs for the educational channel and the City's Municipal Government.

Michele had a wonderful sense of humor that her niece and nephews and all family members enjoyed. Michele was a prankster, never forgetting to make fun out of little things. This brought joy and laughter to all who knew her.

We love you, Michele!

MICHELE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED!

Donations in Michele's memory can be made to any nonprofit Alzheimers Foundation or www.alzheimers.gov.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT **2025000053** The following is/are doing business as: **BRANDEJA ENTERPRISES 9546 W. PICO BLVD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90035**; Roxanne Debby Jasper 9546 W. Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90035; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL** registrant(s) has HAS begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on February 2004: **Roxanne Debby Jasper, Owner**. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: January 2, 2025; Published: February 14, 21, 28, March 7, 2025 LACC N/C

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CASE NO: 25SMCP00081 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

In the Matter of the petition of:

Dawn Marie Duda

To all interested person(s): Petitioner: **Dawn Marie Duda** current residence address: **1721 Ferrari Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210** filed a petition with the **Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St. Santa Monica, 90401. Santa Monica Courthouse, on February 18, 2025** for a Decree changing names as follows:

Present Name:

Dawn Marie Duda

Proposed Name:

Dawn Alexandra Marie Duda

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. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING:

Date: April 4, 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 her proposed name wishes to be known by her 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: **Dawn Marie Duda**

Judge of the Superior Court:

Lawrence H. Cho

Clerk: David W. Slayton

Deputy: L. Kulkin

Dated: February 18, 2025

Published: 02/21/25, 02/28/25, 03/07/25, 03/14/25

BHC-R29333

SUMMONS (CITATION JUDICIAL) CASE NO: 24SMCV01414

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS:

KIRANJIT SIDHU, an individual; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:

EMELYN NAZARIAN, 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.

fo.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:

Los Angeles Superior Court, Beverly Hills Courthouse

9355 Burton Way, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Judge: Michael E. Whitaker, Dept. 207 E.

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: PATHWAY LAW FIRM, P.C.

9454 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 303

Beverly Hills, CA 90212

310-414-3898 - joe@pathwayfirm.com

Date: 02/06/2025

By: David W. Slayton, Clerk • J. Young Deputy

Judicial Officer: Michael E. Whitaker

BHC• Published 02/21/25, 02/28/25,

03/07/25, 03/14/25

SUMMONS (CITATION JUDICIAL) CASE NO: 24SMCV01414

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS:

LEANNA MICHELLE SIDHU, an individual; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:

EMELYN NAZARIAN, 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.

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The name and address of the court is:

Los Angeles Superior Court, Beverly Hills Courthouse

9355 Burton Way, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Judge: Michael E. Whitaker, Dept. 207 E.

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: PATHWAY LAW FIRM, P.C.

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Beverly Hills, CA 90212

310-414-3898 - joe@pathwayfirm.com

Date: 02/06/2025

By: David W. Slayton, Clerk • J. Young Deputy

Judicial Officer: Michael E. Whitaker

BHC• Published 02/21/25, 02/28/25,

03/07/25, 03/14/25

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notices

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

**REQUEST FOR PREQUALIFICATION
OF BIDDERS AND PREQUALIFICATION
INSTRUCTIONS FOR:
Waterproofing Projects at Various
Subterranean Structures
RFQ #25-350-18**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Beverly Hills ("CITY") has determined that all bidders for the WATERPROOFING PROJECTS AT VARIOUS SUBTERRANEAN STRUCTURES, ("Project") must be pre-qualified prior to submitting a bid on the Project. 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 Monday, March 10, 2025**. Contractors are encouraged to submit prequalification packages as soon as possible, so that they may be notified of omissions of information to be remedied or of their prequalification status in advance of the prequalification deadline for this Project.

A contractor (B and D-51 licenses) is the prime contractor for this project, and the contractor will need to subcontract with the appropriate contractors for a turnkey project.

Answers to questions contained in the questionnaire are required. The questionnaire is posted on Planet Bids portal: <https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=39493>.

The item is listed as: Request for prequalification of bidders for: *Waterproofing Projects at Various Subterranean Structures*

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.

The prequalification packages should be submitted electronically on Planet Bids. Questions regarding the questionnaire and the qualification package should be submitted on Planet Bids.

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 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.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2025023576 The following is/are doing business as: **JIM SORKIN CONSTRUCTION 605 N. OAKHURST DRIVE, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210** Jim Sorkin 605 N. Oakhurst Drive, 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 August 1994: **Jim Sorkin, Owner**. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 5, 2025; Published: February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 2025 LACC N/C

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CASE NO: 25SMCP00039
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

In the Matter of the petition of:

Ara Kashanian

To all interested person(s): Petitioner: **Ara Kashanian** current residence address: **2473 Crestview Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90046** filed a petition with the **Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St. Santa Monica, 90401. Santa Monica Courthouse, on January 29, 2025** for a Decree changing names as follows:

Present Name: **Ara Kashanian**

Proposed Name: **ARA YEGANEH**

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. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING:

Date: February 28, 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 her proposed name wishes to be known by her 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: **Ara Kashanian**

Judge of the Superior Court:

Lawrence H. Cho

Clerk: David W. Slayton

Deputy: L. Kulkin

Dated: January 29, 2025

Published: 01/31/25, 02/07/25, 02/14/25, 02/21/25 BHC-R29277

**Public Notice of Unclaimed Funds
Being held by the City of Beverly Hills**

The City of Beverly Hills hereby provides notice to owners of record of unclaimed funds in the City's possession that the unclaimed funds will escheat to the City by operation of law if not claimed by the date and time set forth below. Below is a list of unclaimed funds in the City's possession that have not been claimed, along with the owners of record. This publication notice is the final notice to the owners that these moneys will escheat to the City at 12:01 am on April 22, 2025 by operation of law pursuant to Government Code sections 50050 through 50056, if not claimed by the date specified below. Any claim for these unclaimed funds must be received by the City no later than 5:30 pm on April 21, 2025. Claims should be filed with the City of Beverly Hills, Accounting Division, Attn: Unclaimed Property, 455 N Rexford Dr #350, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. A claim form may be obtained from the Accounting Division or on the City's website at: <http://www.beverlyhills.org/340/unclaimedfunds>. Proof of identity will be required.

307 Witmer LLC 15,000.00, Addie Doyle 769.69, Agra Consulting Inc. 61.94, Alex Levy 259.02, Alina Blyzniuk 63.00, Amir Rejaei 5,000.00, Anderson Brady Kevin 79.00, Block Advisors 2,681.15, Bruce Askari 325.00, C. E. S. 5,000.00, Cunningham Fred 58.00, CWV - Palm LLC 10,000.00, Daniela J Verbena 18.62, Dan-Tam Pham 17.00, Daryl Gaunt 1,800.00, Dennis M. Kuntorovskiy 1,362.00, Department Of Justice 192.00, Douglas Adams 14,046.25, Douglas Adams 14,046.25, ECMC 525.64, ECMC 525.64, Edfund 468.65, Edfund 468.65, Edward McGrath 112.26, Eimi Tomimatsu & Cesar Tino 17.00, Fariborz Farnad 578.87, Franchise Tax Board 2,660.15, George W. Elkins III 5,000.00, George W. Elkins III 5,000.00, Herbert B. Steidle 360.00, Hughes Sherri 58.00, Jaklin Tehranfar 63.00, Jamshid Mehdizadeh 800.00, Jano Baghdanian 9,955.00, Joanna S. Josue 900.00, Joanna S. Josue 1,057.50, LA Invest, LLC 7,169.15, Lanie Albin 236.50, Lesley Harris 104.64, Linda Hammes 612.34, Martin Cadillac 5,000.00, Melvin Sewell 123.00, Monica Borne 446.00, Nassir Orly 58.00, Nazanin Aynechi 58.00, Nicole Dayan 58.00, Pacific Production Services 629.00, Pavel Shkurikhin 136.55, Queenbee LLC 5,000.00, Russ Randall 150.73, Ready Store LLC 41,199.38, S B S Intl Dev Inc 834.64, Sheila Paul 44.00, Soussan Haroni 5,000.00, South Bay Document Destruction, Inc. 1,406.00, Stanley Production Services 478.50, Stanley Production Services 55.50, Sunshine Construction & Remodel 17.94, Tatum Ozen 17.00, The Impact Agency 41.00, Thompson Coe, & O'Meara, LLP 2,115.29, Universal Music Group, Inc. 390.00, Colie Wainer 127.83, Zoran Lukic 83.00, Z-Ultimate Self Defense Studios 263.45.

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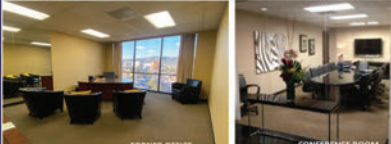
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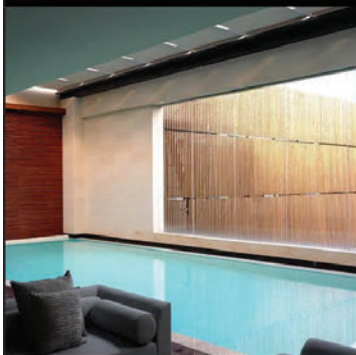


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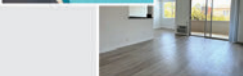
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