BEVERLY HILLS COURIER VOL. LXI NO. 17

APRIL 25, 2025

THE NEWSPAPER OF RECORD FOR BEVERLY HILLS

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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

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<u>ل</u>	Saturday	61° 50°
\$	Sunday	64° 49°
\$	Monday	71° 51°
\$	Tuesday	76° 55°
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Council Approves Climate Action Plan



Photo courtesy city of Beverly Hills Members of the City Council with Fr. Edward Benioff (third from left)

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

Mayor Sharona Nazarian presided over her first City Council Study Session and Regular Meeting on April 22. In a brief speech, she expressed her gratitude and hope for the year to come.

"It's an incredible honor to sit here tonight for my very first City Council meeting as mayor, and I want to take a moment to thank my colleagues, our city staff, and our incredible community for the warm welcome and continued support," she said. "As we begin the next chapter together, I'm filled with hope and determination for a stronger, safer and more united Beverly Hills.'

Her remarks were followed by the inaugural Moment of Unity, a project Nazarian championed as part of her plans for her mayoral term. To kick it off, remarks were delivered by Fr. Edward Benioff, Pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Speaking about the recent death of Pope Francis, Benioff emphasized the late Roman Catholic Church leader's emphasis on unity.

"In a deep way, he said we need to not just listen to each other, but we need to learn from each other ... that was his gift to the church and to the world, and that's really the heart of unity," Benioff said.

At the Regular Meeting, the council voted to approve the city's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). At the Study Session, the council supported a request from the Rodeo Drive Committee regarding See CITY COUNCIL, page 5

State Modifies Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Beverly Hills

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) has released revised maps identifying fire hazard severity zones throughout the state, and the designations of certain areas in Beverly Hills have changed.

The new maps-which label regions in the state as moderate, high or very high fire hazard severity zones-designate approximately 260 additional acres of Beverly Hills as very high, according to Jim McDougald, Assistant Deputy Director, Cal Fire Community Wildfire Planning and Risk Reduction.

Those new areas, said Trevor Richmond, Beverly Hills Assistant Fire Chief - Fire Marshal, are predominantly south of Sunset Boulevard.

"Prior to the new map coming out, the very high zone was north of Sunset," Richmond said. "So, you'll look at the new map and you'll see that the [very high area] is actually extended."

In most of Beverly Hills, the new border of very high fire hazard severity zones runs, roughly, east to west between Lomitas and Elevado Avenues. On the old map, that border ran roughly along Sunset Boulevard.

To determine what zone their home falls in, if any, residents are advised to type their address into the official map on the Cal Fire See CAL FIRE, page 3

First "Spotlight with Sharona" a Major Success

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

Mayor Sharona Nazarian's inaugural "Spotlight with Sharona" event took place on April 23 at Novikov. A sold-out crowd of 150 community members came out to support and sample the Canon Drive restaurant's menu offerings. Organized in partnership with the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, the initiative features different businesses throughout Beverly Hills and invites the public to experience them alongside the mayor.

"I think that we have so much to offer her in the community, and I really wanted to be able to highlight the various businesses," Nazarian told the Courier. "We are facing certain economic restraints in the coming years, and so I really wanted to find ways to support the local businesses while also See SPOTLIGHT, page 13



Photo courtesy Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Mayor Sharona Nazarian addresses attendees at the first "Spotlight with Sharona."

Teachers' Union, BHUSD Hope to Reach Agreement **Before Summer**

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

As the end of the school year approaches, the Beverly Hills Education Association (BHEA)- the union that represents public school teachers in Beverly Hills -hopes to come to an agreement with Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) over teachers' contracts and avoid prolonging negotiations through summer or into fall.

"I believe both sides are making progress," See TEACHERS' UNION, page 5

Courier Calendar

NOW - APRIL 26 THE WALLIS: "JOHN WATERS' BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: THE NAKED TRUTH" 7:30 P.M.

Ok, John Waters is finally coming clean, so to speak, and his all-new, secret-sharing, one-man crackpot comedy show dares to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the filthy truth. It's an endless bag of trans-gressive and hetero-non-aggressive twisted tales that will warm the dark little hearts of non-binary brats all over the world. Waters knows the truth isn't always pretty and he doesn't shy away from the social horrors of our present times--whimsical motion pictures, free porn you should pay for, the humiliation of the human body and the unwanted nudity of fellow travelers in the airport. Yet Waters knows he's not perfect either. He too has flaws. No matter what he preaches, he does judge others and in his show he names names and assigns blame. He even admits to being a terrorist--but a "good" terrorist, one that stylishly blows up prejudice, humorously overthrows theocracy, and falls off the soapbox of selfrighteous sexual politics and climbs right back on with a revolutionary horniness for a woke poke. Yessiree, Waters tells the truth. "The Naked Truth." Shut up and listen. The Wallis is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills. thewallis.org

NOW - MAY 4 GETTY CENTER: **"MARÎA MAGDALENA CAMPOS-PONS: BEHOLD"** TUES.-FRI., SUN. 10 A.M.-5:30 P.M. SAT. 10 A.M.-8 P.M. Cuban-born María Magdalena Campos-Pons makes vivid photographs, watercolors, installations and performances that trace the cultural and personal impacts of migration and memory. Her works reflect global histories of labor as they affected her family through enslavement, indenture and motherhood, emphasizing resilience and respect for her Nigerian and Chinese ancestors. This survey of 35 years of artmaking and activism highlights the interconnectedness between people and their environments, offering an expansive, incisive and sensorial experience. Admission to the Getty is free, with parking available for a fee. The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles. getty.edu

NOW - MAY 4 THEATRE 40: "BUDDIES" FRI.-SAT. 8 P.M. SUN. 3 P.M. Theatre 40 presents "Buddies," the world-premiere comedy, which asks

world-premiere comedy, which asks the question, "Can two adult males have a meaningful platonic relationship?" The women in their lives have something to say about it. The play is written by Ben Abbott, directed by Morris Schorr and presented by SkyPilot Theatre Company. Shows are hosted at 905 Cole Theatre, 905 N. Cole Ave., Hollywood. theatre40.org

NOW - MAY 25 ROGUE MACHINE THEATRE: "CORKTOWN '39" MON., FRI., SAT. 8 P.M. SUN. 2 P.M.

Rogue Machine Theatre presents "Corktown '39," a play by John Fazakerley. This political thriller about a little-known Irish Republican Army plot to assassinate the king of England is inspired by true events. The play takes place over a span of four days in early May 1939 and raises the ethical dilemma and a moral debate of employing terrorist tactics as a means of achieving a noble goal. With intrigue and romance, the world-premiere production stars some of L.A.'s best-known actors. Tickets are \$45 for general admission and \$35 for seniors on Fridays, Sundays and Mondays. On Saturdays, tickets are \$60 for general admission and \$45 for students. For all showings, tickets are \$25 for students with ID and children under 18. Rogue Machine is located at 7658 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles.

roguemachinetheatre.org

APRIL 27

THE BROAD: "FAMILY WEEKEND WORKSHOPS: PICTURE PERFECT" 11 A.M.-5 P.M.

The Broad presents a workshop tutorial to teach participants how to transform themselves like Broad collection artist Cindy Sherman. Attendees can design a persona based on popular traits from art,



Ann Noble and JD Cullum in "Corktown '39" at Rogue Machine Theatre until May 25

Photo by Jeff Lorch

movies and media. Then, they will bring it to life using fabric, felt and paint markers to build props and costumes before heading to the photo booth to capture their character. Finally, participants will take it even further by designing a background to put the finishing touch on their photo. Sherman is a New Yorkbased artist who has explored how we think of identity for decades. Sherman does this by photographing herself in different characters she's created using stereotypes seen in art, ads, movies and more. By doing this, she challenges and breaks down these stereotypes through her photos, questioning the reality of the faces seen in media. Family Weekend Workshops offer free activities and workshops to engage with the art on view in the museum. Workshops give families the opportunity to make their own artworks to take home, inspired by the Broad collection. Family Weekend Workshops are free with advance ticket reservations. Walk-ups without reserved tickets may be accommodated, pending capacity. The Broad is located at 221 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles. thebroad.org

MAY 4

BEVERLY HILLS POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL POLICE SERVICE DAY AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8:30-11 A.M.

The Beverly Hills Police Officers Association will hold its Annual Police Service Day and Pancake Breakfast in the Civic Center Plaza, 464 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills. The entire community is invited to this free event, which includes delicious pancakes and coffee served by Beverly Hills Police Officers. Interactive displays include SWAT, K-9, Defensive Tactics and more. There will be fun activities for kids and for the whole family including station tours and a photo booth. For further information contact the Beverly Hills Police Officers Association. 310-550-4551

MAY 18 THE BOLD

THE BOLD BEAUTY PROJECT: UCLA SPRING 2025 EDITION 3-5 P.M.

UCLA hosts the Spring 2025 edition of The Bold Beauty Project. Bold Beauty Project is a powerful visual arts exhibition that celebrates women with varying disabilities. Its creative, large-scale photographs, portrayed by awardwinning photographers, coupled with the women's personal stories, create a vivid and intimate portrait of women with disabilities today. The photos invigorate the current social movement for diversity and inclusion and serve to reimagine beauty in our world. Admission is free and the event is hosted at Kerckhoff Coffee House located at 308 Westwood Plaza #2, Los Angeles. boldbeautyproject.com

CAL FIRE, from page 1 website.

Richmond notes that the city has been working to get granular with the borders as some Beverly Hills lots appeared to be "cut in half," he said, by the boundaries between very high and high zones issued by the state.

Richmond is also collaborating with a city staff member who works with geographic information systems to examine lots one at a time and determine each property's correct zone.

"We've gone through all the lots that are half in, half out, and we've typed in those addresses [and] readjusted the maps to reflect more accurately what zone each lot is in," he said. "We've done a lot of work to make it really clear."

The city plans to distribute a flyer within the next several weeks that shows those designations, as well as post the information on their website.

The new maps were created by Cal Fire using updated systems. Those systems allow experts to more accurately account for wind patterns, including speed and direction, that are likely to blow embers from high vegetation areas into urban or non-wildland areas. The new borders in Beverly Hills reflect that increased predicting ability.

"What the model does now that it didn't do before is mapping, basically, where the embers from that adjacent vegetation are going to land," McDougald said.

Work on the new maps has been ongoing

since 2022. It came on the heels of a state bill that required Cal Fire to create fire hazard severity zone maps for Local Responsibility Areas (LRA), where the local government is responsible for wildfire protection, in addition to State Responsibility Areas (SRA), where the state is financially responsible for wildland fire protection and prevention.

"We did the SRA adoption first," McDougald said. "The SRA was finally adopted and went into effect April 1, 2024, and then we started on the Local Responsibility Area."

Individuals whose home or property is located in very high severity zones are required to comply with laws that govern so-called defensible space, which refers to maintenance regulations for the area around the structure.

Those regulations include reducing intense fuel within 5 feet of the structure and managing vegetation that exists up to 100 feet from the structure.

Richmond said the Beverly Hills Fire Department (BHFD) plans to conduct an ongoing public education campaign to help residents understand the new maps and requirements, particularly homeowners who are newly affected by the very high fire hazard severity zone. That might mean a lighter touch with code enforcement as more information is provided to residents.

"Over the next couple years, it'll be a public education, probably, versus a code enforcement issue," he said. "After a couple



Photo by Jessica Ogilvie

years ... we'll apply the code and begin the code enforcement."

The new maps move very high zones further south to Lomitas Ave.

Beverly Hills also recently released an updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The plan will allow residents to be more prepared to face natural disasters, including wildfires.

According to a statement from the city, members of the community are invited to respond to the plan between April 21 and May 5. In order to qualify for grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the plan must be adopted as a prerequisite.

Residents interested in looking up their home to see where it falls on the new Cal Fire maps can use this link: <u>https://</u> osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/ fire-hazard-severity-zones.

Residents interested in viewing and responding to the LHMP may visit: <u>https://</u> <u>www.beverlyhills.org/1447/Hazard-</u> <u>Mitigation-Plan-Update or email comments</u> to hazardmitigation@beverlyhills.org. •

GOLDA ZAHRA at the BEVERLY CANON GARDENS

FREE CONCERT PERFORMANCE SATURDAY, MAY 24 at 6:30 pm

Beverly Canon Gardens 241 North Canon Drive, Beverly Hills

Facebook: Golda Zahra Opera Instagram: @golda.zahra



GOLDAZAHRA.COM

News

Reforestation Project and Pickleball on Recreation and Parks Commission Agenda



The Recreation and Parks Commission took up a number of issues at its latest meeting.

BY NATHAN ANSELL

The Beverly Hills Recreation and Parks Commission meeting on April 22 covered a quartet of agenda items, from plants to pickleball to a proposed prize.

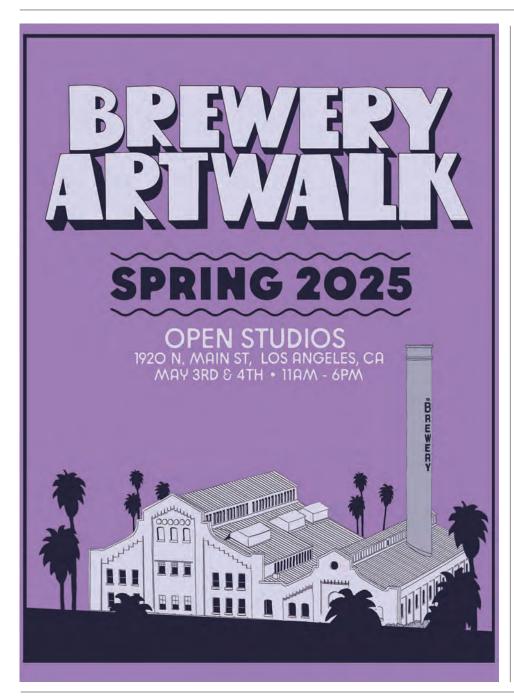
Before those topics were discussed,

however, the meeting started with a report from Judy Manouchehri, Beverly Hills Unified School District board vice president. The commissioners asked for updates on education technology, athletic facilities and victims of the See REC AND PARKS, page 9

A Cup of Thank You for Former Mayor Friedman



Photo courtesy Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Community members, city and Chamber of Commerce officials came together over coffee at Faregrounds on Roxbury Drive on April 21 to honor former Mayor Lester Friedman and thank him for his service and leadership.



<section-header>

SCANDIA HOME BEVERLY HILLS

332 N. Beverly Drive 310.860.1486 beverlyhills@scandiahome.com

*Lucea Sea Island Collection is not included in the sale

TEACHERS' UNION, from page 1

said Katherine Warren, the president of the BHEA. "I believe there are still open lines of communication ... I just wish we were going at a faster pace."

Negotiations between the two parties were initially set to begin in August 2024; however the district requested a postponement due to the school board election, which took place in November 2024. BHEA agreed, and talks were initiated in January.

Multiple changes in district and school

CITY COUNCIL, from page 1

the annual Father's Day Concourse d'Elegance car show and voiced support for a new Traffic and Parking Commissioner.

The CAAP, which was approved by the Beverly Hills City Council Liaison/Public Works Commission Committee on March 26, details proposed actions designed to reduce the city's carbon footprint and help the community adapt to predicted climate-related changes.

Over the next several decades, the Beverly Hills area is expected to see more frequent extreme heat days, higher temperatures and increased variability in precipitation.

Among the strategies proposed in the CAAP to decrease greenhouse emissions are amplifying the use of renewable energy, expanding electric vehicle infrastructure and decreasing water use. Proposed tactics to adapt to weather variations include upgrades to infrastructure, sharpening emergency preparedness and increasing community participation.

The plan is an effort to get the city to carbon neutrality by 2045, however in its current iteration, it would not accomplish that goal.

In their comments, councilmembers stressed that the goal is ambitious.

"I appreciate the thinking on it and setting these foundational strategies for how we can move closer to having a net zero in 2045," said Wells, but "they are aspirational in many ways."

The council voted 4-1 to adopt the plan, with Vice Mayor John Mirisch voting no. Citing the works of ecological economist Herman Daly and others, Mirisch argued that one of the most pressing issues facing the climate is growthism, and said that the CAAP, while good, is "just not enough."

In other business, the council unanimously supported the appointment of Negar Kamara to the Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC). Kamara submitted her application for the position in May 2024 to fill the vacancy left by former Commissioner Ron Shalowitz. She was interviewed with four other applicants on Feb. 20 by a panel including Nazarian, Mirisch, TPC Chair Karen Afra-Maghen and Vice Chair Hadar Geller.

According to her application, Kamara is an attorney and realtor who has lived in the city for approximately 26 years. She has worked as a traffic judge pro tem in the Beverly Hills and Santa Monica courts.

The council formally approved Kamara's appointment to a term that will begin May 1 and conclude on June 30, 2027. She will be eligible for reappointment to a second, fouryear term. leadership have caused significant slowdowns in the process.

On Feb. 21, then-BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy resigned. On March 11, the BHUSD Board announced the closure of nearly a dozen district positions, including the position held by Matt Horvath, the then-assistant superintendent of personnel services.

According to Interim Superintendent Dr. Jason Hasty, Horvath previously served as the lead negotiator in contract discussions with the teachers' union.

In response to a recommendation made by city staff and City Council liaisons, the council during its Study Session supported a request for funding, street closures, event elements and banner conceptual designs for the annual Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance Father's Day Car Show.

The event will be held on June 15, with the theme "Luxury in Motion." Last year's event brought out 44,000 attendees and was featured in both automotive and mainstream media outlets.

The recommendation to support the requests was initially made on March 17 by the City Council Liaison/Rodeo Drive/Special Events/Holiday Program Committee, which included as liaisons Wells and then-Mayor Lester Friedman.

"It is a great family tradition to come to Rodeo Drive for Father's Day," said Kay Monica Rose, the Rodeo Drive Committee president, during a presentation. "It's a multigenerational, family-oriented event ... cars bring people together."

Street closures for the event will go into effect on June 14 at 9 p.m. and remain in place until June 15 at 11 p.m. They will include Rodeo Drive from Wilshire Boulevard to S. Santa Monica Boulevard, Dayton Way from Rodeo Drive to the alleyways east and west and Brighton Way from Rodeo Drive to the alleyways east and west.

Event organizers requested funding in the amount of \$312,254, an increase from last year's city contribution of \$298,450. All requests for the event were supported by the council unanimously.

Other actions taken by the council included a vote to adopt the 2025 Legislative Platform. A draft of the Platform was presented at the March 18 City Council Study Session, and the changes requested by the council at that meeting were incorporated in the final draft. Those changes included language regarding public health, legislative sponsorship and public safety.

The council also approved a partnership between the city and Paramount Pictures to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the movie "Clueless," along with a waiver of related permit fees of approximately \$4,930. A series of month-long events for the commemoration may include a screening of the movie in La Cienega Park, a mother-daughter movie night at Greystone Mansion and a 90s-themed cover band as part of Concerts on Cañon.

The council approved July 20 as the date for the third annual Festival Beverly Hills, which will take place at Beverly Gardens Park, and an appropriation vrequest of \$18,000. Warren says that in past years, representatives for the union and the district were able to conduct more rounds of offers and counters in a single day during contract negotiations. Last year, the two parties often went back and forth twice a day.

This year, she said, that process has changed to one round per day, once every two weeks.

Hasty agreed that contract talks have been affected.

"[O]ne could argue we've had to have some delays in negotiations ... what happened with the Palisades Fires, with our leadership change, I can see where some might say we're a little slow to start," he said.

In the current round of negotiations, BHEA is asking for an increase in salary, updates to benefits and leave policies, and changes to elementary class sizes. Teachers received a salary increase of 10.5% last year, which Warren said made up for previous years in which increases were approximately 2.5%.

Laura Collins-Williams, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, and Dr. Dustin Seemann, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, are the main leads representing the district in contract negotiations with the union. Rachelle Marcus, BHUSD Board President, has also been sitting in on discussions.

Hasty noted that the makeup of the negotiating committee for the district is subject to change.

BHEA's bargaining committee is led by Beverly Hills High School math teacher Josh Glass, and each school sends one additional representative to the table.

A primary concern for teachers is the possibility of going into the 2025-2026 school year without knowing what their salaries will be.

Warren said that continuing negotiations over the summer presents its own set of challenges, as many educators are on schedules that are difficult to align.

"I'm going to be disappointed and sad [if an agreement isn't reached], because I think when teachers leave for summer vacation, they should know what their salary is in the fall," she said.

Hasty said the district shares the same goal.

"It is 100% the intention of the district and our leadership and the board to get a deal done before they leave for the summer," he said. "And I'm going personally to be doing everything I can to ensure negotiations continue and that we're not having any unnecessary pauses moving forward."

The 2024-2025 school year will conclude on May 30. In order to reach an agreement by that time, Hasty said he would encourage the district to "work together to come to some common agreements ... where we can meet in the middle on some of these things." •



Community

BHEF Receives L'Ermitage Community Impact Grant

Beverly Hills Education Foundation (BHEF) was once again chosen to be a L'Ermitage Community Impact Partner, receiving \$25,000 on April 22. BHEF was previously gifted with \$16,000 in May and another \$30,000 in October to further their mission of elevating educational excellence for all BHUSD schools. BHEF President Tina Wiener and Director of Development Tiffany Davis received the check from L'Ermitage General Manager Frederic Zemmour and Regional Director Dana Sholl, accompanied by L'Ermitage staff.



Visionary Women Hosts 'Stories of Resilience'

Visionary Women, in collaboration with The Moth, welcomed a packed house to The Hammer Museum on April 21 for an evening of storytelling entitled "Stories of Resilience." Guests experienced a moving series of true, personal stories shared live on stage–raw, candid, and radiant accounts that honored the strength of the human spirit. The event honored New Economics for Women as the benefactor organization for wildfire relief efforts.



Photo courtesy Visionary Women

AI Transformation's Key Ingredient: The Humans

By Terry Feit, Los Angeles Managing Partner, Deloitte LLP; and Danielle Feinblum, Transformation Communications & Change Leader, Organization Transformation, Deloitte Consulting LLP



No matter what kind of work we do, we are all in the business of people. At times, it can be a tricky business, especially for managers.

Disruptive forces like artificial intelligence (AI) are creating conflicting worker, manager, and organizational needs that can weigh heavily on everyone. These needs relate to growing experience gaps as entry-level roles change, new training and development requirements arise, and organizations scramble to achieve technology's potential.

It's a challenging time. On the path to sustainable growth, organizations should focus on achieving "stagility" – balancing the need to provide workers with stability and value while still enabling an agile, results-focused culture.

Three workforce trends

To better understand the landscape, Deloitte recently surveyed nearly 13,000 business and human resources leaders across numerous industries and sectors for our <u>2025</u> <u>Global Human Capital Trends</u> report. Here are three key findings: The role of the manager needs to be reinvented. While our research shows that organizations recognize the importance of better supporting managers and reinventing their role (73%), only 7% say they are making great progress in this area. Many managers find themselves focused more on administrative work than nurturing talent. More than one-third of managers (36%) feel unprepared to be people managers at all with 40% reporting a decline in mental health after becoming managers.

Al has the potential to help managers become more people-focused and agile. Al can help automate some of the administrative work that takes the time of managers today. It can also be a powerful tool in assisting managers as they coach, motivate and nurture people, activities that will be essential as the workforce navigates the increasing pace of change in work.

The blurring of distinctions between work accomplished by humans and technology is concerning.

That's according to the majority (54%) of workers and leaders surveyed. Every worker has an employee value proposition (EVP), sometimes called a workforce or human value proposition – a reason to join and stay with a company. Updating the EVP to reflect humanmachine collaboration can help organizations better support their employees and adapt to these changes. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of leaders know the importance of refreshing their EVP this way, but only 6% have made great progress in this area. Leaders can also help create workforce trust by openly communicating Al's role in job transformation, career growth and work-life balance.

• Most recent hires are not fully prepared for their roles.

Two-thirds (66%) of managers and executives surveyed feel this way, and a lack of experience is the hires' most common failing. Complicating matters is that the number of traditional entry-level roles is shrinking, making it harder for workers to gain the necessary hands-on experience. To close experience gaps, 73% of executives and 72% of workers agreed that organizations should do more today to connect their workforce with opportunities to build experience.

For the best results, be deliberate

The arrival of AI has only intensified these challenges. When applied in workplaces, AI replaces some amount of human labor in the tasks it takes on, whether it enables a person to work on other valuable tasks or precipitates more profound change. The gains may come faster than organizations can properly absorb them. Wise leaders will take a long view.

Focusing too much on short-term results can undermine longterm value creation. Yes, organizations can leverage advances in AI to drive value and improve the bottom line. However, the organizations that effectively use it to identify and tackle emerging challenges, create a better quality of life for workers, and reimagine management have the potential to unlock greater value for all of their stakeholders.

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Education

Horace Mann Students Enjoy a Day at the Farm

Transitional Kindergarten students from Horace Mann Elementary School took learning beyond the classroom during an April 22 field trip to Underwood Farms. The visit offered students the opportunity to feed animals, pick seasonal produce, and engage directly with the natural environment. The experience offered the chance for students to explore foundational science and environmental concepts through observation and interaction.



El Rodeo Celebrates 'Twin Day'

As part of its Spirit Week celebration, El Rodeo Elementary School celebrated "Twin Day" on April 22. Students arrived in coordinated outfits, celebrating friendship and school spirit through matching looks. The event is part of a weeklong celebration designed to foster connection, creativity, and community across all grade levels. Students took part by wearing everything from identical T-shirts to head-to-toe matching ensembles. "These moments of joy are so meaningful," said El Rodeo Elementary School Principal Sarah Kaber. "They reinforce the strong sense of community that defines El Rodeo and support our mission of helping students soar to success."



Photos courtesy BHUSD



BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

Arts and Entertainment

TV: Part Two

TV Now Playing–Not Just as Much Fun



Matt Bomer, Nathan Lee Graham and Nathan Lane in "Mid-Century Modern"

BY NEELY SWANSON

Continuing down the yellow brick road from last week, we begin with a new set of series that are already streaming on a TV near you.

"Mid-Century Modern" is a throwback to the multicamera comedies of old. It is the personification of set up, joke and punchline. Creaky in premise, think "Golden Girls," although here it is "Golden Boys" in Palm Springs, there are still some laughs to be mined.

Instead of Blanche, Rose, Dorothy and mother Sophia in Miami, it's Jerry, Arthur, Bunny and mother Sybil in Palm Springs. Not very timely, or as one critic remarked, this is the edgiest comedy of 1986, but it's often funny and the cast can be endearing. Nathan Lane plays Bunny, the leader of the pack and the owner of the home he shares with his mother, Sybil, played by the glorious Linda Lavin in her final role. Bunny's other two friends/roommates are Jerry, played by the very handsome Matt Bomer, a flight attendant whose coming out, years ago, was painful for his entire Mormon family, including his ex-wife and daughter; and Arthur, a very funny Nathan Lee Graham,

former fashion icon and still a critic until they take away his last set of pumps. The fabulous Pamela Adlon, with that sparkly hoarse voice, recurs as Bunny's difficult sister Mindy.

No, it's not original and some of the humor is forced but it's like a sugar cookieno surprises but it goes down easily. What is wonderful is the presence of Linda Lavin, whose way with a phrase is like a defanged venomous snake, lovely to look at and extraordinarily clever, but you don't want to get too close because she still stings. And let's not forget some of the great guest stars like Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Rhea Perlman and Judd Hirsh. Leave your expectations at the door and enjoy the occasionally well-placed timing of the script by David Kohan and Max Mutchnick, the team that brought you "Will & Grace" during the era when gay characters were provocative.

Now streaming on Hulu.

"The Studio," created by Seth Rogan and Evan Goldberg, among a few others, is a look at the studio executives who battle actors, directors and the corporate czars who think that because they supply the funds, they are entitled to a say (well, actually they are, but



Chase Sui Wonders, Seth Rogan, Kathryn Hahn and Ike Barinholtz in "The Studio"

that's beside the point). Rogan, who also of venal assistants trying to get ahead by stars, is Matt, the newly appointed head of Continental Studios whose greatest desire is to produce art. He jousts with executives, actors with their own agendas and a moronic corporate overlord whose idea of art is making a movie about the Kool-Aid Man (red pitcher and condensation) to rival the "Barbie" movie. Cameos abound by the likes of Ron Howard, Zac Efron, Olivia Wilde and Greta Lee, to name a few. The infighting

Photo courtesy of Apple TV+

undermining those they think have sabotaged them, and former executives bent on getting their jobs back or, at the very least, destroying those who took them from them.

Ordinarily I lap Hollywood stories up like honey, but this time, and I'm in the minority, I found "The Studio" to be too clever by half and way too insider to play in Des Moines. Rogan is engaging as a lead, putting on his producer's hat to tell that side

of the story, but, in the end, the series is short on identifiable or likable characters. Not everyone has to be likable, but I enjoy a rooting interest and I didn't have one here. The acting was quite good and the episodes were well-written; I just didn't care enough.

Now streaming on Apple TV +

"Your Friends and Neighbors" has been much anticipated, partly because it is John Hamm's return to television as a series lead. The premise is excellent and the storytelling is tight. Andrew Cooper (Hamm) is a hedge fund manager with a huge and lucrative client list. His boss, breaking the 10th commandment, covets his portfolio and has found a way to fire him and take it over. Recently divorced, he is still reeling from the alimony and aftereffects. His wife, Mel (Amanda Peet), had an adulterous affair with his best friend, who has now taken his place in the house Cooper still has to pay for. It all seems so civilized in public but there is rot in the framework. Cooper's firing is unknown to all except the man who fired him and his lawyer, Barney, a very good Hoon Lee. Too embarrassed to come clean, especially because his non-compete clause is

ironclad, making him untouchable to other firms, Cooper must find a way to maintain the Hamptons lifestyle his ex-family relies on before his savings run out.

One night, during a party, Cooper comes across a very expensive watch in the host's bedroom. Pocketing it, he has now launched himself on a new career—thief. He doesn't get anywhere near the full value, but it still pays some bills and is easier than he imagined. All the homes are open to him; he's a popular resident and invited to everything, snooping is his new occupation and he begins to learn more about his neighbors than either they or he finds desirable. Everyone has secrets. The question is how to use them to advantage.

"Your Friends and Neighbors" is well-produced, well-written and loaded with excellent actors. I shouldn't have anything to complain about, but I do. Why, I ask myself, should I care about any of these people? I don't. They are not characters that I want to spend time with, but considering the excellent production values and cast, you very well might.

Now Streaming on Apple TV+ •



John Hamm and Hoon Lee in "Your Friends and Neighbors"

Photo courtesy of Apple TV+



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

REC AND PARKS, from page 4

Palisades wildfires who relocated to local high schools. The district absorbed 46 students—an estimated two-thirds of whom were ninth graders, as some upperclassmen could not transfer their curriculum progress without risking scholarships.

Manouchehri also reiterated her support for recently appointed BHUSD superintendent Alex Cherniss. She characterized his previous management of the Los Angeles County Office of Education's budget as successful, arguing that Cherniss' experience in San Marino and Palos Verdes made him a qualified choice.

Cherniss previously served in Beverly Hills as a middle school math teacher, K-8 principal, director of human resources and assistant superintendent of business services.

"Dr. Cherniss' trajectory is really clear," Manouchehri said. "Palos Verdes decided to take a different direction on their board, but I believe his skills and vision align with ours."

Commissioners then hosted KMB Design Studio's Kari Brooner and Tiffany Mohr for an update on the Greystone Reforestation Project. Originally presented by Public Works Department staff in March 2024, the project has since been modified to its current goals, namely increasing canopies of native trees and reducing invasive species, rather than implementing a dense "tiny forest."

The ultimately chosen Arboretum-style and botanical garden approach, according to Brooner, would highlight native plants, promote conservation and "aesthetically promote" Greystone Mansion. She told commissioners that the diverse flora would better teach residents about native plants.

In response to a public commenter's concern about blocked downtown views, Brooner said clearing out the palm trees and some of the pine trees would improve the landscape, since replacements would be lower. Commissioner Zale Richard Rubins requested clarification on whether "the view" meant the neighbors' view or the mansion's view, to which Brooner said she was referring to both.

Rubins also pressed the architects on a claim that budgets could be affected by federal tariffs.

"The pricing we have right now is market rate," Mohr said, making particular note of irrigation systems.

Recreation Services Manager Michael Muse then spoke on updates to the pickleball pilot program. Having taken commissioners' suggestions from a City Council Liaison in February, Muse's presentation invited feedback on his proposed court measurements and rules, such as stricter registration limits and banned equipment.

All commissioners were mostly supportive of the guidelines, but at least two requested further details within the rules themselves. Tara Riceberg wanted glass containers specified as a prohibited safety hazard, while Amie Sherry advocated for facility signage asking players to not enter courts before their scheduled times.

"The idea is to respond to concerns about overcrowding and noise," Muse said. "If you're not playing, we're asking that you wait." Muse stayed to give an overview of the "Parks Make Life Better" campaign for the month of July. The summary was largely procedural, as most events had already been highlighted in other commissions' meetings, but it gave the panel a chance to discuss promotional strategy.

The main agenda concluded with a dialogue about the commission's community award. As interim Recreation Services Manager Adrine Ovasapyan informed the panel that she had only received five nominations (down from 11 last year) and floated the idea of extending the upcoming deadline, Vice Chair JR Dzubak announced his intention to double the total.

"I'll submit my five later today," Dzubak said. "Folks from [Rotary Club of Beverly Hills] mentioned it to me; they assumed I'll just do it for them." •

Libow's Landing



Michael J. Libow made sure to take a copy of the Beverly Hills Courier along on his tour of the Balkans. One highlight was Dubrovnik, Croatia. The UNESCO World Heritage Site now draws more visitors than ever due to its use as King's Landing in "Game of Thrones."



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard**, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, will hold a public hearing to consider:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE SIGN REGULATIONS OF THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW PORTABLE SIGNAGE AND BLADE SIGNAGE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CRITERIA ON COMMERCIALLY ZONED PROPERTIES AND FINDING THE ORDINANCE EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL OUALITY ACT (CEOA)

The City Council will consider adoption of an ordinance to amend signage regulations applicable to commercial zones, as codified in Title 10 (Planning and Zoning), Chapter 4 (Zoning, Signs), Articles 1-9 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC), to allow certain businesses to use portable signs (including a-frame signs) and blade signs (projecting signs) upon meeting certain criteria. The Planning Commission and Architectural and Design Review Commission previously reviewed this topic at study sessions during their May 9, 2024 and June 17, 2024 meetings, respectively, and formed a joint ad hoc committee that met in September and November 2024 to work further on portable signage regulations. Staff presented the draft regulations to the Architectural and Design Review Commission at its March 19, 2025 meeting, and to the Planning Commission at its April 10, 2025 meeting. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended the ordinance for adoption to the City Council. The regulations in the draft ordinance include but are not limited to the following:

- Allows ground floor restaurants, retail uses, and exercise clubs/private training centers the use of one portable sign with limitations on size, type and location;
- Allow one blade sign on certain streets in additional to signage otherwise allowed;
- Make clarifying changes to the existing blade sign and menu board regulations; and
- Create a pilot program for businesses to use these signs, with a requirement for an approximate one-year check-in after program commencement.

Staff recommends that the City Council waive the full reading of the draft ordinance, introduce it by title only, and conduct the first reading for the adoption of the ordinance.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. Since the project does not authorize construction, there is no possibility that it may have a significant effect on the environment. In addition, the project reflects minor changes in land use limitations, by allowing the installation of signs within previously developed commercially zoned areas of the city and do not result in changes to land use or density. Accordingly, the City Council will consider a recommendation to find the project



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-2400 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.

categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15305 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

Public Comment Participation:

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

How to Submit Public Comment (Email/Video):

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

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

Any interested person may participate in the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the City Council. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the Council's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

In Person Participation:

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

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

HUMA AHMED City Clerk

www.beverlyhills.org

THE MARKETPLACE BY MICHAEL J. LIBOW

M



BY APPOINTMENT

701 N. Beverly Drive\$19,800,0001989-built walled/gated 3-level Med sunlit manse. 1st time
avail in 28yrs. 9,648SF + 2,000SF garage. 6BD 8.5BA
Lush grnds. pl/spa. 23,162SF corner lot. Total grandeur.





515 N. Roxbury Drive\$5,995,000Trust Sale. 1st time avail. Cstm Dorman/Munselle 19711.5sty Rustic Modern. Primary ste up. 2BD down. Openplan. Hi vaulted clngs. Glass walls. Pl. Endless potential.

Beverly Hills



 152 S. Swall Drive
 \$3,295,000

 Wonderfully redone in 2020. Modern 1sty Spanish 3BD

 3.5BA. Conv den. Open entertainer's plan. Great rm.

 Fab new rear ADU. Big grass yrd + BBQ. Quiet road.





NEW X I BY APPOINTMENT

801 N. Rodeo Drive\$45,000/moShort-term rare furnished historic 2sty 1913 Craftsman.4BD 3.5BA Park-like grounds. 27,000SF crnr lot. Sunlitrms. Den + sep study. Huge primary. Lg pl. Moments to all.



NEW X I FIRST OPEN SUNDAY 2-5

 604 N. Alpine Drive
 \$14,875,000

 Fully renovated landmark 2sty Buff & Hensman Arch estate. 5BD 5.5BA. Dramatic open flow. Big lot. X-priv yrd. Pl/spa/cabana/storage/mature hedging. Amazing!



256 S. Camden Drive\$4,195,000Charming spacious Deco-era 2sty 4BD crtyrd Spanish.
Cozy Den. Huge liv & dining rms. Fab outdoor dining
terrace/pool/patios. Curb appeal. 1st time avail in 49yrs.



PENDING

 127 N. Doheny Drive
 \$3,095,000

 1st time avail in 57 yrs. Unique/spacious gated 2sty Spanish.

 7,000SF sw crnr lot N. of Wilshire. 5BD main home. 2 guest units. Lite-filled.Wd flrs. Endless potential. Best value in BH!



NEW PRICING | BY APPOINTMENT

515 N. Roxbury Drive \$20,000/mo Long-term rental. Cstm 1971 2sty Richard Dorman rustic Modern. 3 BD 2.5BA. Lite-filled open plan for entertaining. Primary up.2BD down.Prkg galore.Pl/gardens.Close to all.



9883 Carmelita Avenue\$7,750,000Stunning, elegant, and charming 2sty 5BD Trad.Tasteful updates. Fab kitch. Sep den and hugefam/media rm. X-deep yrd. Lawns.Pl. Privacy.



317 S. Oakhurst Drive\$3,850,000Redone 2sty Spanish w/modern flair. 4BD 3.5BAHuge beamed liv rm & Ig den. Fab newer kitch/bas.Primary w/room-size walk-in. Preferred 300 block.



New XTBY APPOINTMENT

237 S. Almont Drive

\$2,880,000

Charming updated 1sty spacious Spanish. 2BD 2BA Beaut wd firs. Period details. Lg dining/den. Cook's kitch. Hi clings. Huge fully priv yrd. Best 200 block.



304 S. Canon Drive \$6,750/mo Charming 1sty 3BD 1.25BA Spanish. Sunlit rms. Hi clngs. Gleaming wd firs. Big living rm. Dining rm/den. Xlg 56ft wide lot. Drought-tolerant grounds. Close to all. 6 month term.



Michael J. Libow

the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any

310.691.7889 | mjlibow@gmail.com | michaeljlibow.com

DRE 00863172





only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not be re approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.

Award-Winning **BEVERLY HILLS**

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TODD SILVER

April 25

Birthdays

RABBI BERNARD M. COHEN April 30

Astrology BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No need to force things along or push in any way. The opportunity that's meant for you will unfold naturally without excessive effort. Trust the process will flow like water and the path will reveal itself with ease.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today highlights the value of your integrity, compassion and emotional intelligence. You'll commit to what you deeply believe in, and it pays you back in multiple ways, including emotionally and financially.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No one ever stopped a tidal wave by holding up their hand like a traffic cop. The best way to handle a strong force isn't to fight it but to move with it strategically. You'll navigate a challenge by adapting, redirecting energy and using the momentum to your advantage.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're perceptive and quick to learn from others, picking up everything you need - whether or not you've experienced it firsthand. This is partly because you lead with optimism, which keeps your



RUBY RAE THOMASON April 25



GIANCARLO ESPOSITO April 26



AFROUZ MAGHSOUDI April 26

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

TO HELP SHOWCASE OUR COMMUNITY AT ITS BEST, PLEASE SEND A CURRENT PHOTO EVERY YEAR ALONG WITH YOUR FULL NAME AND PHONE NUMBER. ALL PHOTOS MUST BE HIGH-RESOLUTION, AT LEAST 300 DPI.

PLEASE SEND THE PHOTOS WITH AT LEAST TWO WEEKS NOTICE TO: EDITORIAL@BHCOURIER.COM

ANA DE ARMAS April 30

perspective open and engaged.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). While those

who have been deprived may be for-

given for taking a lot, it's much more

contemptible when those with privi-

lege act out of greed, especially at the

expense of others who have less. You'll

is valuable, but waiting until you feel

completely ready can sometimes

be a form of procrastination or self-

doubt. You already have enough skills,

resources and instincts to start. Once

in motion, you can adapt and improve.

help others in a personal setting. But

when the stakes are different, so should

be your strategy. In professional or com-

petitive settings, knowledge is power.

Be aware: Someone is withholding a

resource, technique or insight to pre-

an added layer of complexity when

unexpected or unusual things come

your way. Just because it appears in

your life doesn't automatically mean

it's meant for you. Use your intuition

and reflection to discern what truly

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's

serve their advantage.

belongs to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You gladly

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Preparation

stand up for fairness.

Just go!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Fishing nets may not weigh much when you first fling them in the water, but once they start catching things, they get heavy. The same is true of safety nets. In time, they can become more of an anchor.

CLAYTON SCHOENSTEIN

May 1

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Without productive activity, you feel restless and unfulfilled. You'd rather be occupied and adding to your resources. You love today's meaningful work, which provides structure, purpose and social connection.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You previously agreed to a contract, arrangement or informal deal that may not have been ideal but seemed like the best option at the time. Now circumstances have shifted, and you have a chance to improve the terms.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Chasing love? Whatever your reasons, and however sound they may seem to you, it will still benefit you to drop them. Pull back and redirect your energy. The love that's coming to you, you won't have to chase.

Orion is the eligible puppy for adoption this week. He's a 14-week-old, 6-pound Chihuahua-beagle mix. If interested in Orion, contact Kim Sill at Shelter of Hope at 310-770-3571.

shelterhopepetshop.org



Rally Marking Armenian Genocide Held in Beverly Hills



BY NATHAN ANSELL

Hundreds of protesters assembled outside the Turkish Consulate General on Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills on April 24 to commemorate Armenian Genocide victims and denounce neighboring governments.

Organized by the Armenian Youth Federation, the annual rally marked an observation of Genocide Remembrance Day, enacted by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2022. LAUSD schools also had the day off, allowing for a children's chorus to lead the crowd in Armenia's national anthem, "Mer Photo by Nathan Ansell Hayrenik" (Our Fatherland).

More than 200,000 Armenians live in Los Angeles, the largest such community

outside of the nation itself. "We are still experiencing genocide today in Artsakh," said Haig Minasian, a fourth-generation Armenian American and chair of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation "Shant" Student Association, alluding to an Azerbaijani military offensive that forcefully displaced ethnic Armenians. "Without that justice from 100 years ago,

this genocide has continued unsolved." Minasian, who also addressed the

Man Sentenced for Stealing Identities of Beverly Hills Residents

A San Fernando Valley man was sentenced on April 22 to 61 months in federal prison for fraudulently obtaining at least \$1.8 million by stealing Beverly Hills residents' identities– often by stealing mail and packages from their homes–then using that information to open fraudulent bank accounts to which he unlawfully transferred money from the bank accounts of the victims, of which included elderly people.

Oren David Sela, 36, of North Hills, was sentenced by United States District Judge Dolly M. Gee, who also ordered him to pay \$1,818,369 in restitution. Sela pleaded guilty in October 2024 to one count of bank fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft. Sela has been in federal custody since October 2023.

From November 2021 to October 2023, Sela stole mail to obtain debit cards, bank account numbers, Social Security numbers, and other personal identifiable information (PII) belonging to victims, especially victims living in and around Beverly Hills. He then used the victims' PII to gain access to their online bank and financial accounts, at times SIM-swapping - a type of identity theft where a fraudster illegally obtains a victim's phone number by transferring it to a new Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card-or porting the victims' phone numbers to gain temporary control over those numbers to defeat two-factor authentication security protocols in place on their accounts.

Sela then opened additional fraudulent accounts in the victims' names to transfer funds into intermediary accounts he controlled and withdrew money from those accounts or used them to make purchases or transfers. He also caused debit or credit cards linked to victim accounts to be issued to him, so he could spend directly from those cards.

Sela engaged in hundreds of fraudulent withdrawals and transfers from dozens of victim accounts, attempting to steal at least approximately \$2,590,836, and stealing at least approximately \$1,818,369.

He defrauded numerous banks and at least 62 individual victims, including various elderly victims. Sela often used victim funds to purchase expensive goods for himself, including, for example, a nearly \$17,000 watch.

In 2022, Sela was arrested in Beverly Hills and found with nearly \$25,000 in cash, various expensive items of jewelry, and numerous fraudulent debit and credit cards belonging to four elderly victims.

After Sela's 2022 arrest, he was released, and his conduct persisted. During two subsequent searches of Sela's properties in 2022 and 2023, law enforcement identified more than \$70,000 in cash, many items of expensive jewelry and similar such receipts, stolen mail, extensive PII, means of identification including driver's licenses, and banking information including debit cards, credit cards, and checks, belonging to dozens of victims.

The United States Secret Service and the Beverly Hills Police Department investigated this matter. •

crowd, told the Courier that although the United States has recognized the atrocities, economic and military alliances with genocide-denying countries create obstacles to change. All speakers stood under a "110 Years of Armenian Resilience" sign, a reference to the Ottoman Empire's estimated 1.5 million killings during the early stages of World War I.

Prior to the speeches, some attendees

SPOTLIGHT, from page 1

highlighting the various programs that we have throughout the city. So, we're going to be doing programs that also include the southeast part of town, including South Beverly Drive, and different areas that people may not normally visit."

"I have a lot of interest from not only businesses, but also community members, residents and visitors," Nazarian added. "So, I think it's a really great way to unify the community as we build a safer, stronger and more united Beverly Hills."

Novikov, which opened in 2024, features a mix of Italian-Mediterranean-inspired dishes in a warm and upscale setting. With Italian marble floors and a market-style display of artisanal pastas and colorful fruits and vegetables, including asparagus, apples, melons, tomatoes and bell peppers arranged in woven baskets, the space has a rustic and gathered on the sidewalks, chanting "open your eyes to Turkey's lies," and waving red, blue and orange flags. Others displayed hats, pins and bracelets. A plane circling overhead carried a banner reading "GENOCIDE IGNORED IS GENOCIDE REPEATED."

"It's a first step, a step that goes along with hundreds of other initiatives and community work," Minasian said. •

elegant aesthetic.

Originally from London, the restaurant has locations in Moscow, Miami, Doha, Istanbul, Dubai, Ibiza and more. "I've been to many Novikov's, and this one is by far the best, in my opinion," Nazarian told the crowd. While popular menu items include the tuna tartar and the truffle pizza, the mayor's favorite dish is the Greek salad.

According to city officials, the event sold out in one day. "It's quite humbling, and it's very exciting, and I'm so grateful to Novikov for opening their doors for the very first one," Nazarian told the Courier. "I really enjoy being able to support all our local businesses. So, we'll go to as many as we can and visit them, just to open the door and allow the community in."

The next "Spotlight with Sharona" will be held in six weeks. ●



Section 1 – Beverly Hills

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

April Updates

The civil restoration work on the north side of Wilshire is nearing completion. Work continues at the plaza entrance and underground in the station.



Fun and Games

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PUZZLE ANSWERS 04/18/25 ISSUE

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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE 04/25/25 ISSUE

BOTH SIDES NOW BY JOHN KUGELMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

unusual 22x21-square grid (o	, Va., is a software engineer and ne column wider than usual) w and 72-Across was intentional or	as designed to accommodate so	ome 22-letter theme answers.	23				
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1 Front-runners at the Iditarod?	56 Newcastle ninny 57 "The X-Files" org.	partner 106 Final Four, e.g.	22 "General" of takeout24 Canon competitor	29 36			37	38
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Public Notices

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALF UNDER A NOTICE DELINQUENT OF ASSESSMENT AND CLAIM OF LIEN Order No: 15952981 TS No: Y24-11068 YOU IN DEFAULT ARF UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT AND CLAIM OF LIEN, DATED 09/10/2024. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED EXPLANATION AN OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NOTICE is hereby given that Witkin & Neal, Inc., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to that certain Notice of Delinquent Assessment and Claim of Lien (hereinafter referred to as "Lien"), recorded on 09/13/2024 as instrument num-20240623975 ber in the office of the County Recorder of Los Ángeles County, California, and further pursuant to the Notice of Default and Election to Sell thereunder recorded on 12/26/2024 as instrument number 20240920853 in said county and further pursuant to California Civil Code Section 5675 et seq. and those certain Covenants. Conditions and Restrictions recorded on 10/25/1983 as instrument number 83-1259659, WILL SELL on 5/1/2025, 10:00 A.M. Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA at public auction to the highest bidder for lawful money of the United States payable at the time of sale, all right, title and interest in the property situated in said county as more fully described in the above-referenced Lien. The purported owner of said property is: Gary Michael Campbell, A Single Man. The property address and other common designation. if any, of the real property is purported to be: 1131 Alta Loma Road. Unit 308. West Hollywood. CA 90069, APN 5559-001-090. The undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incoroperty heı address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs. expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Sale is: \$22,866,38. The opening bid at the

being

PUBLIC NOTICES

foreclosure sale may be more or less than this estimate. In addition to cash, trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn on a state or federal credit union or a check drawn on a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. If tender other than cash is accepted, the trustee may withhold issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. In its sole discretion, the seller (foreclosing party) reserves the right to withdraw the property from sale after the opening credit bid is announced but before the sale is completed. The opening bid is placed on behalf of the seller. Said sale shall be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Lien, advances thereunder, with interest as provided in the Declaration or by law plus the fees, charges and expenses of the trustee. THIS PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD IN AN "AS-IS" CONDITION. If you have previously received a discharge in bankruptcy, you may have been released from personal liability for this debt in which case this notice is intended to exercise the secured party's rights against the real prop-erty only. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien auctioned off Second. before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this informa-

PUBLIC NOTICES

tion. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether this sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 916-939-0772 or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com using the file number assigned to this case: Y24-11068. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 916-939-0772, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case Y24-11068 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. you must senc a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should

PUBLIC NOTICES

consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this poten-tial right to purchase. IMPORTANT NOTICE: Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the sale shall be subject to the following as provided in California Civil Code Section 5715: "A non judicial foreclosure sale by an association to collect upon a debt for delinquent assessments shall be subject to a right of redemption. The redemption period within which the separate interest may be redeemed from a foreclosure sale under this paragraph ends 90 days after the sale." Witkin & Neal, Inc. as said Trustee SEPULVEDA 5805 BLVD., SUITE 670, SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91411 - Tele.: (818) 845-8808 By: Susan Paquette, Trustee Sales Officer Dated: 3/19/2025 THIS NOTICE IS SENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING A DEBT. THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDER AND OWNER NOTE. THF OF ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL JE USED THAT FOR PURPOSE. NPP0472408 To: HILLS BEVERLY COURIER 04/11/2025, 04/18/2025, 04/25/2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2025059917 The following is/are doing busi-ness as: NJ COMMERCIAL ENTRPRISES 9903 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 229 Beverly Hills, CA 90212; Nicole Jacks 9903 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 229 Beverly Hills, CA 90212; The business is conducted by <u>AN INDIVIDUAL</u> registrant(s) has HAS begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on January 1995: Nicole Jacks, Owner Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: March 24, 2025; Published: April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2025060436 The following is/are doing business as: I LOVE MY DOUBLES PARTNER 9627 Brighton Way Apt 303, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; CHOCBITE LLC, 9627 Brighton Way Apt 303, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registrant(s) has HAS NOTbegun to transact business under the name(s) listed: Chocbite LLC, Adeline Arjad Cook, Managing Partner Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: March 25, 2025; Published: April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2025023576 The following is/are doing business as: JIM SORKIN CONSTRUCTION 605 N. OAKHURST DRIVE, BEVERLY

PUBLIC NOTICES

HILLS, CA 90210 Jim Sorkin 605 N. Oakhurst Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: <u>AN INDIVIDUAL</u> registrant(s) has HAS begun to transact business under the name(s) list-ed 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 Reprint: April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025 LACC N/C

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: <u>A</u> <u>CORPORATION</u> 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 Reprint: April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2025 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2025073449 The following is/are doing business as: DETROIT APARTMENTS 439 NORTH CANON DRIVE SUITE 300 BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210; THE BAILEY GROUP 439 North Canon Drive Suite 300 Beverly Hills, CA 90210; DAVID JOHN BAILEY 439 North Canon Drive Suite 300 Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: <u>A GENERAL</u> <u>PARTNERSHIP</u> registrant(s) _registrant(s) has HAS begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on OCTOBER 1994: David John Bailey, General Partner. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: April 11, 2025; Published: April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2025 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2025070757 The following is/are doing business as: SCHWOOPER PRODUCTIONS LLC, 233 S. BEVERLY DRIVE, 2ND FLOOR BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212; SCHWOOPER PRODUCTIONS LLC, 233 S. BEVERLY DRIVE. 2ND FLOOR BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212; The business is conducted by: <u>A LIMITED LIABILITY</u> <u>COMPANY</u> registrant(s) has HAS begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on March 2025: Schwooper Productions LLC, David Shall, Manager. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: April 8, 2025; Published: April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2025 LACC N/C

NOTICE

Fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (See Section 14400, et seq., Business and Professions Code).

PUBLIC NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CASE NO: 25SMCP00106 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

To all interested person(s): Petitioner: Ana Lidia Enríquez Medina

current residence address: 244 S. Palm Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90211 filed a peti-tion with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St. Santa Monica, 90401. Santa Monica Courthouse, on March 3, 2025 for a Decree changing names as follows:

Present Name: Ana Lidia Enriquez Medina Proposed Name: ANA ELIZABETH MEDINA

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:

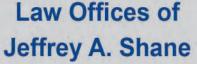
Date: May 23, 2025 Time: 8:30 AM Department: K The address of the court is:

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 declar0e under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Signed: Ana Lidia Enriquez Medina Judge of the Superior Court:

Lawrence H. Cho Clerk: David W. Slayton Deputy: A. Ilieva Dated: March 3, 2025 Published: 04/25/25, 05/02/25, 05/09/25, 05/16/25

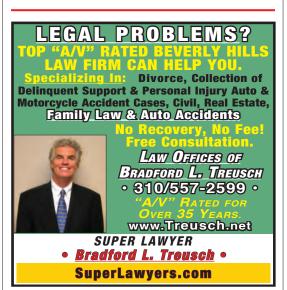
BHC-R29666





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<text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text>	It may be an option worth considering for Unwanted or Unneeded Life Insurance Policies. Ages 65 + MarcMaretsky 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 and write in the subject line BH Courier Life Settlement Q&A.	*** FEMALE *** looking to be live-in Property/Estate Manager or Personal Assistant. Negotiable for reduced rent. Call 818-743-9107	ALL TRADES The Los Angeles professional organizer everyone needs in their lives. Jennydun18@gmail. com, 310 989-3697. Instagram	IN-HOME CARE Caregivers / Homemakers Licensed / Insured Serving LA County Since 1992 Teri Lieberman, Administrator
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designer & couture womenswear especially cocktail and evening women's vintage clothing & accessories (1800's - 2000's) costume jewelry from any era WE BUY ANY AMOUNTFROM ONE PIECE TO ENTIRE ESTATES 310-869-8994	Vintage Clothin	g		Service We understand your needs, please let us know how we can help you.
<section-header></section-header>	designer & couture womensw especially cocktail and evenir women's vintage clothing & accessories (1800's - 2000's) costume jewelry from any era	ear ng	SPRING INTO Javings This April Move in For	NEED ASSISTANCE? We can help YOU! We provide experienced Caregivers, CNA's & HHA's for seniors needing companions to drive them to doctors, prepare meals, light housekeeping, etc LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED CALL LISA 24HRS.
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www.santabarbaraestate.management like amenities in our smaller footprint with superior infection control. BBB A+ Rated Insured Executive Referral Care is a referral agency.	discreetly servicing the needs of individuals, ensuring their safety and of absentee owners' properties and pride. My top priority is safe identity of my clients while collabor with them to develop a tailored plan their specific needs. 805-319-5364 santabarbaraestatemanagement@gmail Licensed & Insured	high-net-worth d the protection with integrity eguarding the prating closely that addresses	The Finest Care With Love NEW OASIS IN THE VALLEY 818-640-2475 818-640-2475 ERRLove.com Enjoy assisted living with the finest individualized care in a luxurious newly remodeled West Valley setting. Experience resort-	AFFORDABLE HOMECARE • Caregivers • CNA • Companions • • Live-In / Live-Out • Experienced • Background Checked 310.859.1555 richard@executivereferralcare.com

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