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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS

☀️ Friday	78° 64°
☁️ Saturday	81° 65°
☁️ Sunday	81° 67°
☀️ Monday	84° 67°
☀️ Tuesday	83° 66°
☁️ Wednesday	84° 68°
☁️ Thursday	83° 68°

Exclusive: Councilmember Lester Friedman Announces Reelection Bid

BY ANA FIGUEROA

Beverly Hills City Councilmember Lester Friedman is seeking another term in office. “I am excited to announce my candidacy for reelection to the Beverly Hills City Council in the election of June 2022,” Friedman told the Courier in an exclusive announcement.

First elected to the Council in 2017, Friedman served as Mayor from March of 2020 through April of 2021. His tenure coincided with a singular time for the city, the country and indeed, the world. Friedman described those unique challenges and opportunities to the Courier:

“Last year, during my term as Mayor, our city experienced unprecedented challenges--pandemic, civil unrest, and extraordinary financial impacts to our local economy. Working together, we were able to address these challenges and to put our city on a path to recovery. While we have made great progress, that work is not complete and it is for that reason, and after encouragement and support from many in our community, that I have made the decision to run for a second term.”

He also cited the importance of a continued strong recovery from the pandemic.

“During my first term, and certainly, as Mayor, the health and safety as well as the financial viability, of our community were of primary importance. While they remain so, I hope that with continued recovery, we can also devote our time and energy to other

goals which are important to the future of the city. Our city is well positioned to prosper as we emerge from the pandemic, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to lead our community and work to make the city stronger as we prepare ourselves for the future.”

Friedman and his wife of 46 years Simone, a former Parks and Recreation chair, have lived in the city for nearly four decades. They are parents of four and grandparents of five. Recognized as a foremost expert in Workers’ Compensation law, Friedman maintains a practice in Beverly Hills.

In addition to his most recent service on the City Council, Friedman has served on the Beverly Hills Traffic and Parking Commission and the Beverly Hills Taxi Review Committee (as chairman), the Beverly Hills Blue Ribbon Committee on Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction and the Beverly Hills Firefighter’s Association Scholarship Committee. A UCLA graduate, Friedman also takes great pride in his role as Official Scorer for UCLA Men’s Basketball and the PAC-12 Conference. ●



Councilmember Lester Friedman

Beverly Hills Releases Sweeping Wildfire Assessment

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

As wildfires ravage the western United States, the City of Beverly Hills has released its most comprehensive wildfire assessment to date that provides an unflinching look at the threat posed to Beverly Hills and recommendations on how to protect the city. The report’s release was followed up with two public hearings held both in person and online.

“It is not a question of whether a wildfire will occur, but only a question of when,” the report states, pointing to the exponential rise in wildfire frequency and severity over the last few years.

By the end of 2020, California set a number of wildfire records, experiencing five of the top six largest fires in the state’s recorded history, which burned more than 4.2 million acres, razed 10,000 structures,

and killed 32 people. The state is currently on pace to surpass its record, having burned twice as many acres since the same time last year.

David Shew, a wildfire risk management expert who spoke at the city hearings, said two factors play into the rapid proliferation of wildfires. Prior to the colonization of the state, wildfires were both natural and, in some cases, encouraged. Many Native American tribes practiced controlled burns to clear out underbrush and encourage new plant growth.

(Wildfire Assessment continues on page 8)

Newsom Recall Effort in Beverly Hills

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

On July 1, California’s Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis announced that a special recall election seeking to remove California Governor Gavin Newsom will take place on Sept. 14. The announcement came after Secretary of State Shirley Weber confirmed 1,719,900 valid signatures—far more than the 1,495,709 required to trigger a recall—were collected by the campaign to recall Newsom from office before his term ends in 2023. (Newsom Recall Effort continues on page 3)

Courier Calendar

NOW – JULY 31

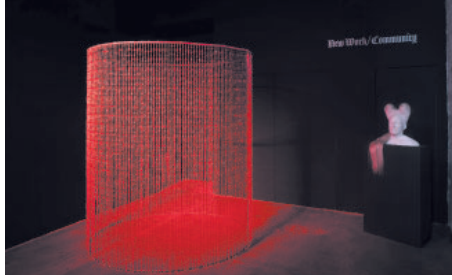
GRAND PARK'S PORTRAITS OF FREEDOM: BUILDING A LIFE IN L.A.

During the month of July, Grand Park's "Portraits of Freedom: Building a Life in L.A." features photography and video exhibitions in addition to a nighttime projection installation. Taking place throughout Grand Park, between Grand Avenue and North Broadway, the exhibit will highlight civic pride, engagement, and identity.
grandparkla.org

NOW – AUG. 17

THE MUSIC CENTER: "FOR THE LOVE OF L.A."

"For the Love of L.A." supports artists based in Los Angeles in the disciplines of dance, music, visual culture, and more. It also includes video, photography, and creative writing disciplines. The exhibit showcases the diversity of creative arts in Los Angeles, the city's dynamic poetry scene as well as the cultural identities of Asian American artists.
<https://www.musiccenter.org/tmc-offstage/for-the-love-of-la/>



NOW – SEPT. 5

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES: "QUEER COMMUNICATION: RON ATHEY"

"Queer Communication: Ron Athey" is presented by the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles and is the first major solo museum presentation of Ron Athey, renowned Los Angeles-based performance artist, in the United States. The exhibition features costumes and props from performances, photographs from his archive, videos, press clippings, and more. Athey's work is known for challenging established limits of artistic practice and its commentary on religious traditions as a ritual.
<https://www.theicala.org/en/exhibitions/81-queer-communion-br-ron-athey>

NOW – OCT. 31

LACMA: "CAULEEN SMITH: GIVE IT OR LEAVE IT"

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents interdisciplinary artist Cauleen Smith, whose work illuminates the everyday possibilities of the imagination. The exhibition of video, film, and installations highlights a series of experimental portraits that relate to creativity, spirituality, and utopianism. The exhibit is accompanied by companion show "Cauleen Smith: Stars in My Pocket and the Rent is Due," which can be viewed at LACMA's gallery at Charles White Elementary School until Sept. 25.
<https://www.lacma.org>

JULY 16

"SHREK" 20TH ANNIVERSARY AT CINESPIA

7:15 p.m. gates open, 8:45 p.m. movie begins

For its 20th anniversary, "Shrek" is being offered at Cinespia at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery on July 16. For a movie under the stars, guests can sit on the lawn and bring a picnic with food and drinks.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shrek-20th-anniversary-tickets-162601424237?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

JULY 17

ROOFTOP CINEMA CLUB DTLA: "BRIDESMAIDS" AND "ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND" 8:30 p.m., 11:15 p.m.

Rooftop Cinema Club will now have three locations around Los Angeles with the return of the DTLA location. "Bridesmaids" will be shown at 8:30 p.m., and "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" will be shown at 11:15 p.m. Viewers can watch movies in the heart of the city, between glimmering city lights and sky-high buildings.
<https://rooftopcinemaclub.com/los-angeles/>

JULY 25

GLAUDI DRIVE-BY FASHION SHOW 7-9 p.m.

Celebrate the 10-year anniversary of GLAUDI by Johana Hernandez with a drive-by fashion show. The innovative show will take place at GLAUDI Beverly Hills, 9608 Brighton Street between Camden and Bedford. Guests should drive through Rodeo Drive and make a right on Brighton Way to GLAUDI.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beverly-hills-drive-by-fashion-show-tickets-154089910069?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>



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(Newsom Recall Effort continued from page 1)

Nearly 60 candidates have filed to run in the recall election, including former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, 2018 gubernatorial candidate John Cox, former U.S. Rep. Doug Ose, Assemblyman Kevin Kiley, and Caitlyn Jenner. At the Tour d'Elegance car show on June 20, Jenner promoted her campaign for the gubernatorial recall election wearing a hat that read "Caitlyn for California" on the front. While every California governor since Ronald Reagan has faced a recall effort, most are unsuccessful, failing to collect the number of signatures needed to qualify. The only one that did make it to the ballot took place in 2003, when Governor Gray Davis was recalled a few months into his second term and replaced by Arnold Schwarzenegger. Newsom is the second governor in the state's history to face a recall ballot.

On Sept. 14, California voters will have the option to vote "yes" or "no" to the question of whether to remove Newsom from office, and an opportunity to select a replacement candidate. Votes cast for a successor candidate will only be counted if more than 50 percent of voters casting ballots in the recall election vote to recall the Newsom.

The Recall Gavin 2020 campaign began gathering signatures in June of 2020. According to data released by the secretary of state's office, L.A. County accounted for 264,488 of the 1,719,900 cumulative total of verified signatures.

The Role of the Freedom Rallies

Mike Netter, a co-founder of the Recall Gavin Newsom campaign, told the Courier, "We probably gathered about 15 to 20 percent of those signatures from the Beverly Gardens rallies. Netter was referring to the "Freedom Rallies" held on Saturday afternoons at Beverly Gardens Park began in mid-July of 2020, drawing as many 4,000 people.

"I began collecting [recall] signatures in June," Beverly Hills resident Shiva Bagheri told the Courier. "Personally, I think I gathered around 500 signatures. I brought my clipboard inside my backpack to the park, so for anybody that wanted to sign, I just pulled it out. But I also went around Beverly Hills. I remember walking towards a restaurant and probably like ten people who were sitting outside signed it."

The effort to recall Newsom is supported by two prominent local businesses. Kitson, a boutique known for unique merchandise and a celebrity clientele, adorned its Robertson storefront with large bright posters that read, "Recall Gavin Newsom." Local Italian eatery, La Scala, also voiced outrage towards Newsom, posting on Instagram, "He's still an assh*le & needs to be recalled! Please come by & sign a petition this Saturday!!" The recall campaign occupied their outdoor patio on weekends, collecting signatures from interested voters.

"The rallies were a celebration of America, freedom and Donald Trump, who, as president, embodied classical American values and worked to root out the corruption

that has plagued our government for far too long," a Beverly Hills resident told the Courier. "I was not planning on signing the recall petition before I went to the rally. But, because of Newsom's non-sensical shutdowns and mandates which destroyed small businesses and so many people's lives, I gladly signed it." The resident will be supporting Larry Elder to replace Newsom.

"We want the recall election not to necessarily be about who's going to be the next governor, but about the issues facing California," Netter said. "We have a power crisis. We have a water crisis. We have an infrastructure crisis. We have a homeless crisis. We have an EDD crisis, and we can't tax our way out of this."

Supporters of the recall campaign believe the effort will be a success due to heightened political awareness after a presidential election and lingering outrage regarding Newsom's handling of COVID-19 closures and restrictions. However, recent polls conducted by the Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies found that Newsom still has an overall positive approval rating. Findings show that support for the recall is at 36%—unchanged from late January—and a four-point increase (49% in the number of voters that intend to vote "no" in the recall. Another 15% of voters remain undecided.

The poll also found early interest in the gubernatorial recall skewed toward GOP voters, with twice as many Republicans (75%) reporting a high degree of interest, versus Democrats (36%) or No Party Preference voters (35%).

"Beverly Hills is kind of a funny area because people are really scared for the most part," Netter told the Courier. "People are worried about being blacklisted by the government and they're afraid to talk. People have this perception in the movie business that if they speak their mind and they're not liberal, they get blacklisted."

As of July 15, a number of posts circulated around pro-Trump social media accounts declaring the resumption of weekly rallies at Beverly Gardens Park starting July 17.

"The rallies were so inspiring for a brand-new citizen and a tremendous display of this great country's First Amendment," a Beverly Hills local, who works in the entertainment industry and asked to remain anonymous, told the Courier. "We the people rule this country, not the corrupt politicians and the administrative state."

While polling suggests that Newsom will likely survive the recall, Netter said: "It's going to be a much closer election than everybody thinks. I still feel that Gavin is going to get removed from office because every day he does something stupid that shows he's a bad governor. This isn't about Democrat or Republican, it's about a governor not listening to the people, the average everyday people in his state."

Additional reporting by Samuel Braslow ●

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Planning Commission Recommends Rooftop Dining In Business Triangle

BY MICHAEL WITTNER

“No known roof is as beautiful as the skies above,” Irish sports commentator Mícheál O’Muircheartaigh once said.

He may have been referring to Beverly Hills, where crystal blue skies, mild weather year-round, and the indoor dining limitations of the recent pandemic are all contributing to an open-air dining renaissance.

On July 8, the Planning Commission unanimously and enthusiastically passed a resolution recommending approval of a draft ordinance amending the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to allow restaurants in a zone of the Business Triangle to apply for rooftop dining permits.

If approved by the City Council on a yet-unknown date, the draft ordinance would permit restaurants in the C-3 Commercial Zone—defined as the triangular area in between Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica Boulevard, and an alley parallel and northwest of Crescent Drive, or the majority of the Business Triangle—to apply for permits for rooftop restaurants and open-air dining.

The city’s municipal code currently allows hotels, lunchrooms, fitness facilities, and any supporting “ancillary structures” to conduct business on the roof, provided the structures are no higher than 15 feet above the adjacent roof deck. A number of the city’s most prominent hotels, including the Peninsula, Waldorf Astoria, Beverly Hilton, Maybourne, and SIXTY Beverly Hills, all operate rooftop restaurants, treating guests to panoramic city views as they drink and dine.

Restaurants not associated with hotels are currently prohibited atop Business Triangle roofs due to concerns that they will push buildings over the district’s three-story height limit, according to Director of Community Development Ryan Gohlich.

But that may soon change. The Commission was inspired to draft a Zone Text Amendment (ZTA) in response to an application to convert the rooftop of 257 N. Canon Drive into a Japanese Peruvian fusion restaurant called Chotto Matte.

(Rooftop Dining continues on page 7)

Feds Accused of Misplacing Valuables in US Private Vaults Case

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW



A multi-agency raid of U.S. Private Vaults Photo by Bianca Heyward

In the ongoing drama surrounding a controversial federal raid of a Beverly Hills safe deposit box company, the U.S. government is now being accused of botching the return of seized property. In March, a multi-agency raid spearheaded by the FBI seized hundreds of lock boxes from the company, which government officials alleged operated as a front for money laundering and drug trafficking. As a result of the raid, the U.S. government walked away with the contents of 800 safe deposit boxes containing over \$85 million in cash and precious metals, jewelry, and other valuables. But, according to attorneys for patrons of U.S. Private Vaults, the government has exceeded the guidelines of its search warrant and in some cases failed to return people’s property.

In one such case, a semi-retired octogenarian pseudonymously listed in a complaint as Dr. Linda R claims that the government has failed to return at least \$75,000 in gold coins she stored at U.S. Private Vaults.

According to her attorney, Benjamin Gluck, “Dr. R” has spent the last 20 years investing her retirement savings into gold and silver coins. Distrustful of banks and financial institutions, she opted to store the precious metals at nearby U.S. Private Vaults. On its website, U.S. Private Vaults touts safe deposit boxes “like those found at banks,” but with the promise of enhanced security and “complete privacy.”

After the business was raided on March 22 by agents with the FBI, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), Dr. R submitted a claim to retrieve her property. But when she and her attorney met with two FBI agents to repossess her savings, she alleges in a lawsuit that “at least forty 1 oz. Gold American Eagle coins, with an estimated value of about \$75,000, were missing.”

A spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney’s Office declined to comment, citing on-going litigation. The U.S. government has yet to respond to the claims made in the complaint.

In response to the allegations of missing items, the government provided Dr. R with a receipt of the inventory of belongings compiled by law enforcement at the time of the seizure. The receipt, according to a copy attached to the complaint, listed only “Misc. coins” and “Misc. packaging materials.”

“Notably, the receipt—and apparently the ‘inventory’ from which it was allegedly precisely copied—describes neither the type nor the amount of coins seized,” the complaint says.

In a 45-minute video of an FBI agent going through Dr. R’s box, the agent allegedly fails to actually display its full contents and at one point drops several coins on the ground.

“[T]he removal and handling of Dr. R’s property was conducted in such a shambolic and disorganized manner that it is no surprise that items were misplaced, lost, or worse,” the suit contends.

According to Gluck, this is far from the only allegation of missing property. He says that he now represents as many as 10 clients who disagree with the government’s inventory of their belongings “in ways that are very, very troubling.” While Gluck currently represents five clients who have filed suits, he says that he has yet to file suits in most of the cases involving missing property.

“The real issue in this case is, where is all the missing property?”

Gluck detailed another unnamed client for whom the government catalogued \$50,000 more than the client actually had in storage. In another instance, Gluck says his client received a forfeiture notice for a box that didn’t belong to him.

An unsealed indictment in the case against U.S. Private Vaults alleges that the business operated a front for a drug dealing operation.

(US Private Vaults continues on page 9)

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Fate of Trousdale Trees Outlined in New Report

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

The recently released wildfire assessment report has revived a debate over the fate of some of the city's trees north of Sunset Boulevard. The report significantly scales back the number of trees recommended for removal by earlier reports, from about 1,200 to only 100. As comments in the two public hearings made clear, for some residents, the new number is far too low and does not do enough to harden the at-risk area against wildfires. For others, it remains too high and threatens the verdant identity of the neighborhoods.

The topographical conditions of the area north of Sunset make it ripe for wildfires. With steep hillsides and deep canyons, the landscape can function as a wind tunnel, especially during dry and windy Santa Ana events.

The report includes predictive models that illustrate the risks in the area, which falls within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). A fire sparked by a passing car on Mulholland Drive could travel to the tony Trousdale Estates neighborhood in less than 15 minutes, giving residents little warning and the fire department little time to respond.

While Beverly Hills and the neighborhoods north of Sunset have avoided any major fires since they've been around, the heightened risk has had consequences for residents. Insurance companies have taken a heavy hit in the last few years as a rapidly changing climate has undermined their risk models. According to the new report, some residents have seen insurance costs "soar to new levels" while others have lost coverage altogether.

"A lot of the community members who live north of Sunset are getting notices that their insurance isn't going to get renewed," Beverly Hills Fire Department (BHFD) Chief Gregory Barton said at the July 13 public meeting. "We are working with the insurance companies to show what the city of Beverly Hills is doing and how they're working towards reducing their potential structure fire loss."

Vegetation also plays a key role in the area's fire risk. A 2019 report by the environmental consulting firm Dudek pointed to the 40,000 to 70,000 private trees and 7,600 public street trees north of Sunset. The report identified about 3,500 trees of "higher flammability," singling out pines, eucalyptus, cypress, and acacia trees. As a part of the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) prepared by Dudek, the report recommended the removal of approximately 1,200 trees.

This recommendation was quickly tabled as battle lines formed within the community, with some advocating for a more aggressive

replacement strategy and others fighting to keep the trees in place. Because of the "conflicting agendas," the most recent report says, the city halted the planned removal pending further analysis.

The new report provides that analysis, identifying only 100 trees for removal "in the immediate future." While the report recommends formulating a long term replacement plan for all the higher risk tree species (pines, eucalyptus, cypress, and acacia), it gives priority to trees that could potentially obstruct evacuation routes during a fire. For non-priority trees, the report recommends continuing best maintenance and upkeep practices until the natural end of their life-cycle. At that point, the city would replace the tree with a more fire resistant species.

The decision about which trees to remove will be made jointly by the fire department and the city arborist. The report pinpointed the greatest concentration of potentially obstructing trees in the northern areas of Trousdale along Loma Vista Drive and Carla Ridge, with other higher risk vulnerabilities scattered throughout the neighborhoods north of Sunset. The number of trees removed could change as the fire department and arborist evaluate the situation on the ground.

"We're not clear cutting, we're doing a very systematic surgical approach to improving the evacuation routes," Barton told the Courier.

Still, the new recommendations came up against similar resistance.

"It's frightening to think you would strip the neighborhood, and [you] eventually will, if we do a little at a time," said Trousdale resident Tina Sinatra.

Another Trousdale resident, Shahram Melamed, characterized the recommendation as a Band-Aid. "We have time later to replace them with something, but we cannot afford another couple of years...of just waiting to see what's going to happen," he said.

Barton and consultants for the city explained that the updated number is not a compromise between two competing viewpoints. Rather, it is the result of technological advances in modeling and a better understanding of how urban wildfires spread. David Shew, a wildfire risk management expert who spoke at the city hearings, suggested a different way of thinking about the plan. "It's not a question of removing trees, the real plan is replacing trees," he said. "There will still be trees there; they may not be pines."

Before any trees come down, the fire department will first present the report to the City Council. A date for the presentation has not been announced. ●

Amid Surge, County Updates Indoor Mask Rules

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW



In response to an alarming spike in COVID-19 cases among unvaccinated individuals, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has updated its masking policy. Starting at 11:59 p.m. on July 17, all people regardless of vaccination status must wear face coverings indoors. This will supersede the county's former policy, which only recommended face masks indoors.

About two weeks ago, Dr. Sam Torbati noticed a change in the number of patients coming into the Cedars-Sinai emergency room with COVID-19. For several months up until that point, the hospital saw one,

maybe two infected patients a day—a welcome far cry from the city's peak in the winter. Now, the hospital admits anywhere from seven to 15 cases.

"We have a Delta variant that's highly contagious, we have a lot of people engaging in activities that put them in close proximity to each other, and we have a bunch of unvaccinated people that are great hosts. The environment right now is primed for another huge wave," Torbati, co-chair and medical director of the Cedars-Sinai emergency department, told the Courier.

(Mask Rules continues on page 9)

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Visions of the Future in Beverly Hills



On July 14, a dedication ceremony celebrated a new art pop-up featuring artist James Goldcrown at 455 N. Canon Drive. The exhibit is just one from the new series “Visions of the Future,” a collaborative effort between the Next Beverly Hills Committee and the city’s Arts and Culture and Human Relations Commissions.

Pictured from L to R: Liliana Filipovic,

Arts and Culture Commission; Noelle Freeman, Next Beverly Hills Committee; Stephanie Vahn, Arts and Culture Commission; Councilmember Julian Gold; Mayor Robert Wunderlich; Vice Mayor Lili Bosse; James Goldcrown; Annette Saleh, Human Relations Commission; Kipton Cronkite, Next Beverly Hills Committee and Councilmember Lester Friedman

Outdoors For Now, The Wallis Plans A Full New Season In October

BY MICHAEL WITTNER



The socially distanced pop up outdoor stage at The Wallis

When the overhead lights were off, the audience wore t-shirts. Once the lights glowed a pale pink, someone in the third row of twin seats, spaced out like animals on Noah’s Ark, someone put on a sweater. By the time the sun set over The Wallis’ Promenade Event Terrace, the site of The Wallis’ pop-up, socially distanced outdoor stage, the lights glowed neon blue, and the audience zipped up their jackets. When theater is outside, the earth becomes another character to enjoy.

After eight months of “unplanning” and another six months of creatively staged virtual performances, coronavirus has now compelled the Wallis to build an entire outdoor theater that was completed in about two weeks, just in time for the first live performances in early June. Earlier this month, the Courier was fortunate enough to attend one of its late-evening shows.

“We had a space in the Promenade Terrace there that in my mind was perfect for us to create and design an outdoor theater,” Artistic Director Paul Crewes told the Courier. “It was designed specifically for the COVID world. We produced a new play, ‘Tevye in New York,’ which was a one-person show, because rehearsing a company of six, or more than one person, was obviously going to be problematic. We obviously put these plans in place at a point when we didn’t really know what the world was going to look like in June, and we started to plan in December of last year of producing an outdoor theater space, and producing a piece of work for that space specifically.”

The stage is 36 feet wide, 20 feet deep, and cost the Wallis approximately \$40,000 to build and maintain through Sept. 2, according to Crewes. Crewes came up with the concept of the stage and its surroundings, and worked with the Wallis’ in-house production team and Technical Director Matt Waldron on the final designs.

Different theater and dance performances will continue in the outdoor space until Sept. 2, and in October, The Wallis will return inside for a full, uninterrupted season, following whatever COVID protocols are in place at the time. Crewes also said he’d like to bring the stage back next

summer, though it might interfere with the many outdoor fundraisers and shows the theater normally holds in the Promenade Event Terrace.

It’s been a long, hard road for The Wallis this past International Year of Unplanning. In March 2020, Al Pacino performed to a sold-out crowd at the indoor Goldsmith Stage. The very next day, they canceled all future performances, and two days after that, Crewes remembers stopping an international theater crew from getting on a plane.

The long, bleak road of “dismantling the season” had begun. The Wallis went dark from March until November, with only a skeleton crew keeping up the building. With no new revenue coming in, the theater relied on emergency grants, and cut half its expenses, which included furloughing half the staff.

But leave it to a team of creatives to get, well, creative. Once Crewes and his crews could go back inside, they staged a number of online performances filmed all over the building. “We tried to create theatrical events that were filmed, rather than films or TV,” Crewes said. “It was trying to capture the theatrical style, and remind people of the venue.”

In November, the theater hosted a virtual gala, which featured different works of art filmed all over its resplendent campus to “get people excited to see the building again.” That same month, they started a series of virtual “Sorting Room Sessions” concerts, filmed HD in a theater decked out like a nightclub. Virtual classes also started up again. Throughout the course of the rehearsals, actors and musicians were required to take weekly COVID tests, Crewes said.

Crewes said his team is considering livestreaming performances in the future, because it can reach so many more people. But ultimately, before anything else, the Wallis is about live art, not live streaming.

“It was very exciting to see people coming back people in the building,” Crewes said. “It felt like we were able to do what we’re supposed to do, which is create live performance, and let people see it.” ●

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CalRE #00884722

(Rooftop Dining continued from page 4)
On July 8, the Planning Commission also voted unanimously to grant the trendy restaurant, represented by building owner Steve Bohbot, a rooftop dining permit that will go into effect if the City Council approves the recommended ZTA.

Both commissioners and city staff felt that rooftop dining in the touristy, non-residential Business Triangle would generate buzz that might help restaurants more quickly recover from the effects of the pandemic. The Community Development Department found that the project proposal is consistent with the city's General Plan, and will not adversely affect nearby development, aesthetics, health, or safety.

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce endorsed the project, writing in a June 21 letter to the Commission that, "Permitting rooftop dining more widely creates flexibility for properties to create experiences that will attract businesses and visitors to Beverly Hills and create an interesting environment to shop, eat, visit, and work." The Chamber's letter, signed by President and CEO Todd Johnson, was the only public comment on the proposal.

"I think this is very creative," Vice Chair Thomas Hudnut said during the June 23 meeting, the first time the project and the proposed ordinance were brought before the Commission. "I think it is taking the ground-level use that so many restaurants were able to enjoy during COVID up to the natural level people might want...It is in fact going to enhance dining opportunities for

people within the Business Triangle both at lunch and dinner."

"The Planning Commission may wish to consider whether or not the regulations could help the restaurant sector recover from the negative impacts of the pandemic, while also providing additional spaces for guests to dine in a COVID-safe environment," Senior Planner Cindy Gordon said during a June 23 presentation. "From a broader perspective, these changes could also help the restaurant industry expand their operations overall, which may attract more business to the city, and create a unique experience in the city's Business Triangle."

Chotto Matte, a deluxe chain with existing locations in London, Miami, and Toronto, would serve a wide array of sushi, sashimi, and cross-cultural treats like "Pollo Nipon" (Spanish for "Japanese chicken") or Peruvian vegetables with egg fried rice and spicy sesame soy with shrimp, to up to 292 people spread out over 85 tables. If approved, the restaurant would convert an existing rooftop lunchroom into an indoor space that would lead out onto an open space covered only by a taupe-covered sail to provide diners with shade.

Per draft ordinance regulations, most items except for chairs would be bolted down to the rooftop, including a series of planters at least 42 inches high containing either living or nonliving plants (a divisive subject within the Commission: living plants weigh much more, but many thought non-living plants were not worthy of a Beverly Hills rooftop restaurant).

Commissioners also debated whether or not live music could be played on rooftops. Current regulations ban music that is "noticeably audible beyond site property lines." Initially, Bohbot's request for "classy" live music from a violinist or pianist was turned down, but the current draft ordinance allows for quiet live music with no more than two performers that does not consist of any dancing, singing, or spoken word. Even if the violins are ever-so slightly audible from the next building over, it's likely that it's an office building that will be empty during evening hours.

The restaurant will provide a designated waiting area not located on the public right of way, as well as 136 subterranean parking spots, with five more within 750 feet of the site, with valet service available.

Many of these additions, including modified regulation on singing, furniture, and size, were decided by an Ad-Hoc Committee consisting of Commissioner Myra Demeter and former Vice Chair Lori Gordon, who rushed to make the changes before her term as commissioner expired June 30. Though Gohlich initially anticipated drafting and incorporating all commission changes for

a July 22 vote, Bohbot asked for a decision by the 8th so he could go in front of City Council as quickly as possible, and he got his wish: one of the fastest-ever Planning Commission approvals of such an extensive, game-changing request.

The Commission's efficiency bodes well for future rooftop applications: the Ad-Hoc Committee ruled that should the City Council approve the draft ordinance; the Planning Commission will need to approve the next two rooftop applications before permanently transferring approval duty to Gohlich and his staff.

"Because it is such a brand-new program, we really should review at least two more projects," Demeter told the Courier.

"We've talked for probably years and years about whether there could be a better utilization of rooftops. There are a lot of great rooftop restaurants in surrounding areas, but we don't have much in Beverly Hills, and we've got the great Southern California weather, so there's been a long-standing question of whether that's something the city should pursue, and Mr. Bohbot's application gave us that opportunity." ●

Sing for Hope Artists Revealed

BY MICHAEL WITTNER

Sing for Hope, the New York-based nonprofit that is partnering with the City of Beverly Hills and the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, announced the names of local artists who have been selected to paint 16 pianos that will be placed throughout the city.

Starting Aug. 5, painted pianos will be placed in iconic locations throughout the city for anyone to play or admire. While all the artists have been determined, the city is still finalizing a list of locations for the pianos, Community Services Communications and Marketing Coordinator Dana Beesen told the Courier.

After Sep. 6, the pianos will move from Beverly Hills to permanent homes in underserved public schools, hospitals, and community organizations across greater Los Angeles.

In May, Sing for Hope, the Wallis, and the City put out an open call for local artists to submit proposals on the Sing for Hope website. Artists were selected in June by a volunteer panel of California-based art professionals and community leaders.

The selected artists are: Adam Rodgers, Alexandra Nechita, Benow, Chaz Guest, Çiğdem Akbay, Gooey, Helena Faitelson, Laishan Mui Ito, Laurie Tsou, Marisabel Bazan, The Miracle Project with GRoW @ The Wallis (a performing arts program for young people across the autism spectrum), Mireille Fournier, Ms. Yellow, Punk Me Tender, Sheila Darcey and Yalda Sepahpour.

The 16 pianos will be revealed in an official Aug. 5 unveiling at The Wallis that will include a public performance.

After a month of impromptu concerts all around town, the painted pianos will be distributed to participating institutions, such as Jordan High School in Watts, Vanalden Early

Education Center in Tarzana, Montebello Gardens Elementary School in Pico Rivera, Dorris Place Elementary School in Elysian Park, View Park Preparatory High School in Hyde Park, and George Washington Carver Middle School in South Park. More participating schools and organizations will be announced soon. Some of these schools are already partnered with the Wallis on various projects, according to the Beverly Hills Community Services Department.

Sing For Hope, which has placed over 500 artist-designed pianos on the streets of cities across the world, has also donated many of those pianos to underserved schools and community organizations after their pop-up installation.

"The arts play a key role in uplifting and inspiring people of all ages," Camille Zamora, Sing For Hope co-founder, said in a statement. "As our cities seek to 'build back better' in the months ahead, human-centered solutions like the Sing for Hope Pianos reinvigorate our public spaces and remind us of our shared humanity. We're honored to partner with The Wallis, the City of Beverly Hills, and the amazing LA-area artist community to bring joy to the streets this summer."

"We couldn't be more excited to welcome these wonderful works of art to our public spaces for all to enjoy," Beverly Hills Mayor Bob Wunderlich said in a statement. "Sing for Hope Pianos innovatively brings together culture and community, two of the hallmarks of our city. We invite all to enjoy these creative works while celebrating incredible artistic talent in a world-class environment. We are delighted that these one-of-a-kind piano artworks will continue to be an artistic resource and source of joy when they are moved to schools and other community-based permanent homes following their public display." ●



Roxbury Drive Protected Bike Lane Demonstration Project

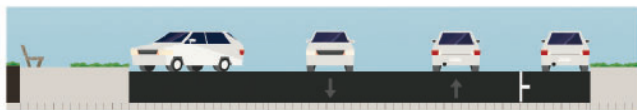
Come test ride the proposed bikeway and provide your feedback!

WHEN: Sunday, July 25, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

2 mile ride with the Mayor at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Roxbury Drive at Olympic Boulevard

Existing Street Layout



Street Layout for Event



For more information visit: beverlyhills.org/completestreets

For questions: Contact the Public Works Department at 310-285-2467 or AskPW@beverlyhills.org



BHFD Chief Gregory Barton explaining the new wildfire assessment

(Wildfire Assessment continued from page 1)

But after the 1800s, settlers to the region focused on fire suppression, which allowed fuel to build up over time, and banned the ritualistic burns practiced by Indigenous tribes. Now, with the effects of climate change clearly felt across the globe, California is experiencing hotter and drier weather, setting the stage for the conflagrations we see today.

“Due to continuing climate change impacts, these fuels are typically drier and more susceptible to ignition for a longer period of time throughout the year than in the past,” the report says.

The report outlines multiple recommendations to tackle the issue but cautions that no silver bullet exists—a warning echoed by Beverly Hills Fire Department (BHFD) Chief Gregory Barton. “This isn’t a problem that the fire department can handle, it’s not a problem that the residents can handle, it’s a problem that all of us...need to come together to make work,” Barton said at Tuesday’s hearing.

Many of the report’s suggestions build on earlier mitigation and prevention efforts by the city. The report recommends strengthening the city’s Firewise USA Program, a national volunteer-based fire safety and prevention program with a chapter located in the fire-prone area north of Sunset. The report also advises the city to improve its education and information programs. It recommends the “immediate” removal of 100 trees that pose a threat to evacuation efforts in the case of a fire and the continuation of overall tree maintenance and care. Additionally, the city should establish and practice an evacuation plan, the report proposes.

The report, which was commissioned by Barton, lists topography, weather, and fuel as the three main factors in a wildfire. As the city can’t change either topography or weather, the report focuses the most on fuels.

The report also focuses largely on the most vulnerable area of the city, the neighborhoods north of Sunset, which fall in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). The steeper hillsides and deeper canyons of the area can increase the intensity of wildfires and function as

wind funnels, especially during the fall Santa Anas. According to predictive models included in the report, a fire originating from Mulholland could reach the Trousdale Estates neighborhood in less than 15 minutes. At that speed, residents would have little warning and the fire department would have little time to respond defensively, highlighting the need for residents to know how to act in advance and to proactively harden their homes.

The report brings robust data to bear on the role of embers in structure fires. Based on 50,000 incidents of structure fires compiled by Cal Fire (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection), 90% of structures ignite directly or indirectly due to embers. While anecdotal evidence for years had suggested this connection, the Cal Fire database—the only one of its kind in the world—has enabled a more scientific study of the phenomenon.

Embers can exploit myriad vulnerabilities in a building, from detritus accumulated in the gutters and on roofs, to cracks in siding or gaps along the edges of garage doors. Embers can also spark indirect ignition by lighting landscaping, outdoor furniture, wooden decks, abutting wooden fences and gates, and landscaping mulch. Once a structure catches fire, it has less than a 10% chance of surviving, the report says.

Beverly Hills has enjoyed a fairly fire-free history up to this point. The report lists the 11 largest wildfires around Beverly Hills since 1929, with the most destructive being the 1961 Bel Air/Brentwood fire that burned 6,152 acres.

Another factor that has played into the lack of wildfires in Beverly Hills: luck. On the evening of Jan. 9 of this year, a fire broke out in a home on Beverly Drive. By the time firefighters arrived, the structure was “totally involved,” igniting nearby palm trees which showered embers on the area. But wind conditions were low, and “under even modest wind conditions, the outcome may have been far different.”

Beverly Hills also boasts an elite fire department that ranks among the 1 percent of fire departments in the nation to have earned a Class 1 Public Protection Classification rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). The designation means that the department demonstrates quick response times and a high level of risk mitigation. The rating gets factored into fire insurance premiums by insurance companies.

The neighborhoods north of Sunset have taken fire prevention seriously for years. In 2005, following the devastating 2003 Cedar Fire in San Diego, the area became recognized as a Firewise USA site, part of the National Firewise Communities Program. Recognition as an official site requires development of an action plan and fire risk mitigation efforts on the level of individual households within the site.

The site covers 1,650 parcels and about 1,535 residential structures. Over the last 15 years, residents of the area have put in more than \$250,000 in time and other costs devoted to reducing wildfire risk around their homes, although the report says that the real figure is likely higher.

While a previous report authored by Wildfire Consultant David Kerr in 2018 identified over 2,000 trees north of Sunset as high risk to spread fire and recommended

Beverly Hills Awards CAGF Grants To Social Service Nonprofits

BY MICHAEL WITTNER

The city of Beverly Hills has awarded \$2.2 million in grants or in-kind funds to 22 agencies that applied for the Community Assistance Grant Fund (CAGF) program for 2021-22. The funds are allocated by the city and administered by the Beverly Hills Human Services Division to organizations that help provide social services to the city’s most vulnerable populations, including the elderly, disabled, impoverished, and unhoused. Each year, these grants help nonprofits provide vital services that the city is not able to provide itself.

Funding was approved by the City Council on June 1, and is being administered this month through the end of the year, said Beverly Hills Acting Human Services Administrator Rachel Evans.

From December 2020 to February 2021, 31 agencies, including 12 organizations that had not applied before, applied for funding, according to a May 17 staff report. The Charitable Solicitations Commission reviewed the financial health of each organization, while the Human Relations Commission evaluated how each organization’s proposal would best serve the city and avoid any duplication of efforts. The Commissions placed each proposal in one of seven categories: homeless services, senior services, health and well-being, education, legal services, loans, and cultural enhancement.

This funding cycle, the Human Relations Commission recommended a \$724,999 increase from last year, especially to tackle the numerous challenges posed by the

ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“These grants are very important in providing vital services to our community’s most vulnerable members, including, but not limited to, our seniors, low-income residents, those experiencing food insecurity, and unhoused individuals,” Evans told the Courier. “The City’s partnership with local social service agencies creates a continuum of care and a social service safety-net to support the quality of life of Beverly Hills residents.”

The 22 agencies that received CAGF grants are:

- Affordable Living for the Aging
- All Saints’ Episcopal Church
- Bet Tzedek Legal Services
- Beverly Hills Active Adult Club
- Beverly Hills CPR
- Beverly Hills Education Foundation
- Chiron Center, Inc.
- Collins & Katz Family YMCA
- ETTA
- Jewish Family Service
- Jewish Free Loan Association
- Miracle Project
- OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center
- People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)
- Saban Community Clinic
- Safe Parking LA
- The Maple Counseling Center
- Theatre 40
- Tower Cancer Research Foundation
- Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
- Westside Food Bank •

the city develop a plan to replace them with more fire resilient species, the newest report scales that number back to 100. The report’s concern with the trees stems less from the risk of propagating fire than from the chance that the trees could somehow block evacuation routes during an emergency.

Beyond the 100 trees flagged for removal “in the immediate future,” the report recommends phasing out the hundreds of pines, eucalyptus, acacia, and cypress north of Sunset, maintaining them until the end of their natural lifespan. At that point, the city should replace them with fire resistant trees like oaks, the report says.

While the report acknowledges the accomplishment of the city’s Firewise USA site, it makes suggestions to improve the program, such as dividing the site up into multiple, smaller sites to facilitate better neighborhood coordination, engagement, and even encourage competition between the different sites. The report also recommends making the online Firewise resources more easily discoverable and folding in other resources into the website.

The report places a large emphasis on preventing structure fires, recommending a 5-foot-wide non-combustible area around structures, referred to as the “home ignition zone.” A new law anticipated to take effect

sometime in 2023 will require the 5-foot clearance in all homes north of Sunset. Additionally, research and data has shown that abutting elements such as wood fences and gates can also trigger ignition. These, too, should be eliminated, the report suggests.

In the event of a wildfire, thousands of residents would quickly take to the streets to evacuate. This would place a heavy demand on the city’s roadways as residents from the north flee to the south of Sunset. The videos of these evacuations have become staples of the new normal—shaky cellphone footage from the inside of a car driving through plumes of smoke and flames. “The goal is to never provide anyone from Beverly Hills the opportunity to post another one of these chaotic videos,” the report says.

To ensure accessible escape routes, the report notes that the city has posted prominent signage along key egresses. But the report says the city must also pursue a strategy of “aggressive parking enforcement during high fire danger.” Additionally, the city should practice its evacuation plan, the report says—a proposal with large logistical implications that the report says could save lives. •

(Mask Rules continued from page 5)

On July 14, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) confirmed 1,315 new cases of COVID-19, marking the sixth consecutive day of more than 1,000 cases. Hospitalizations reported that same day rose to 398 from 275 the week before—a nearly 45% increase. All hospitalizations in county-run hospitals involve people who have not been fully vaccinated.

Of all the patients coming into the Cedars-Sinai emergency department, Dr. Torbati says “well over 95%” are unvaccinated. Most of them are also younger than in previous upticks.

Currently, 61% of eligible county residents 16 and older have received their full vaccination. Beverly Hills boasts one of the highest rates of vaccinations with 76% of those over 16 having received at least one dose. Still, this leaves millions of Angelenos unvaccinated, including 1.3 million children under 12 who cannot yet get the vaccine.

Director of Public Health Dr. Barbara Ferrer has urged unvaccinated people to become vaccinated if they can. “If you are not vaccinated, consider getting your vaccination

now to increase protection for you and for those who can’t be vaccinated. Wearing a face mask when the vaccination status of the people you are around is unknown can help prevent transmission. The best way to reduce your risk of infection and, if infected, serious illness from COVID-19 is to be fully vaccinated against it,” she said on July 14.

Torbati said that shaming unvaccinated people does little to persuade them. Instead, he emphasizes the safety of the vaccines and the moral responsibility of protecting others around you.

“It’s important for the unvaccinated population just to understand that we have an incredible amount of data on the vaccines available in the United States. They’re incredibly safe,” he said.

The message is: please protect yourself, protect your loved ones, and please help us in the scientific and medical community to put a stop to what may be another wave of very significant disease activity.” ●

(US Private Vaults continued from page 4)

It documents multiple interactions between unidentified employees and a confidential informant working with law enforcement to sell illegal marijuana products. In one such encounter on July 26, 2019, a “USPV Officer” sold the informant 1,000 vape cartridges containing THC in exchange for \$8,000 in cash. The indictment alleges that the same employee sold an ounce of cocaine to “Confidential Informant 3” through intermediaries.

Following the raid, authorities said they recovered “firearms, illegal drugs, and... cash,” according to court filings. The most common item found was stacks of \$100 bills, with one box containing more than \$1 million.

Allegations of government overreach followed fast on the heels of the raid. In all, the federal government is currently named in 12 lawsuits stemming from its actions at U.S. Private Vaults.

One such case brought by the non-profit law firm Institute For Justice on behalf of seven clients accused the government of violating the terms of its search warrant by conducting a search and seizure of U.S. Private Vaults’ customers.

“And while a warrant authorized the government to seize USPV’s property, the warrant did not authorize the government to conduct a criminal search or seizure of USPV’s customers’ property,” the suit says.

A federal judge agreed with their arguments and, on June 22, issued a temporary restraining order halting the government from forfeiting seized property. The temporary restraining order requires the government to disclose the “factual and legal basis for 4th forfeiture” before initiating forfeiture proceedings. The order serves as a stopgap measure until the court can hear arguments over a preliminary injunction, which can last indefinitely.

The Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees people the right to due process. In the context of civil forfeiture, this means the government must provide the “factual bases for seizure” and “the specific statutory provisions allegedly violated” (i.e., what law did the property owner supposedly violate).

On both requirements, the court had harsh words for the government. The ruling bluntly held that the notice of seizure provided to property owners by the government “provides no factual basis for the seizure of Plaintiff’s property whatsoever” and “fall[s] woefully short of the Government’s duty to provide ‘the specific statutory provision allegedly violated.’”

In response to the ruling, the government argued that it need not give a specific factual or statutory basis for the seizure in its initial notice of forfeiture. Instead, that information could be gained through legally contesting the forfeiture in court. ●

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Are you concerned about climate change?

Over the next 18 months the City will be exploring ways to reduce its greenhouse gas impacts and prepare for a changing climate.

We are looking for five Beverly Hills residents to participate in the Community Advisory Committee.

The Committee will meet approximately four times over the course of the project to provide input on the vision, goals, and greenhouse gas reduction targets of the Climate Action Plan.



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499 N. Canon Dr.
Suite 400
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
310-278-1322
Fax: 310-271-5118
BEVERLYHILLSCOURIER.COM

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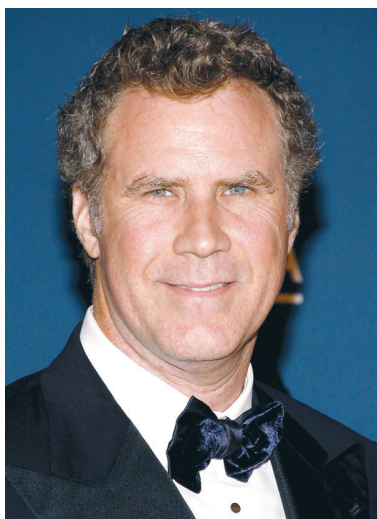


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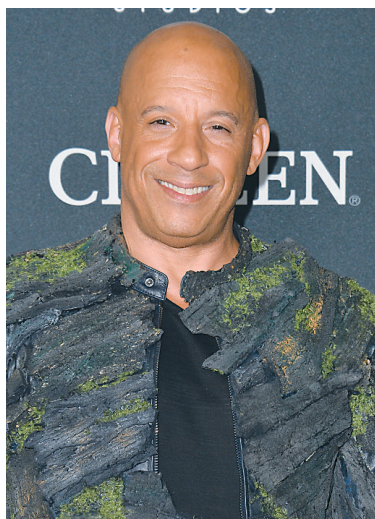
Birthdays



WILL FERRELL
July 16



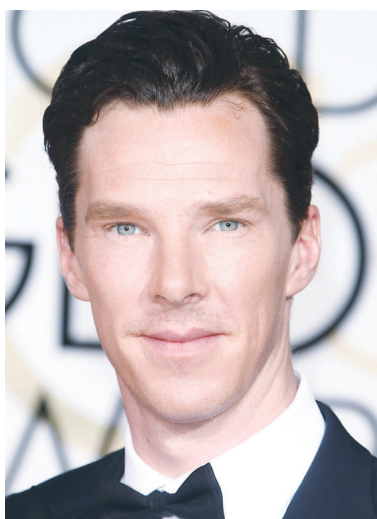
DONALD SUTHERLAND
July 17



VIN DIESEL
July 18



RENEE KUMETZ
July 18



BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH
July 19



JANINE GERSHON
July 19



GISELE BUNDCHEN
July 20



SELENA GOMEZ
July 22



Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 16). Your sense of fun is going strong, and you'll agree to adventures you'd not have thought of if it weren't for your growing circle of forward-thinking friends. New additions in September. You'll be paid handsomely to take on responsibilities, but the money will turn out to be the least valuable aspect to the experience. Scorpio and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 22, 5, 28 and 1.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even though you sometimes resist authority, you also respect anything and anyone who can teach you. You'll drop all resistance to road signs, guides and instructions. Life is made easier by simply following the directions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your powers of observation are so dialed in that you're verging on the telepathic. Hearing what other people are thinking is not the hard part. The hard part is verifying your correctness in the matter.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Boring the audience is a terrible sin in the world of entertainment and the norm of polite society. You'll liven things

up with charm and snappiness, and employ acting skill, too, as you tolerate the long-windedness of others.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Those who point out another person's faults are implying that, by comparison, they have fewer faults of their own, which is hardly ever the case, and even if it were, bringing attention to it is a big red flag-sized fault.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). With multilevel awareness, you'll pick up on minute expressions of interest and make split-second decisions about whether to continue the entertainment, holding and leveraging the attention, or to dodge, hide from or redirect it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Used to a particular rhythm of external assurances, your ego is scared to step into environments where reception will be uncertain. Superstar move: Challenge yourself to care less about them and more about your purpose.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can trust in your deeper knowing, even when it has yet to emerge to top layers of consciousness. You have goals that even you do not know about. Your being vibrates with an agenda you've only started to understand.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Changing yourself is challenging enough. Changing someone else is not

only difficult but possibly futile. Even in the unlikely event that it works, your imposed change would be temporary and invite a backlash. Live and let live.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sleep, vitamins, sunshine, movement, the positive influence of optimistic friends and media... it's obvious what's good for you, and the one who inspires you to actually partake in good things is great indeed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Creativity is at a high. Keep striving to turn your inspiration and emotion into something concrete. People will

like and resonate with the products of your expression.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll set up rules, systems and rewards aimed at building mental patterns. If anyone is going to change your mind, you want it to be you and not some tricky technology employed by a corporation to seduce and control you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It is in your nature to extend whatever care is needed, and the more you notice the need, the more need there is to be noticed. Just be sure to care for yourself first and foremost.



Louie is a 9-year-old Shih Tzu who weighs 12 pounds. He is described as a very sweet boy and is looking for a new family. If you can help Louie, please call Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.

www.shelterhopepetshop.org

SUDOKU
07/16/21 ISSUE

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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
07/16/21 ISSUE

NO RUSE
BY ASHISH VENGSARKAR / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Ashish Vengsarkar, of Scotch Plains, N.J., is the head of Optical Networking Technologies at Google. Besides puzzles, he enjoys playing raga and table tennis. (He and I have a longstanding annual rivalry in the latter.) The seed entry of this puzzle was 10-Down, which came to Ashish while he was at the dentist's. The symmetrical pairing of 36- and 40-Down (a favorite artist of his during college) was fortuitous. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Art of riding and training a horse

9 "Mea culpa"

14 Campania's capital

20 Put in other words

21 Bob Marley's "____ You Be Loved"

22 Mark in the World Golf Hall of Fame

23 Lacking self-assurance

24 Onus for a magician's disappearing act?

26 Study of how gels gel?

28 All together

29 Little, to a Scot

30 η

31 Fizzle (out)

33 Miscellaneous task

37 Irish writer Behan

39 Increased, with "up"

44 Actress Polo

45 Pablo Neruda's "____ to Wine"

47 They'll put you head and shoulders above everyone else

49 Constellation almost above the North Pole

50 Autobiography subtitled "The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban"

53 Red card

54 ____ Khan, prime minister of Pakistan beginning in 2018

55 Sports broadcast feature

56 Angry Wisconsin sports fans?

59 Fire sign?

61 Like n, where n = 2k (and "k" is a whole number)

62 Unagi, at a sushi bar

63 President Bartlet of "The West Wing"

64 Singer Astley

66 Totalitarian?

69 Law enforcement, slangily

71 Tajikistan, e.g., once: Abbr.

73 "How was ____ know?"

75 Loll

77 Many a marble bust

80 Getting "Amscray!" under control?

85 Like yoga instructors

87 Greet the day

88 One of the Earps

89 -

91 Bathroom-cabinet item

92 Certain bridge positions

94 McEachern a.k.a. the "Voice of Poker"

95 Cake topper

96 Wealthiest professional sports org.

98 Abrogates

100 Party animal?

102 Reveals

104 Reply to an oversharer

105 One in a hundred: Abbr.

106 Parrot

110 Power of a cowboy's shoe?

116 Odysseus' wife whispers sweet nothings?

119 Bliss

120 With wisdom

121 In a sense, colloquially

122 Activity for some pen pals

123 Port on the Black Sea

124 Colorful food fish

125 Giveaways during some pledge drives

DOWN

1 What the doctor ordered

2 Where Johnny Cash shot a man, in song

3 Bruins legend Phil, to fans

4 "Cut it out!"

5 Pronounced with authority

6 Twitter handle starter

7 Davis of "Thelma & Louise"

8 Icelandic saga

9 Chicken ____ (discontinued fast-food snack)

10 Dramatic accusation at a dentist's office?

11 Stickers

12 City council representative: Abbr.

13 Onetime White House inits.

14 Lunchtime liaison

15 Bands you might listen to in the car?

16 Salt's musical partner

17 Where "khop jai" means "thank you"

18 God who "loosens the limbs and weakens the mind," per Hesiod

19 Call at home

25 Not gross

27 Île be there?

31 ____ paneer (dish with puréed spinach)

32 Way in

33 "The Adventures of Milo and ____" (1989 film)

34 Cyber Monday offerings

35 She might take care of a kid on a sick day

36 Rock star who wrote the poetry collection "The American Night"

37 Contradict

38 "Mon ____!"

40 36-Down's anagrammatic nickname

41 "Gay" city in a Cole Porter song

42 Hallmark.com purchase

43 Opposite of "takes off"

46 Something to leave to beavers?

48 Precipitous

51 Grammy-nominated D.J. Steve

52 Thomas ____ Edison

57 Join with rings

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
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116								117	118					119							
120								121						122							
123								124						125							

58 Smudge

60 Vaper's purchase

65 Neighborhood where you might get kimchi, for short

67 Goddess of the dawn

68 Obama chief of staff Emanuel

70 Campaign pros

71 ____ Gilbert, co-developer of a Covid-19 vaccine

72 Smile with one's eyes, per a modern coinage

74 Long past

76 Some fencing swords

78 Something to play fetch with

79 "Well, golly!"

80 Biting

81 Spongy toys

82 Resets to zero, as a scale

83 ____://

84 John Winston ____ Lennon

86 Professor 'iggins

90 Eaglelike?

93 Appetizers filled with potatoes and peas

97 One of the Jacksons

99 Word following English or green

101 Kind of wonder?

103 Cred

105 Campaign (for)

106 Itself: Lat.

107 World's oldest alcoholic beverage

108 Pulitzer-winning playwright from Independence, Kan.

109 Seriously annoys, with "off"

110 Tora ____, Afghanistan

111 Not overlooked

112 Defendant's plea, for short

113 Determination

114 Fork point

115 Storied caldron stirrers

117 Spanish "that"

118 Admit (to)

Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (Division 6 of the Commercial Code)

Escrow No. L- 039672-JL

(1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described.

(2) The name and business addresses of the seller are: CM ASIAN RESTAURANT INC, 141 SOUTH ROBERTSON BLVD, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211.

(3) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is:

(4) The name and business address of the Buyer(s) are: ASAKUMA GROUP INC, 141 S. ROBERTSON BLVD., BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211-2801.

(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: FURNITURE, FIXTURE AND EQUIPMENT, TRADE NAME, LEASEHOLDER IMPROVEMENT AND COVENANT of that certain business located at: 141 SOUTH ROBERTSON - BLVD, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211.

(6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said location is: ASAKUMA SUSHI

(7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is AUGUST 3, 2021, at the office of TOWER ESCROW INC, 3400 W. OLYMPIC BLVD, #201, LOS ANGELES, CA 90019, Escrow No. L-039672-JL, Escrow Officer: JOANNE LEE

(8) Claims may be filed with Same as "7" above.

(9) The last date for filing claims is: AUGUST 2, 2021.

(10) This Bulk Sale is subject to Section 6106.2 of the Uniform Commercial Code.

(11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE
Dated: JULY 1, 2021
TRANSFEREES: ASAKUMA GROUP INC, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION
O R D - 3 7 6 0 2 0
BEVERLY HILLS

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT AND CLAIM OF LIEN Order No: 05941338 TS No: R18-07056 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT AND CLAIM OF LIEN, DATED 09/18/2018. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT

YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION 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 09/20/2018 as instrument number 20180967474, Book page in the office of the County Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California, and further pursuant to the Notice of Default and Election to Sell thereunder recorded on 3/13/2020 as instrument number 20200302423 in said county and further pursuant to California Civil Code Section 5675 et seq. and those certain Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions recorded on 5/21/1799 as instrument number 79-543309, WILL SELL on 07/22/2021, 10:00 AM, Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766 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(s) of said property is (are): JASON DIEHL, A SINGLE MAN. The property address and other common designation, if any, of the real property is purported to be: 8400 DE LONGPRE AVE., UNIT 401, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069, APN 5554-023-065. The undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property 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: \$18,118.62. The opening bid at the 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 property 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 being auctioned off, 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 information. 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 trust-

ee 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: R18-07056. 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 R18-07056 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. Second, you must send 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 consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential 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." Dated: 06/07/2021 Witkin & Neal, Inc. as said Trustee 5805 SEPULVEDA BLVD., SUITE 670 SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91411 (818) 845-8808 By: SUSAN PAQUETTE, TRUSTEE SALES OFFICER 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 OF THE NOTE. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NPP0374276 To: BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021132311

The following is/are doing business as:

1) ON THE ROAD PET
2) THINK FAST FOR PETS
8755 Shoreham Dr. #302, West Hollywood, CA 90069; Disruptive Distribution, LLC 8755 Shoreham Dr. #302, West Hollywood, CA 90069; The business is conducted by: **A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed September 2011: **Laura J. Meltzer, Managing Member**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: June 11, 2021; Published: June 25, July 02, 09, 16, 2021 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021132313

The following is/are doing business as:

ARTISTS CORNER
468 N. Camden Dr. #244, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; **Carlos Benitez** 468 N. Camden Dr. #244, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed January 2014: **Carlos Benitez, Owner**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: June 11, 2021; Published: June 25, July 02, 09, 16, 2021 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021132315

The following is/are doing business as:

RODEO MEDICAL GROUP
421 N. Rodeo Dr. #PH-1, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; **Rodeo Medical Group Inc.** 421 N. Rodeo Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed June 2016: **Rebecca Brown, President**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: June 11, 2021; Published: June 25, July 02, 09, 16, 2021 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT 2021132318

The following is/are doing business as:

JULIE MOLLO HOMES
2306 Nella Vista Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027; **Julie Mollo Unlimited Inc.** 2306 Nella Vista Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027; The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed April 2014: **Julie Mollo, President**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: June 11, 2021; Published: June 25, July 02, 09, 16, 2021 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021132320

The following is/are doing business as:

SCHUSTER-ZINGHEIM AND ASSOCIATES
1541 Bel Air Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90072-3021; **Patricia K. Zingheim** 1541 Bel Air Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90072-3021; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed November 2016: **Patricia K. Zingheim, Owner**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: June 11, 2021; Published: June 25, July 02, 09, 16, 2021 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021132322

The following is/are doing business as:

JAY'S BEACH RENTALS
1541 Bel Air Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90077; **Jay R. Schuster** 1541 Bel Air Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90077; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed June 2003: **Jay R. Schuster, Owner**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: June 11, 2021; Published: June 25, July 02, 09, 16, 2021 LACC N/C

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CASE NO: 21STCP02231
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

In the Matter of the petition of:

Sherman Edward Jackson

To all interested person(s):

Petitioner: **Sherman Edward Jackson** current residence address:

2640 S. Bronson Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90018

filed a petition with the **Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, Stanley Mosk Courthouse,** on **July 12, 2021** for a Decree changing names as follows:

Present Name: **Sherman Edward Jackson**

Proposed Name: **Derrick David NoHeart**

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: **August 23, 2021** Time: **10:00am** Dept: **74** Room: **735**

The address of the court is: **Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, Stanley Mosk Courthouse.** Reason for name change:

"I was told and inrolled at school as Derrick until I got my birth certificate at 16. David is my fathers name and NoHeart is my mothers birth last name before she was adopted off the lakota reservation. I am also having a son in July and would like to have my family name on his birth certificate."

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in the foregoing petition is true and correct.

Signed: **Sherman Edward Jackson**

Judge of the Superior Court

Michelle Williams Court, Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/ Clerk,

By: **Nick Miramontes, Deputy Clerk**

Dated: **July 12, 2021**
Published: **July 16, 23, 30, August 06, 2021**

Beverly Hills Courier

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).

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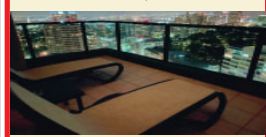
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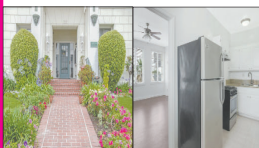
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LEASE**

BEVERLY HILLS
221 S. Doheny Dr.
• 2 Bd+2 Ba
• Lrg 1 Bd+1 Ba



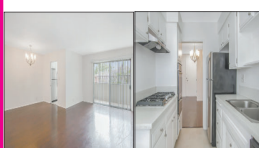
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