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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

☁️ Friday	67°   51°
☁️ Saturday	64°   52°
☁️ Sunday	59°   47°
☁️ Monday	60°   46°
☁️ Tuesday	62°   47°
☁️ Wednesday	60°   48°
☁️ Thursday	61°   47°

## Dr. Michael Bregy Resigns as BHUSD Superintendent

BY SEAN BECKNER-CARMITCHEL

Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy has resigned from his position effective Feb. 24. Bregy's resignation comes after more than eight years with the district. Dr. Jason Hasty, formerly Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, will serve as acting superintendent while the board searches

for a replacement.

The resignation was announced in a Feb. 21 email to parents and teachers from the BHUSD board. The email referred to Bregy's "dedication and leadership over the past eight and a half years." It continued, "His impact on BHUSD has been profound, starting with leading the district's reconfiguration which allowed for a significant expansion

See DR. MICHAEL BREGY, page 7

## Mayor Lester Friedman Attends Westside Mayors Forum



Photo courtesy city of Beverly Hills

The 2025 Annual Westside Mayors Forum, hosted by the Westside Urban Forum, took place on Feb. 20 at the Helms Design Center in Culver City. Some of the pertinent issues discussed included land use priorities for 2025 and the ways cities are responding to immediate and long-term challenges with emergency preparedness, preparing for the LA28 Olympics, and regional assistance in light of the recent fires. Participating mayors included Chelsea Byers (West Hollywood), Lana Negrete (Santa Monica), Lester Friedman and Dan O'Brien (Culver City).

## Recreation and Parks Commission Moves Forward with Pickleball, Annual Priorities

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

At the Beverly Hills Recreation and Parks Commission meeting on Feb. 25, commissioners voted to move forward with proposed accommodations for pickleball players at Roxbury Tennis Center and La Cienega Tennis Center, and recommended priorities for the Community Services Department Commission's annual work plan.

The meeting began with an item proposing that court one at Roxbury Tennis Center and courts eight and 12 at La Cienega Tennis Center be converted to pickleball courts by restriping, as well as an additional request to convert court seven for pickleball. Court one at La Cienega Tennis Center, which has already been converted to a pickleball court,



Pickleball courts were on the agenda this week.

would be restored to a tennis court.

The proposal was based on previous discussions about the growing popularity of pickleball and the desire of local players to have space for games and tournaments

See PICKLEBALL, page 10

## Hochman and Newsom Weigh In on Menendez Case

BY SEAN BECKNER-CARMITCHEL

At a news conference on Feb. 21, Los Angeles District Attorney Nathan Hochman said his office will oppose a habeas corpus petition filed on behalf of Erik and Lyle Menendez seeking a new trial for the brothers. The petition is one of three possible pathways for release for the two. Hochman indicated that he is still deciding whether he will recommend a resentencing. A hearing on the resentencing is set to begin on March 20 at Van Nuys Courthouse West. Attorneys for the brothers have also filed an application for clemency through Governor Gavin Newsom's office. Erik and Lyle Menendez have served more than 35 years of their life sentences after being convicted of the 1989 murders of their parents in Beverly Hills.

The brothers' current attempts to gain a new trial, resentencing or release hinge in part on new evidence that may corroborate claims their parents sexually abused the brothers. A letter from Erik Menendez to a cousin implies the abuse continued up until months before the killings. Roy Rosselló, a pop singer, also made a statement that he was abused by the brothers' father.

At the press conference, Hochman questioned the credibility of the new evidence. He also noted that "Sexual abuse in this situation may have been a motivation for Erik and Lyle to do what they did, but it does not constitute self-defense."

In response to Hochman's decision, a coalition led by family members of the brothers released a statement that the DA "effectively tore up new evidence and discredited the trauma they experienced. To suggest that the years of abuse couldn't have led to the tragedy in 1989 is not only outrageous, but also dangerous. Abuse does not exist in a vacuum."

The same day as the conference, the DA's office filed papers urging the court to reject the habeas corpus petition, which effectively killed chances for a retrial. A video also released that day by the office outlined the brothers' legal attempts at release "from a procedural perspective." A statement accompanying the video said that it was produced because "transparency and public education are essential to ensuring confidence" in the justice system.

The March 20 resentencing hearing has the potential to change the brothers' sentences from life in prison without parole to life in prison with parole. If resentenced, they'd likely be released. Relatives of the two brothers released a statement expressing hope that the judge in that case "will examine the evidence in their case without

See MENENDEZ, page 13





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# THE MARKETPLACE

BY MICHAEL J. LIBOW



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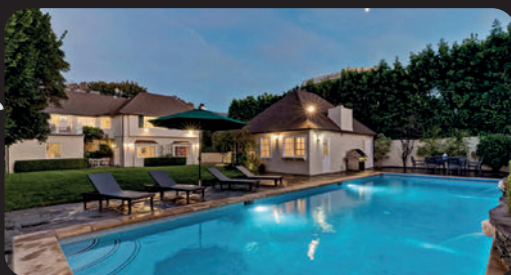


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701 N. Beverly Drive \$19,800,000

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Beverly Hills



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Beverly Hills

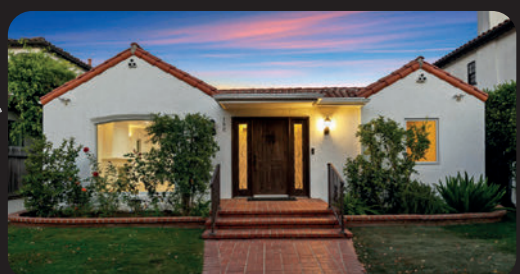


JUST SOLD

344 S. Bedford Drive \$4,175,000

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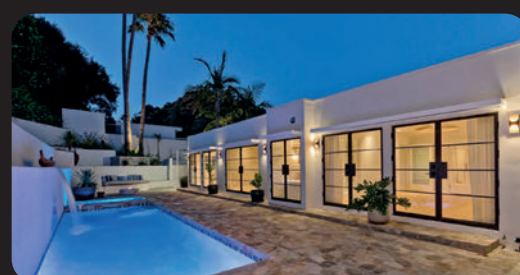


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304 S. Canon Drive \$2,995,000

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Beverly Hills



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305 S. Swall Drive \$2,495,000

Trust Sale - 1st time avail in 54 yrs. Immac 1sty 3BD Trad. 6,715 sq ft x-wide lot! Authentic details. Sunlit. Hi clngs. Wd flrs. Leaded glass. Big yrd w/lawn/patio.



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## BHUSD Board Discusses Student Achievement at Tense Meeting



BY JESSICA OGILVIE

The Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) board voted to approve a new contract for a substitute staffing vendor and heard updates on the district's strategic plan from principals at its Feb. 25 meeting.

The actions came during an evening that became tense when members of the public continued to express dissatisfaction with the suspension of Romeo Carey, the district's media director. Carey is currently on paid leave.

Among the agenda items before the board was a discussion of a proposed contract with Swing Education, Inc., an online platform for hiring vetted substitute teachers. Board members reviewed the proposed agreement and posed questions to Dr. Jason Hasty, the acting superintendent in the wake of the

resignation last week of Dr. Michael Bregy. Several board members sought confirmation that substitutes would be capable of teaching the subjects in the classrooms to which they are assigned.

"We do have a lot of issues with when we do have a substitute that goes into a specific classroom, [the students] are basically getting babysat," said Board Member Sigalie Sabag. "So, we don't want that. We want them to continue the curriculum."

The board moved to approve the contract as Hasty assured members of his faith in the company's ability to meet the district's needs.

In other business, the board heard progress updates on the district's state-led Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) as well as the strategic plan. Principals from all BHUSD schools provided reports on student

achievement in three areas: engaging students in learning, supporting positive student behavior, and growing and developing professionally.

In explaining why LCAP updates were combined with strategic plan updates, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Dustin Seemann noted that the district's strategic plan sets benchmarks higher than the LCAP.

"Our strategic plan is more robust than what is required by the state for reporting purposes," he said. "We expect more out of ourselves than what is expected by the county and state."

The reports were largely positive, with all schools demonstrating improvement in student achievement in math and reading. However, Board Vice President Judy Manouchehri pressed Sarah Kaber, the principal of El Rodeo Elementary School, on student achievement in those two areas.

Kaber reported that students demonstrated improvement on diagnostic tests, but Manouchehri noted that the percentage of children reaching the district's target goals was below the established benchmark.

"We're on our way, we're doing our best, but we have a way to go," said Manouchehri. "These numbers are not meeting our standards, and I encourage you to come to the board and

tell us what you need to make it happen."

The board recently made the decision to move the public comment period to the end of the meeting. The move was met at the time with anger and resistance from residents who decried the "lack of warning" about moving a portion of the meeting that had traditionally taken place much earlier.

That frustration continued at this week's meeting. Speakers' time was limited to two minutes and the entire public comment period was limited to 20 minutes. Beginning with the first speaker, Michael Risoli, many commenters ignored time limits or expressed anger about them.

Risoli, who criticized the behavior of BHUSD Assistant Superintendent Matthew Horvath during the district's investigation into Carey, continued speaking over Board President Rachele Marcus as she called the end of his time.

"I'm sorry Horvath was given the power to interrogate and privately bully you in his office," said Risoli, addressing his comments to students.

As Risoli continued speaking beyond his time limit, three security guards approached him and began encircling him, at which point he concluded his comments. ●



# LA Marathon 2025

## March 16, 2025

Beverly Hills Street Closures | 5 a.m. – 1 p.m.

City Hotline (3/16): 5 a.m. – 2 p.m. - (310) 550-4680



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Water Station 16  
Burton Way west of Foothill Rd.  
Water Station 17  
SM south/west of Charleville Blvd.
- P **PARKING STRUCTURES**  
beverlyhills.org/parking
- + **FIRST AID STATION**  
in Rexford Mini Park at  
Rexford Dr. & Burton Way

- **SHUTTLE FOR RUNNERS**  
one-way start time 4 a.m.
- **VIEWING AREA**  
of Rodeo Dr. & Wilshire Blvd.
- **MARATHON ROUTE**  
beverlyhills.org/marathon

**For Access to Get Around Closure-** Go West on Sunset to South on Bundy Drive

**For access to 10 Freeway-** Take Wilshire Blvd. East to Robertson; Turn South/Right to 10 Freeway

**For access to 405 Freeway-** Go West on Olympic Blvd to Freeway

**East and Westbound lanes CLOSED** on N Santa Monica Blvd. between Moreno Dr. and Bundy Dr.

**TO BRENTWOOD** (with arrow pointing west)

**FINISH LINE** (at Century Park E)





# Unions Picket at UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center

Two unions representing over 60,000 workers within the University of California system are engaging in a multi-day strike alleging unfair labor practices at the bargaining table. Workers represented by University Professional and Technical Employees-CWA Local 9119 and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 3299 are picketing at UC locations statewide.



Photo by Sean Beckner-Carmitchel

Union picketers at UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center on Feb. 27

# BHUSD Board Member Stuart Defends Social Media Post



Photo by Sean Beckner-Carmitchel

BHUSD Board Member Russell Stuart at the Feb. 25 meeting

BY SEAN BECKNER-CARMITCHEL

Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Board Member Russell Stuart was criticized during the public comment period of the board's Feb. 25 meeting for a social media post he made on Feb. 24. The post contained the BHUSD logo alongside the words "DOGE," a reference to the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). The post has since been deleted, and the Courier has chosen not to reprint it.

DOGE was established via executive order by President Donald Trump. When announcing the creation of the office, led by Elon Musk, Trump indicated that it would "provide advice and guidance from outside of government," with a stated goal of streamlining government and bringing savings to taxpayers.

At the Feb 25 board meeting, community member Romi Azevedo expressed concern about the manner in which the Bregy See STUART, page 13

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## Guided ArtWalks Set for Beverly Gardens Park



Art walks will take place in Beverly Gardens Park.

The city of Beverly Hills Community Services Department has announced that a series of spring guided art walks will take place in Beverly Gardens Park. Participants will explore the city's stunning collection of sculptures created by world-renowned artists, set against the beautiful backdrop of the historic Beverly Gardens Park.

Led by professional docents, the guided tours are designed to engage visitors of all ages in the rich stories and artistic significance of the sculptures that enhance the

park. At the conclusion of each tour, participants will receive a special keepsake to commemorate their experience.

Location: Beverly Gardens Park, 1300 Park Way, Beverly Hills

Dates: March 9, 23, April 13, 27

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Tickets: \$10

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.beverlyhills.org/csevents](http://www.beverlyhills.org/csevents).

## Mark Schwartz Appointed Chair of Jewish Community Foundation LA Board



Mark Schwartz

The Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles (The Foundation) has announced that longtime trustee and Beverly Hills resident

Mark N. Schwartz has assumed the role of chair of its Board of Trustees. Schwartz, an accomplished entrepreneur, respected business leader, and dedicated philanthropist, succeeds Evan Schlessinger, who served as chair for the past four years.

Schwartz has been deeply engaged with The Foundation for 25 years, actively contributing financial acumen and strategic expertise to its grantmaking initiatives and investment management. He has served in multiple leadership capacities, including on Foundation grants, executive and finance committees. As a seasoned entrepreneur with a background in venture capital and business leadership, Schwartz brings an experience that will strengthen The Foundation's focus on innovative philanthropy and impactful grantmaking.

"For many years, The Foundation has been a trusted partner in my family's philanthropy," said Schwartz. "It is an honor to step into this role and help guide an organization

See MARK SCHWARTZ, page 9

## Vanity Fair Street Closures: Access to Local Businesses Maintained



### Easy routes to N. Crescent Drive

#### FROM NORTH:

- ➔ South on N. Cañon Drive, left on Dayton Way, left or right on Crescent Drive
- ➔ South on Rexford Drive, right on Clifton Way, left or right on Crescent Drive

#### FROM SOUTH:

- ➔ Westbound on Wilshire Blvd., right on Crescent Drive
- ➔ Eastbound on Wilshire Blvd., left on Dayton Way

### Parking Available

#### Self Park (1-hour free)

- 10 – 333 N. Crescent Drive
- 12 – 9361 Dayton Way

#### Pay as You Go Parking

- 18 – 450 N. Crescent Drive
- Garage entrance is accessible via S. Santa Monica Blvd.  
Garage will be closed on March 2 for the event.

#### Self Park (2-hours free)

- 1 – 345 N. Beverly Drive
- 5 – 450 N. Rexford Drive
- 6 – 438 N. Beverly Drive & 439 N. Cañon Drive
- 7 – 241 N. Cañon Drive & 242 N. Beverly Drive

400 block of N. Crescent Drive will be CLOSED between N. and S. Santa Monica Blvd. from 10 p.m. Monday, February 17, 2025, until 10 p.m. Friday, March 7, 2025.

More info at [BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/VANITYFAIR](http://BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/VANITYFAIR)





Dr. Michael Bregy

**DR. MICHAEL BREGY**, from page 1 of elective offerings and enriching students' educational experiences, to prioritizing professional development opportunities for staff and fostering key partnerships within the Beverly Hills community, including the Beverly Hills City Council, the Beverly Hills Education Foundation and our PTAs."

In an email statement to the Courier, BHUSD Board President Rachele Marcus said, "Michael's community involvement was also always evident, and he availed himself in joining many local organizations. His tenure with Beverly Hills Unified has and will going forward make a lasting impact, and I wish him nothing but success in all future endeavors.

At the BHUSD board meeting of Feb.

25, Bregy was mentioned only briefly. Board Member Dr. Amanda Stern said at the close of the meeting, "I just wanted to take a moment to thank Dr. Bregy for his eight years of extremely hard work and a very open-door policy to all teachers, staff, parents and students. I just want to say I'm grateful for his service."

During public comment, district parent Romi Azevedo voiced frustration that the board "issued a communication on [Bregy's] behalf, depriving him of the opportunity to personally express his departure on his own terms. The decision lacked transparency and professionalism, and it has left many in our community questioning the motives and leadership of this board."

Some wonder if Bregy's sudden resignation was due to pressure from the board. Jackie Kruger, who has several children in the district, told the Courier, "You don't have the head of all the things in the school leave in the middle of the second semester without so much as a goodbye or an explanation. Something must have happened." She added, "We as a community deserve to have some accountability as to why that happened. What was the impetus?"

Acting Superintendent Hasty has spent time before his tenure in Beverly Hills as Assistant Superintendent at Wiseburn Unified School District and Executive Director of Human Resource Services at Los Angeles County Office of Education.

At his first board meeting in his new role,

Hasty said to those in attendance, "Please know that we have an exceptional team of leaders, educators and staff who have the capacity, vision and expertise to take our district into a new era of excellence."

That first board meeting was occasionally contentious. School security had to approach a speaker who began talking over his allotted time before he went back to his seat.

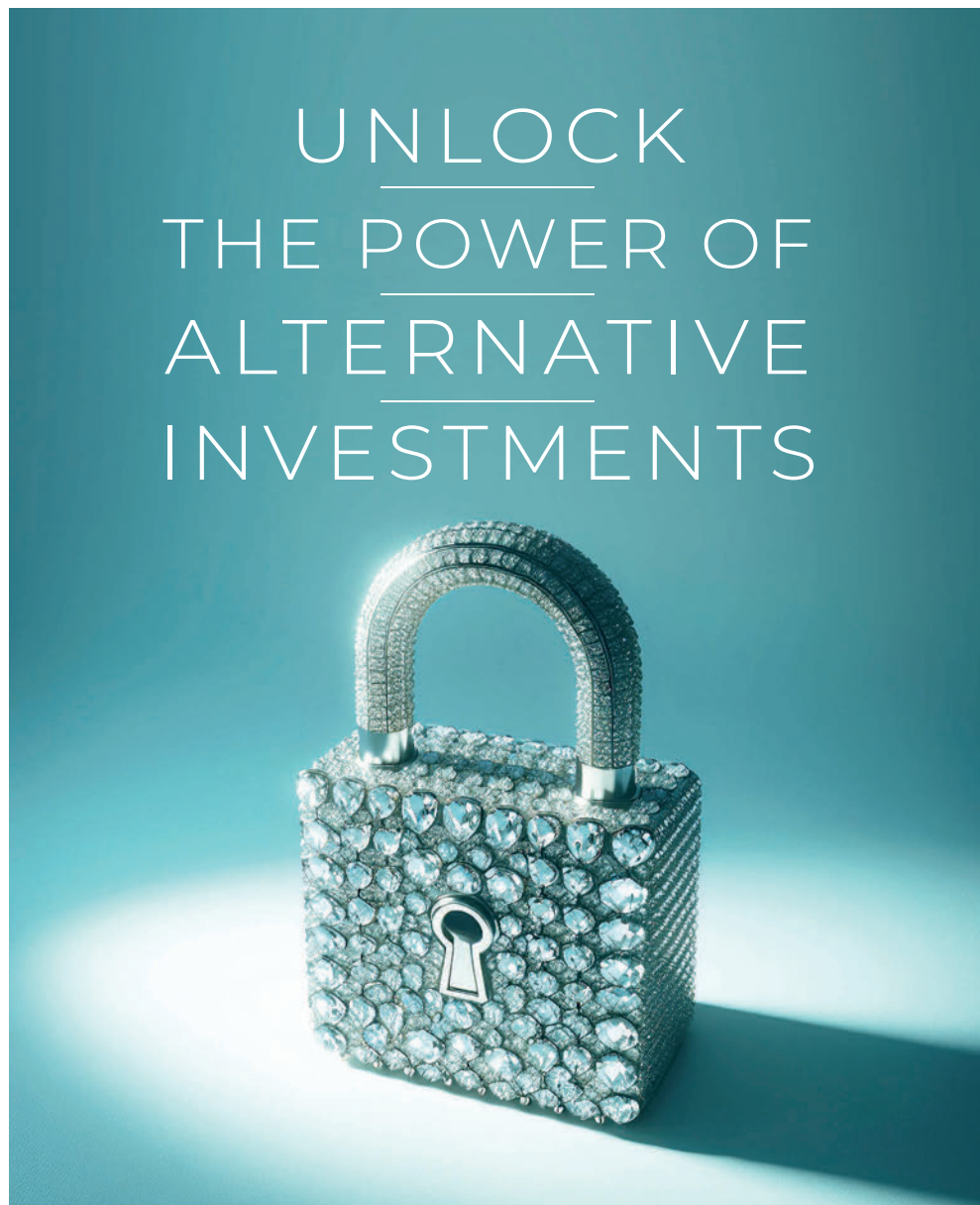
The situation also grew tense when two individuals voiced complaints about not being allowed to speak—despite waiting some five hours at that point. As the back-and-forth between the two continued, Hasty announced, "I'm going to stop there; we're going to move forward. If we cannot move forward, we are going to need to call a recess and take a break."

He then instructed Board President Rachele Marcus to "call a recess" and told the board members to "get up," motioning for them to leave the meeting room. Hasty went on to meet with members of the audience in the hallway. He listened to frustrations for several minutes, then said,

"Here's what we're going to do, can we go back and sit down? I'm going to go tell [the rest of the board] we have two more speakers..." and later "We're going to get better for the next meeting, I promise you." A few minutes later, the board reappeared and listened to the speakers.

Inheriting a school district facing several controversies and legal actions, Hasty will face hurdles beyond merely frustrated speakers at board meetings. Last Dec 1, teacher and KBEV Executive Producer Romeo Carey was placed on administrative leave. The letter informing him of the administrative leave offered no cause for the suspension, he said. The action against Carey has resulted in an outpouring of support from students and parents, who have expressed their incredulity and displeasure at board meetings for the past few months. Additionally, the district faces claims of racial discrimination and retaliation by current and former teachers and administrators. Athletic Director Tim Ellis has also been accused of sexual harassment in a wrongful termination claim. ●

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## ‘One Hundred Years of Solitude’—Alone No Longer



Photos by Pablo Arellano, courtesy of Netflix

Marco Antonio González and Susana Morales as the young José Arcadio Buendía and Úrsula Iguarán

BY NEELY SWANSON

“One Hundred Years of Solitude,” a new Netflix miniseries based on the acclaimed novel by Gabriel García Márquez, premiered in December. Stubbornly refusing to believe that anyone could do justice to the book I cherish, I didn’t watch it. Only after a number of recommendations from friends, I decided to dip my toes. Soon I was fully immersed in the tale of my beloved Buendía family, savoring each episode to extract all the magic present. This must-see eight-episode series is as close to a literate, mystical, transcendental and powerful experience as you can possibly have on the screen, large or small. Following many of the events of the sprawling novel, the writers have captured the soul of the original and translated those haunting words into the living color of film, making the metaphorical village of Macondo into a real town, one you feel you could find if you could locate it on a map. It is not insignificant that the imaginary town of Macondo is fashioned after Aracataca, Colombia, the birthplace of Márquez.

Young Úrsula Iguarán and José Arcadio Buendía, cousins of unknown degree, are very much in love and want to marry. Her parents forbid it, saying that it would be tantamount to inbreeding and their babies would be born with pig’s tails. Undeterred, they marry, although Úrsula’s self-made chastity belt prevents its consummation, so fearful is she of her mother’s prediction. Rumors about their unusual relationship spread, and José, humiliated, kills Prudencio, the rumor monger. Haunted by Prudencio’s ghost, José Arcadio decides to leave the village with his wife and a band of followers to

find a paradise far away, preferably near the sea. Cutting their way through jungle and growth that has never been tamed by man, exhausted, they settle on a great expanse near a river with enough prosperous land for everyone. It is here they start the town of Macondo, unfettered by church or state, ruled only by goodwill and the kind of honesty that friends rely on. Trading on their skills, the town soon has most of the benefits of civilization - brothels, bars, families, goods and services—managed only by good faith and the Biblical adage, “love thy neighbor as thyself,” although they left the Bible and judgmental attitudes behind as well.

They doted on their sons, young José Arcadio and Aureliano. Pilar the fortune teller remarked on young José Arcadio’s endowment, selfishly taking full advantage of it, and pronounced that Aureliano would have precognition, a dubious gift indeed. The town’s isolation is eventually disturbed by the arrival of a gypsy band and their leader, the alchemist Melquiades, who stays in Macondo to mentor the senior José Arcadio. Melquiades will be both his savior and his downfall.

People come and go, returning and leaving again. The Buendía family expands with new members, both wanted and unwanted, and the town grows more prosperous. When José Arcadio the elder retreats to his laboratory, convinced that Melquiades’s alchemical teachings will lead him to turn metal into gold, the age-old promise, Úrsula must take charge of the family. His mystical science is mundane, and her everyday household maintenance literally raises her in the air.

This sweeping tale of family, love, death,

heartache, petty jealousy, friendship and rivalry mirrors, in its own way, the history of their new country, Colombia, a land of hope, prejudice, insularity, corruption and continued revolution. It will engulf you with flowers raining from the skies and have you believe that there could have been a plague of insomnia, sent to punish those who would doubt.

“One Hundred Years of Solitude” will transport you to a land imaginary, yet full of real emotion. It is where you’d like to go but be afraid to stay because the dreams and nightmares of the Buendía family are all too real. Challenge yourself not to watch more than two episodes at a time so that each action and character can stay with you overnight, allowing you to savor every minute of the magic that seems so real.

The actors, most of whom you will not have heard of, are magnificent. Listen to them in the original Spanish, rather than the dubbed version, to get the full flavor of their inflection and emotion. Too many to mention, each member of the Buendía family ages into a new actor as they grow older. It is only Pilar, the fortune teller, prolific at spreading her genes to the Buendías, who seems ageless, and maybe that’s the point.

It was apparent from the moment it appeared on the literary horizon in 1967 that “One Hundred Years of Solitude” was a masterpiece, one of the acknowledged greats of the 20th century. Márquez would be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1982. He refused all efforts to obtain the film rights to his novel, unconvinced that his sprawling story of the Buendía family could be told in the two-to three-hour format of a film. Written in the style of magical realism, where the real is fanciful and the fanciful is real, filmmakers have long struggled to bring this kind of metaphorical storytelling to the screen successfully. Following his death, those rights were transferred to his widow, Mercedes, and his two sons, Gonzalo García Barcha, an artist, and Rodrigo García, a highly regarded writer and director of American film and television.

Presented with the possibility of telling



Marleyda Soto as the older Úrsula Iguarán



the story over eight episodes, the family acquiesced, dependent on certain conditions. The filming must take place entirely in Colombia, capturing the beauty, culture and atmosphere of the story; the cast must be made up primarily of Colombian actors and filmed entirely in Spanish with a Colombian production team involved in making the series. With those stipulations met, Netflix obtained the rights to García Márquez's masterpiece. Both García sons are executive producers of the series, one that they can take enormous pride in.

Cinematographers Paulo Perez and Sarasvati Herrera bring the breathtaking Colombian locations to life. Production Designers Eugenio Caballero and Barbara Enriquez created a Macondo that is real and imaginary at the same time. The colors vibrate and the sets reach into the heart of the different eras. Costuming by Catherine Rodriguez is positively tactile. The direction, divided between Alex Garcia Lopez and Laura Mora Ortega, delivers the world that the various writers presented.

All of the above-cited actors are Colombian, most with impressive experience in the world of Spanish-language filmmaking. The intensity of Marleyda Soto's

older Úrsula will warm you and make you quake at the same time. She carries the family and Macondo on her back like a beast of burden who is deadly when cornered. Diego Vásquez is the adult José Arcadia in middle and old age, lost in the stars and driven mad by the fumes of his laboratory and his crushed dreams. Claudio Cataño plays the adult Aureliano with the sadness of lost love and the passion of a cause as his importance grows with his maturity. Édgar Vittorino is all sex, tension, passion and power as José Arcadio, the son as an adult, returned from seeing the world after disappearing with Melquiades' gypsies. Akina, Rebecca the mystery relative, raised as a Buendía is staggeringly beautiful and haunted, eating dirt as a punishment for sins she hasn't committed. There are so many others, especially the younger versions of the Buendía family, whose depth of acting enhances the already full characters they have been given to bring to life. And that's the point. This series has brought this magnificent book to light, allowing you to absorb the magical realism as though it occurred on a daily basis to ordinary souls like us. I, too, believe I can levitate.

Now streaming on Netflix. ●



Viña Machado as Pilar Ternera



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.

## NEWS

**MARK SCHWARTZ, from page 6** been a trusted partner in my family's philanthropy," said Schwartz. "It is an honor to step into this role and help guide an organization that is deeply committed to strengthening the Jewish community in Los Angeles and the community at large. Having been involved in The Foundation's grantmaking and financial stewardship for more than two decades, I look forward to continuing to grow The Foundation and expand its impact throughout our community and in Israel."

Schwartz and his wife, Lisa, a city of Beverly Hills Commissioner, are strongly committed to tikkun olam, the Jewish value of repairing the world. Together, they support numerous charitable initiatives, spanning Jewish causes, Israeli organizations, and broader community endeavors.

Aaron Lerner, president and CEO of The

Foundation, welcomed Schwartz's appointment, stating, "Mark's entrepreneurial spirit, strategic vision, and deep commitment to philanthropy make him an exceptional lay leader for The Foundation's next chapter. His expertise in financial stewardship and community engagement will help propel our mission forward, ensuring that we continue to make a meaningful and lasting impact in our Jewish community and beyond."

The Foundation, which has been at the forefront of Jewish philanthropy in Los Angeles for more than 70 years, distributed over \$200 million in grants in 2024 to more than 3,600 nonprofits locally, nationally, and in Israel. Under Schwartz's leadership, the organization plans to further its mission of empowering Jewish philanthropists and strengthening the community. ●



**D LINE SUBWAY EXTENSION PROJECT**  
Section 1 – Beverly Hills

## We're building better transit from DTLA to the Westside.

### February Updates

Civil restoration continues on the north side of Wilshire Bl between San Vicente Bl and La Cienega Bl. Intermittent lane reductions are in effect during off-peak hours.

Work is also taking place on the plaza level by the station entrance.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

The Courier wants to hear from you!

Email: [editorial@bhcourier.com](mailto:editorial@bhcourier.com)



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D LINE EXT COBH 1



**PICKLEBALL, from page 1**  
in Beverly Hills.

Before commissioners began their discussion, over a dozen public comments that had been submitted by residents were read by city staff on the issue. A majority of commenters were opposed to the changes; however, a vocal minority offered their support of the plan.

Those opposed to converting courts from tennis to pickleball were largely local tennis players concerned about noise, crowds and increased difficulty in booking a court.

"Please do not remove any additional tennis courts ... for pickleball use at the La Cienega Tennis Center," read one of the comments. "We are already strapped for tennis courts, and pickleball is a passing fad."

Those in favor of more pickleball courts primarily cited the need to accommodate the community's growing interest in the sport.

"I would like to see additional courts dedicated to pickleball at the La Cienega Tennis Center location," read a comment in favor of the changes. "It would be fantastic if all pickleball courts were permanently striped for pickleball."

Following a discussion about the possibility of recommending court four at La Cienega Tennis Center rather than court seven, the commissioners decided to move forward with city staff's recommendations.

The plan was approved by City Council liaisons in an ad hoc meeting Feb. 27 and will now go before the full City Council.

In other business, the commission identified its top five priorities for the Community Services Department Commission's annual work plan. According to a city memorandum included with the meeting agenda, service areas that fall under the purview of Recreation and Parks include early education and youth recreation, tennis and pickleball, the Beverly Hills Library and more.

The commission was presented with the existing top five priorities by city staff before being given the opportunity to present their own recommendations. City staff noted that the restoration of La Cienega Park, including the playground area, will remain on the department's work plan, leaving commissioners with four remaining priorities to set.

Commissioner Tara Riceberg recommended prioritizing e-bike safety, implementing digital signage at Roxbury Park and offering to host the Palisades Will Rogers 5K and 10K, which has in the past taken place in Pacific Palisades.

She focused her comments largely on the dangers presented by e-bikes. Noting a recent event in which, she said, a group of young people on e-bikes damaged Roxbury Park, Riceberg advocated for better safety measures and signage.

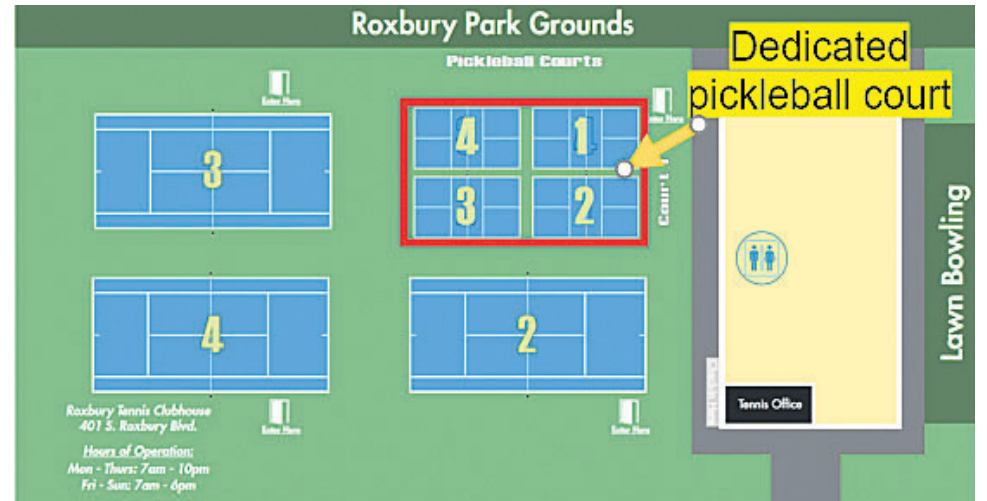
"E-bikes are pretty much terrorizing Beverly Hills and Los Angeles," she said. "We do not have enough cameras on the parks, there are no eyes watching. There is no signage saying no e-bikes allowed on the property ... This is unacceptable, and we have to guarantee the safety of the park."

Commissioner Aime Sherry recommended implementing a social media workshop as part of the department's offerings, and Chair Deborah Termeie suggested expanding the Teen Advisory Committee, reviving the greenhouse at the Greystone

Mansion and Gardens and expanding programming for the annual July Parks Make Life Better event.

Following discussion, commissioners identified large park signage and rules, the conclusion of the pickleball pilot program, implementing digital signage and expanding the annual July Parks Make Life Better as their priorities.

Those items will be presented to the Recreation and Parks City Council Liaisons at their next meeting. ●



Proposed pickleball courts at Roxbury Park

Photo courtesy city of Beverly Hills



# TRAFFIC ADVISORY

## PURPLE (D LINE) EXTENSION TRANSIT PROJECT- SECTION 2

Wilshire/Rodeo Station – Deck Removal 3-Week Closures of Wilshire Blvd. between El Camino Dr. and Crescent Dr. **MARCH 17, 2025 TO APRIL 7, 2025**



Between March 17, 2025 and April 7, 2025, Wilshire Blvd. between El Camino Dr. and Crescent Dr., including the Wilshire/Beverly intersection, will be **CLOSED** to all traffic for the Metro Purple (D Line) construction. This closure will complete deck removal and roadway restoration.

**WORK HOURS: 24/7**

**FOR ANY QUESTIONS, please contact the 24/7 Metro Hotline at (213) 922-6934.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [beverlyhills.org/purpleline](http://beverlyhills.org/purpleline)**




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# Birthdays



**HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY  
MARCUS DELLA ROSA**  
February 25



**BERNADETTE PETERS**  
February 28



**MA DONG-SEOK**  
March 1



**BRANDON KOL**  
March 1



**DANIEL CRAIG**  
March 2



**BOB JASON**  
March 4



**BELINDA MAISTERA**  
March 4

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## Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Shadows aren't objects themselves; they're evidence of what exists. You can't change a shadow by shifting it, only by moving the light or the matter. Today, you'll bring clarity by focusing on what is, not the illusion it creates.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Consistency doesn't have to mean perfection or intensity. Adjust to solve the problem at hand. Flip the rigid "grind-it-out" mindset and think in more fluid and forgiving terms. Emphasize adaptability.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). The logical options presented to you each have merit, to the extent that none is better than the last, only different. Let this free you. It doesn't matter what you choose today; it only matters that you do. Action creates momentum.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You'll have the challenge that excites your mind and engages your heart, pulling out your best ideas and sharpest instincts. The satisfaction will come not just from succeeding but from knowing you're working in harmony with your unique strengths.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). The same words

delivered with warmth and sincerity can build bridges, but spoken with coldness or impatience, they can burn them. Your tone, pacing and presence have the power to make a simple message feel like an invitation or a dismissal.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What you want to create or accomplish may feel out of reach right now, especially with your current financial constraints. But fresh creative influences will shift your perspective, revealing a new approach -- one that makes your vision more achievable than it seemed before.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're not someone who coasts on easy contentment, and that's OK. Happiness isn't always the goal. You feel things deeply. You care, you reach, you create. It doesn't exactly feel buoyant, but it's a valid way of being.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What matters is the task at hand. Finish what you need to finish. It doesn't have to happen perfectly or beautifully, but it has to happen. Breathe and take the next small step. You don't have to solve everything, just this one thing.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). One moment isn't the whole story. You might be stressed for a beat, but there are many more beats in the song. If

you're the stressed person, you're also the person who dreams, who creates, who loves deeply, who pushes forward even when it's hard.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sometimes it seems like only you know how to best serve. Those close may not be aware of the nuances you deliver for maximum comfort and support. The pride you take in caregiving is one of the many wonderful things about you.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sometimes you have the stuff first and you look for

the right container to keep it in. Today the container will come first. The empty box, the blank page, the rich potential of a relationship... decide how to fill it before the world decides for you.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). The world offers itself to your imagination. Your inner world is a place where you can make anything happen. As for the other realities that are harder to change, take charge where you can, and while you're at it, customize it to you. Why shouldn't it be?



This week's eligible pup is Lillie. She's a 14-week-old, currently 10-pound lab mix puppy. If interested, please contact Kim Sill at Shelter of Hope at 310-770-3571.

[shelterhopepetshop.org](http://shelterhopepetshop.org)



# Council Attends MWD Inspection Trip

Members of the Beverly Hills City Council took part in the Metropolitan Water District's inspection trip. Led by MWD Director Barry Pressman, the purpose of the trip was for Metropolitan member agency representatives to visit dams, reservoirs, farms and other State Water Project infrastructure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and to learn more about the complexity and challenges associated with delivering water to Southern California through the Bay Delta Conveyance System.



Pictured (from left): Chair Mark Nehoray, Councilmember Mary Wells, Commissioner Wendy Nystrom, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, Councilmember John Mirisch, MWD Director Barry Pressman and Vice Chair Ben Ritterbush

## STUART, from page 5

resignation was handled. She also had this to say about Stuart's post. "The actions of newly elected Board Member Russell Stuart are deeply troubling," said Azevedo. She continued, "His posting of the BHUSD logo with 'DOGE' written next to the letter 'D' on social media is not only inappropriate and disrespectful, but it also appears to align with a political agenda that has no place in a public school district."

Azevedo also opined that the post violated board bylaws, including those pertaining to personal viewpoints not shared by the entire board. She said that her child, a student within BHUSD, told her, "It is insensitive and disrespectful that we have a leader so immature that connects personal politics to the education of growing children."

Later in the meeting, Stuart addressed Azevedo's comments, clarifying his intention with the post. "What [it] means is that it's an ideological stance that we believe that we're wasting money on things federally, statewide and especially here."

He added, "It's unfortunate that certain people had such intense feelings about my social media post ... So, for those that don't like my post personally, and your emotions take over, I'm sorry. But my job is still the same, and our job is still the same. It's to effectively and properly spend your tax dollars for the benefit of every single student, and that is exactly what we're doing."

The morning after the board meeting, Stuart made additional comments on social media. "At last night's board meeting, some tried to distort my message and create unnecessary controversy over a lighthearted post. Trying to bully me will NEVER work. Let's be clear: my priority has always been transparency, accountability, and ensuring that every tax dollar is spent wisely for the benefit of our students. #BHUSDoge." He

also clarified in the post that he was speaking his own views, and not the views of the board."

On Feb. 27, Stuart provided the Courier with some additional remarks on the matter.

"I stand by every word I say and that's what different about me ... If you have the type of mindset that believes in the mission of DOGE, which means government efficiency to be efficient with finances, then you're going to see what it is. If you're someone who disagrees with that mission, then it expands into any other political ideology that you want to make up in your head. That's not what the post was. My mission is to uncover spending that I believe is not done properly," he said.

Stuart also singled out Tina Wiener, President of the Beverly Hills Education Foundation (BHEF). Wiener attended the Feb. 25 board meeting and was listed as one of the speakers during public comment. However, noting that there was very little time left in that portion of the meeting, Wiener ceded her time to Azevedo, who made the statements pertaining to Stuart's social media post, set forth above.

"I think the biggest disappointment for me was seeing Tina Wiener, the President of BHEF, which is our funding raising arm, going against financial efficiency," Stuart told the Courier.

When reached by the Courier, Wiener had this response. "I am very supportive of efficiency in government but was not happy with the manner in which the resignation of Dr. Bregy was handled. As for the social media post using the BHUSD letters and colors, I did not feel it was the appropriate messaging to explain the board's position on their decisions." ●

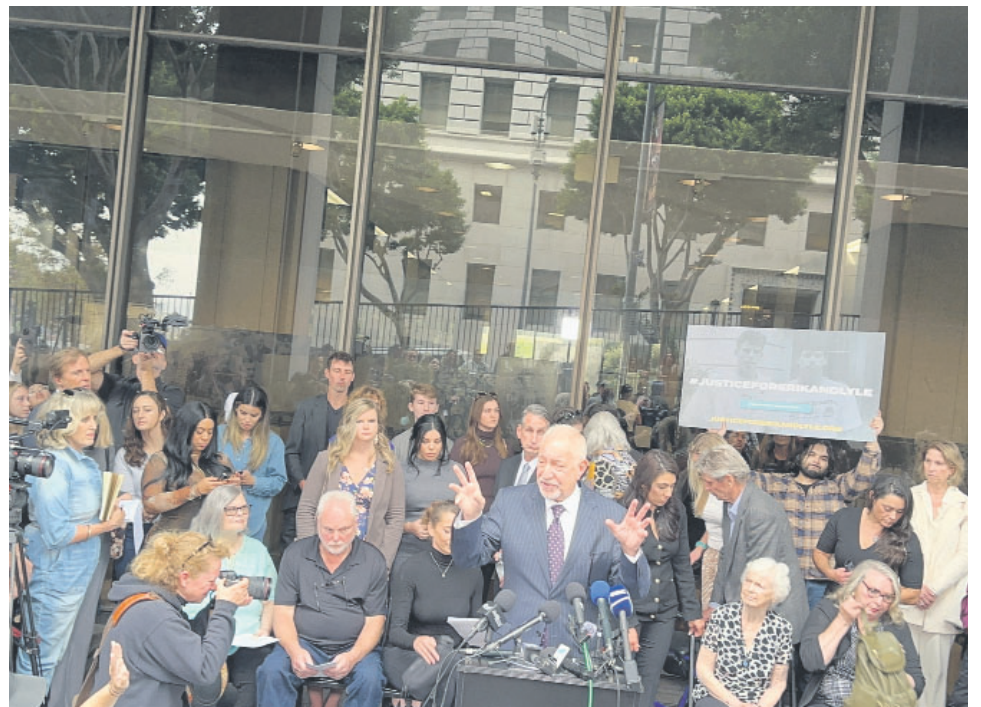


Photo by Sean Beckner-Carmitchel

Menendez relatives (shown here at a press conference in October 2024) have praised the actions of Gov. Newsom.

## MENENDEZ, from page 1

prejudice, carefully adhering to California law with modern understanding of trauma."

Resentencing would also examine if the brothers have been rehabilitated while incarcerated. Attorneys and relatives have claimed that Erik and Lyle have, among other things, mentored other prisoners and attended college classes while incarcerated.

The fate of the Menendez brothers took a political turn during the last election, in which Hochman handily unseated his predecessor, George Gascón. Hochman accused Gascón of being politically motivated when publicly weighing the decision to file the motion for resentencing.

Sacramento politicians are also involved in the case, as Gov. Newsom contemplates the clemency application. Newsom's office announced on Feb. 26 that he has directed the state parole board to make a "risk assessment investigation" before he rules on the brothers' application for clemency. In videotaped remarks, Newsom said, "The question for the board is a simple one—do Erik and Lyle Menendez pose what we call unreasonable risk to public safety," and said the assessment would be shared with the DA's office, defense attorney and court ruling on the case.

Previously, Newsom said he would defer to Hochman's review and analysis of the Menendez case prior to making any clemency decisions.

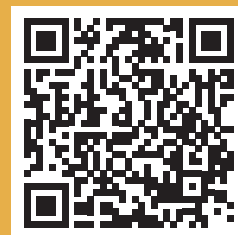
If Newsom approves the application for clemency, the parole board has up to six months to review the case. If clemency is approved, the decision would go to Newsom, who then could reverse or modify that recommendation.

On Feb. 27, a cousin of the Menendez brothers praised Newsom's announcement.

"This is a pretty exciting time for us as the family of Erik and Lyle Menendez," Anamaria Baralt said. She described it as "a positive step toward Erik and Lyle's release."

She added, "We are incredibly grateful that Governor Newsom is paying attention to this case ... For us, it is a huge sigh of relief that someone in a seat of power is paying attention to what we have seen up close since Erik and Lyle have been incarcerated. We have seen their rehabilitation. Erik and Lyle have changed countless lives since their conviction in 1996. Inmates have seen it, corrections officers have seen it and now we need the entire criminal justice system to see it." ●

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# Fun and Games

**SUDOKU**  
02/28/25 ISSUE

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**SUDOKU ANSWERS**  
02/21/25 ISSUE

6	1	8	5	3	9	2	4	7
4	3	5	2	6	7	1	9	8
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3	9	4	6	1	5	8	7	2
7	5	1	9	2	8	4	3	6
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**PUZZLE ANSWERS**  
02/21/25 ISSUE

CLAD	DAB	SPY	ENTOMB
OAHU	NOAH	ORES	LEADER
SPECIAL	ALRE	QUEST	ATTILA
MEATS	BLUR	MOET	TOOT
OLDSAWS	MANUAL	RECOUNT	
YAKS	DOMAIN	LOSS	
ATMS	GILA	TAM	OTOE
SHOW	REMO	RSE	ROADIES
PALEO	GEO	DEBUNK	MOO
STEEPLE	ALOO	GOBI	HIND
SPEECH	RECOGNITION		
TSKS	SHOULD	WE	KETTLES
LEI	STINGY	ODE	ERODE
CANTEEN	SPOT	REMOVER	
HERA	CEL	NCAA	DENT
CHAIN	CHASER	HIVE	
CHAIN	REACTION	LET	SEAT
HURL	OATH	GAE	TILDE
ARMANI	HIGH	RESOLUTION	
IRONED	ANTE	DARE	ETRE
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**THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**  
02/28/25 ISSUE

**SQUARE TO BEGIN**  
BY JOHN KUGELMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

John Kugelman, of Gainesville, Va., is a software engineer and musician. Remarkably, this is his seventh Sunday Times crossword since January 2024 — by far the most of any contributor. “All the time and creative energy I used to pour into music,” he says, “now goes to crosswords. I used to spend my nights writing music. Now it’s all crosswords, all the time. It seems to scratch the same itch.” — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Shopper’s thrill
  - 6 Clock part
  - 9 Brand
  - 14 \_\_\_\_\_ Lakshmi, host of TV’s “Taste the Nation”
  - 19 Some computer-generated images nowadays
  - 20 The masses
  - 22 “Full steam \_\_\_\_\_!”
  - 23 “Omigod, omigod, jackpot!?”
  - 25 Some college students, quaintly
  - 26 Space heater?
  - 27 \_\_\_\_\_ fly
  - 28 Smart-alecky
  - 29 FaceTime alternative
  - 30 “Eww!”
  - 32 Instruments with large bells
  - 35 Great Lakes mnemonic
  - 38 Org. whose employees wear badges
  - 40 Atlantis and others
  - 42 Hawkish
  - 44 Bad thing to be caught in
  - 45 Tempest in a teapot?
  - 48 Oh-so-precious
  - 50 Journalists quote them
  - 51 Oniony vegetables
  - 52 Body of water that was once the world’s fourth-largest lake
  - 55 Good signs in stock reports
  - 56 Challah bread feature
  - 58 Religious gymgoer on leg day?
  - 60 Souvenir from the Sea of Tranquillity, say
  - 63 Typical Passover mo.
  - 64 Many clay relics
  - 65 Not just mine
  - 66 Kanga’s kiddo
  - 67 Whimsically imaginative, as writing
  - 70 Sound from some freshly cleaned floors?
  - 75 Oozes
  - 76 Heighten
  - 77 Yo-yo-like toy with a devilish-sounding name
  - 78 “\_\_\_\_\_ mia!”
  - 80 Michael Jordan’s nickname, with “His”
  - 82 Trash
  - 83 Money under the mattress, e.g.?
  - 88 Meyer who directed 1965’s “Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!”
  - 89 Cialis alternative
  - 90 Backslid, say
  - 93 Word before or after down
  - 94 Pasta often cut at an angle
  - 95 Hazard cleanup, in brief
  - 96 Hindu honorifics
  - 98 Weapon whose name is an acronym
  - 100 “\_\_\_\_\_ tell”
  - 103 Legendary bird
  - 105 Number of jurors who originally vote “Not guilty” in “12 Angry Men”
  - 106 Mean little suckers?
  - 107 Repeat something clever, as parrots might?
  - 112 “Gesundheit!” prompter
  - 113 “Diet” for the defeated
  - 114 Tied up
  - 115 Facebook has more than three billion of them
  - 116 Aspirations
  - 117 “Downton Abbey” network
  - 118 Flies out of sight
  - 17 Brought in big bucks
  - 18 Elements of pay-per-click campaigns
  - 21 Punching sounds in the comics
  - 24 Coffee shop order
  - 29 Feudal worker
  - 31 In a big way
  - 33 Pot growers?
  - 34 Classifies
  - 36 Mice hunters
  - 37 Great Leap Forward leader
  - 39 Bitter brews, for short
  - 41 Lock of hair
  - 42 Something strapped for cash?
  - 43 Go-kart, e.g.
  - 44 Beaten at \_\_\_\_\_ own game
  - 46 Command+Q, on a Mac
  - 47 Family group
  - 48 Writing cliché
  - 49 Style sported by Theodore Roosevelt and Mark Twain
  - 52 Forehead-slapping shouts
  - 53 Outfit
  - 54 Mysterious qualities
  - 56 Yawning, say
  - 57 Hollywood’s Portia de \_\_\_\_\_
  - 59 “Raggedy” doll
  - 60 Make faces for a camera
  - 61 Barbecue bits
  - 62 Gorilla who famously learned sign language
  - 65 “If I had to guess ...”
  - 68 They’re around for the long haul
  - 69 Scorch
  - 70 More refined
  - 71 Loma \_\_\_\_\_, Calif.
  - 72 Monthly util. bill
  - 73 Host of the 2022 World Cup
  - 74 Horseshoe-shaped pipe fasteners
  - 76 Boat equipment for removing water on board
  - 78 Car sticker no.
  - 79 Parasailing, water polo, etc.
  - 80 “Watchmen” writer Moore
  - 81 What many freelancers work on
  - 84 Many a road tripper, informally
  - 85 “Ich bin \_\_\_\_\_ Berliner”
  - 86 They make sounds when they’re tickled
  - 87 Wood joint piece
  - 91 Beethoven’s Third
  - 92 What Sidney Poitier’s character famously came to, in a 1967 film
  - 94 Currency in seven American countries (and one Asian)
  - 95 Van \_\_\_\_\_ (beard type)
  - 97 Germs
  - 99 Toffee candy bar
  - 101 Broccoli \_\_\_\_\_
  - 102 Leather-working tools
  - 104 Cartoon collector’s collection, maybe
  - 106 Greek letter that’s the symbol for torque
  - 107 [I’m trying to watch the movie!]
  - 108 Status follower
  - 109 Slack or Zoom
  - 110 Fudge the facts
  - 111 Language mutually intelligible with Thai

ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...



# Public Notices

## ORDINANCE NO. 25-O-2912

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING SECTIONS 2-4-201; 2-4-202; AND 2-4-203 OF THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE PREVENTION OF PRICE GOUGING

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

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Fires and Windstorm Event of January 2025 has burned over 40,000 acres, destroyed more than 12,000 residential and commercial structures, and damaged critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2025, the Governor of California declared a State of Emergency to exist in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties due to the Fires and Windstorm Event; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Los Angeles County residents have had their lives significantly impacted through partial or complete property loss, damage or evacuation orders, and

WHEREAS, in the wake of widespread destruction, thousands of Los Angeles County residents must now purchase a myriad of goods and services to sustain their wellbeing and to begin the long process of rebuilding their lives; and

WHEREAS, California Penal Code Section 396 makes it illegal for a person, contractor, business, or other entity to increase the price of a product or service item more than ten (10) percent for the following thirty (30) days after a proclamation of a state of emergency declared by the President of the United States or the Governor, or upon the declaration of a local emergency by an official, board, or other governing body vested with authority to make that declaration; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Penal Code Section 396(k), municipalities are authorized to enact local legislation prohibiting excessive and unjustified increases in the prices of essential consumer goods and services when a declared state of emergency results in abnormal disruptions of the market; and

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 7 of the California Constitution and California Government Code Section 37100 provide the City with authority to enact local ordinances to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Council to amend the price gouging article of the Municipal Code to reflect consistency with state law and to include provisions that protect against price gouging for newly rented properties.

**Section 1.** The City Council hereby amends and restates Section 2-4-201 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to read as follows:

### 2-4-201: FINDINGS AND INTENT:

The city council hereby finds that during a state of emergency or local emergency, including, but not limited to, an earthquake, flood, fire, riot, storm, drought, plant or animal infestation or disease, pandemic or epidemic disease outbreak, or other natural or manmade disaster, some merchants have taken unfair advantage of consumers by greatly increasing prices for

essential consumer goods and services. While the pricing of consumer goods and services is generally best left to the marketplace under ordinary conditions, when a Declared Emergency results in abnormal disruptions of the market, the public interest requires that excessive and unjustified increases in the prices of essential consumer goods and services be prohibited. It is the intent of the city council in enacting this article to protect citizens from excessive and unjustified increases in the prices charged during or shortly after a Declared Emergency for goods and services that are vital and necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of consumers, whether those goods and services are offered or sold in person, in stores, or online. Further, it is the intent of the city council that this article be liberally construed so that its beneficial purposes may be served.

**Section 2.** The City Council hereby amends and restates Section 2-4-202 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to include or revise the following definitions:

**DECLARED EMERGENCY:** The proclamation or declaration of a "local emergency" or "state of emergency" or "state of war emergency" as defined in section 2-4-102 of this chapter.

**HOUSING:** Any rental housing with an initial lease term of no longer than one year.

**REPAIR OR RECONSTRUCTION SERVICES:** Services performed by any Person who is required to be licensed under the California contractors' state license law (chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the California Business and Professions Code), for repairs to residential or commercial property of any type that is damaged as a result of an event that led to a Declared Emergency.

**TRANSPORTATION, FREIGHT, AND STORAGE SERVICES:** Any service that is performed by any company that contracts to move, store, or transport personal or business property or rents equipment for those purposes.

**RENTAL PRICE:**  
(A) For Housing rented within one year prior to a Declared Emergency, the actual Rental Price paid by the tenant.

For Housing not rented at the time of a Declared Emergency, but rented, or offered for rent, within one year prior to the Declared Emergency, the most recent Rental Price offered before the Declared Emergency.

For Housing rented at the time of a Declared Emergency but which becomes vacant while the emergency remains in effect and which is subject to any ordinance, rule, regulation, or initiative measure adopted by any local governmental entity that establishes a maximum amount that a landlord may charge a tenant for rent, the actual Rental Price paid by the previous tenant or the amount specified in subparagraph (B), whichever is greater. This amount may be increased by 5 percent (5%) if the Housing was previously rented or offered for rent unfurnished, and it is now being offered for rent fully furnished. This amount shall not be adjusted for any other good or service, including, but not limited to, gardening or utilities currently or formerly provided in connection with the lease.

(B) For Housing not rented and not offered for rent within one year prior to a Declared Emergency, 160 percent (160%) of the fair market rent established

by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. This amount may be increased by 5 percent (5%) if the Housing is offered for rent fully furnished. This amount shall not be adjusted for any other good or service, including, but not limited to, gardening or utilities currently or formerly provided in connection with the lease.

(C) Housing advertised, offered, or charged, at a daily rate at the time of a Declared Emergency, shall be subject to the Rental Price described in subparagraph (A), if the Housing continues to be advertised, offered, or charged, at a daily rate. Housing advertised, offered, or charged, on a daily basis at the time of a Declared Emergency, shall be subject to the Rental Price in subparagraph (B), if the Housing is advertised, offered, or charged, on a periodic lease agreement after the Declared Emergency.

**Section 3.** The City Council hereby amends and restates Section 2-4-203 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to read as follows:

### 2-4-203: PROHIBITION AGAINST EXCESSIVE AND UNJUSTIFIED INCREASES IN CONSUMER PRICES DURING A DECLARED EMERGENCY:

#### A. Consumer Goods And Services:

1. Upon a Declared Emergency, and for a period of thirty (30) days following a Declared Emergency, it is unlawful for a Person to sell or offer to sell any consumer food items or goods, goods or services used for emergency cleanup, emergency supplies, medical supplies, home heating oil, building materials, housing, Transportation, Freight, and Storage Services, or gasoline or other motor fuels for a price of more than ten percent (10%) above the price charged by that Person for those goods or services immediately prior to the Declared Emergency.

2. A Person may increase prices in excess of the amount permitted in subsection (A)(1) of this section if the seller or vendor can demonstrate that the increase in price is directly attributable to additional costs imposed on that Person by the supplier of the goods, or directly attributable to additional costs for labor or materials used to provide the services, provided that in those situations where the increase in price is attributable to additional costs imposed by the seller's supplier or additional costs of providing the goods or service during the Declared Emergency, the price represents no more than ten percent (10%) above the total of the cost to the seller plus the markup customarily applied by the seller for that good or service in the usual course of business immediately prior to the Declared Emergency.

3. A Person offering an item for sale at a reduced price immediately prior to a Declared Emergency may use the price at which it usually sells the item to calculate the price increase permitted pursuant to this subsection.

#### B. Construction, Repair, And Cleanup Services:

1. Upon a Declared Emergency, and for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days following a Declared Emergency, it is unlawful for a Person to sell or offer to sell any Repair or Reconstruction Services or any services used in emergency cleanup for a price of more than ten percent (10%) above the price charged by that Person for those services immediately prior

or to the Declared Emergency.

2. A Person may increase prices in excess of the amount permitted in subsection (B)(1) of this section if the Person can demonstrate that the increase in price is directly attributable to additional costs imposed on that Person by the supplier of the goods, or directly attributable to additional costs for labor or materials used to provide the services, provided that in those situations where the increase in price is attributable to the additional costs imposed by the Person's supplier or additional costs of providing the service during the Declared Emergency, the price represents no more than ten percent (10%) above the total of the cost to the Person plus the markup customarily applied by the Person for that good or service in the usual course of business immediately prior to the Declared Emergency.

3. A Person offering a service at a reduced price immediately prior to a Declared Emergency may use the price at which he or she usually provides the service to calculate the price increase permitted pursuant to this subsection.

#### C. Hotel And Motel Rates:

1. Upon a Declared Emergency, and for a period of thirty (30) days following a Declared Emergency, it is unlawful for an owner or operator of a hotel or motel to increase the hotel or motel's regular rates, as advertised immediately prior to the Declared Emergency, by more than ten percent (10%).

2. A hotel owner or operator may increase prices in excess of the amount permitted by subsection (C)(1) of this section if the owner or operator can prove that the increase in price is directly attributable to additional costs imposed on it for goods or labor used in its business, to seasonal adjustments in rates that are regularly scheduled, or to previously contracted rates.

#### D. Rental Property Rates:

1. Upon a Declared Emergency, and for a period of thirty (30) days following a Declared Emergency, it is unlawful for any Person to increase the Rental Price, as defined in Section 2-4-202, advertised, offered, or charged for Housing, to an existing or prospective tenant, by more than ten percent (10%) of the regular rate, as advertised immediately prior to the Declared Emergency.

2. A Person may increase prices in excess of the amount permitted by subsection (D)(1) of this section if the Person can prove that the increase in price is directly attributable to additional costs for repairs or additions beyond normal maintenance that were amortized over the rental term that caused the rent to be increased greater than ten percent (10%) or that an increase was contractually agreed to by the tenant prior to the Declared Emergency.

3. It shall not be a defense to a prosecution under this subdivision that an increase in Rental Price was based on the length of the rental term, the inclusion of additional goods or services, except as provided in Section 2-4-202 with respect to furniture, or that the rent was offered by, or paid by, an insurance company, or other third party, on behalf of a tenant. This subdivision does not authorize a landlord to charge a price greater than the amount authorized by a local rent control ordinance.

**Section 4.** Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid

CONTINUE TO PAGE 16



# Public Notices

by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be considered a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the other provisions of this Ordinance.

**Section 5. Publication.** The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the City within fifteen (15) days after its passage in accordance with Section 36933 of the Government Code, shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause this Ordinance and the City Clerk's certification, together with proof of publication, to be entered in the Book of Ordinances of the Council of this City.

**Section 6. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall go into effect and be in full force and effect at 12:01 a.m. on the thirty-first (31st) day after its passage.

**Section 7. Certification.** The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance.

Adopted: February 19, 2025  
Effective: March 22, 2025

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

ATTEST: HUMA AHMED (SEAL)  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
LAURENCE S. WIENER  
City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:  
NANCY HUNT-COFFEY  
City Manager

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT **2025032919**  
The following is/are doing business as: **PROGRESSIVE ENGINEERING, INC. 325 Maple Dr. Box #5137, Beverly Hills, 90209-6002**; Progressive Engineering, Inc. 325 Maple Dr. Box #5137; The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION** registrant(s) has HAS begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on May 2010: **Progressive Engineering, Inc. Diba Yadegari, President.** Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 18, 2025; Published: February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025 LACC N/C

## 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](http://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](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California

Courts online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://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](mailto: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 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.

## NOTICE TO BIDDERS

### Construction of WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS – VARIOUS LOCATIONS Within the City of BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

City of Beverly Hills (City), California invites electronic bids for the **WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS – VARIOUS LOCATIONS** within the City of Beverly Hills, California. The City will receive such bids electronically via PlanetBids up to **2:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 27, 2025.** Bid results will be publicly released via PlanetBids.

Copies of the Plans and Specifications and may be inspected and downloaded from the City's PlanetBids webpage: <https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/39493/bo/bo-detail/126208>

A virtual **NON-MANDATORY pre-bid meeting to discuss the requirements of the Project will be held at 10:00 am on Thursday March 6, 2025** via Microsoft Teams. The meeting link will be posted on bid page for this project on PlanetBids.

## PROJECT WORK LOCATIONS

**Hillcrest Drive** (from Carmelita Avenue to just north of Elevado Avenue).

**Alta Drive** (from Carmelita Avenue to Elevado Avenue).

**Sierra Drive** (from Carmelita Avenue to just north of Elevado Avenue).

**Oakhurst Drive** (from Carmelita Avenue to Elevado Avenue).

**Alley between Sierra Drive and Oakhurst Drive** (from Elevado Avenue to Cinthia Street).

**Elevado Avenue** (from Hillcrest Drive to Doheny Drive).

**SCOPE OF THE WORK** – The work to be done shall consist of furnishing all the required labor, materials, equipment, parts, implements and supplies necessary for, or appurtenant to, the construction and completion of the **Water Main Replacements – Various Locations** in accordance with Drawing No. 10428 and the specifications prepared for this project.

**TIME FOR COMPLETION** - The Contractor agrees to complete the entire work within 250 working days from Notice to Proceed.

**ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE** - The preliminary cost of construction of this Work has been prepared and the said estimate is **\$7,100,000.00.**

**CITY CONTACT** – Any questions or requests for information can be directed to the Project Manager, **Tristan Malabanan, P.E.,** via PlanetBids.

**CONTRACTORS LICENSE** - In compliance with Public Contract Code Section 3300, the City has determined that the Bidder must possess the following license(s): **“Class A”**

**THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BID OR ALL THE BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY OR IRREGULARITY IN ANY BID, BUT IF THE BIDS ARE ACCEPTED, THE CONTRACT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT WILL BE LET TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE.**

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

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](http://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](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://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](mailto: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



# Classifieds

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Life Insurance Settlements - Need \$\$\$

It may be an option worth considering for **Unwanted** or **Unneeded** Life Insurance Policies. **Ages 65 +**



#### Marc Maretsky

**Personal Insurance Services**

"Helping my clients with a personal touch since 1980"

Request Marc's Comprehensive Life Settlement Q&A.

Please send your email address to

[marcmaretsky@att.net](mailto:marcmaretsky@att.net) and write in the subject

line BH Courier Life Settlement Q&A.

I can be reached at (310) 275-4069

with any questions.

Located in the **♥** of Beverly Hills

## 08 LEGAL SERVICES

### PERSONAL INJURY & ACCIDENT

#### Law Offices of Jeffrey A. Shane

For Winning Settlements and Verdicts



**310 820 3644**

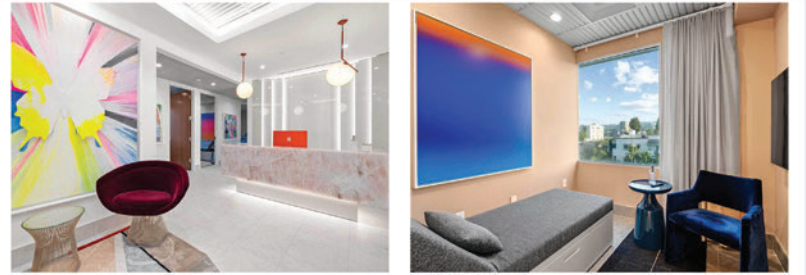
[js@jeffreyslane.com](mailto:js@jeffreyslane.com)

Beverly Hills/ Brentwood

[www.jeffreyslane.com](http://www.jeffreyslane.com)

## 38 HEALTH & WELLNESS

### REDISCOVER JOY WITH KETAMINE INFUSION THERAPY



Struggling with persistent depression, even after multiple treatments? At Interbeing Health in Beverly Hills, ketamine infusion therapy offers rapid relief often within hours versus the weeks or months traditional antidepressants can take. Our serene, upscale clinic ensures privacy and comfort, with each infusion session customized to your needs and monitored by our expert medical team. Ketamine therapy helps break negative thought patterns and restores hope by activating neuroplasticity. Take the first step toward lasting well-being.

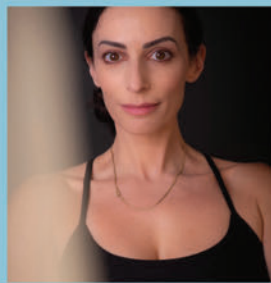
Please contact our Clinical Liaison,  
Anish Patel at [anish@interbeinghealth.com](mailto:anish@interbeinghealth.com)  
or by phone at (614) 601-8624.



[www.interbeinghealth.com](http://www.interbeinghealth.com)

## COURIER CLASSIFIEDS (310) 278-1322

## 18 PERSONAL ORGANIZER



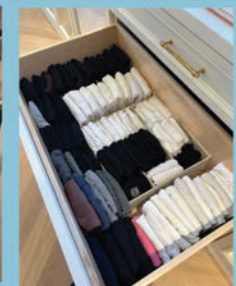
JENNY OF  
ALL TRADES  
The Los Angeles  
professional  
organizer everyone  
needs in their lives.  
[Jennydun18@gmail.com](mailto:Jennydun18@gmail.com),  
310 989-3697.  
Instagram  
[@jennyddesign](https://www.instagram.com/jennyddesign)



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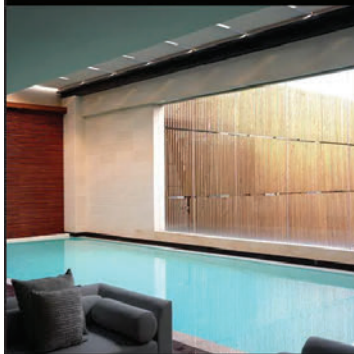
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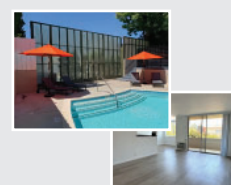
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