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BEVERLYHILLSCOURIER.COM

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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

	Friday	79° 65°
\	Saturday	81° 66°
\	Sunday	83° 68°
\	Monday	85° 69°
<u>~</u>	Tuesday	86° 69°
\	Wednesday	83° 67°
<u>~</u>	Thursday	80° 66°

'Office Hours with Dr. Gold' Addresses Array of Topics



Mayor Dr. Julian Gold addresses community members during "Office Hours with Dr. Gold" this week.

BY ERIC LICAS

Beverly Hills residents brought concerns regarding homelessness as well as crime targeting local businesses and neighboring communities of faith directly to their mayor during "Office Hours with Dr. Gold" on Aug. 23.

The event was the third in an ongoing series of forums hosted at the City Hall Municipal Gallery. Beverly Hills Mayor Dr. Julian Gold spent about an hour taking questions from in-person attendees and viewers tuning in via Zoom, and returned detailed, unedited replies.

"I do have some stuff to talk about, but that can wait," Gold said after introducing himself to residents Wednesday evening. "I'm kind of more interested in what's going on for you that you would like us to talk about. See OFFICE HOURS, page 11

BHUSD Encouraged by Enrollment Increase

BY RYAN TOROK

In its first meeting since students returned to school, the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) board pointed to several encouraging administrative developments, including an enrollment increase after several years of declining numbers.

During the current academic school year of 2023-2024, 3,085 students were enrolled in BHUSD schools. By comparison, 2,882 students enrolled in 2022-2023 and 2,983 enrolled in 2021-2022.

"These are the kinds of number we want to see," Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy said during the Aug. 22 school board meeting. "We've previously been trending down, but this is exciting that we are actually in an uptick."

Bregy attributed the spike in enrollment, in part, to an increase in the district's Transitional Kindergarten (TK) students.

The superintendent also praised his colleagues on the school board for their handling of the unpredictable nature of Hurricane Hilary, which prompted the closure of LAUSD schools on Aug. 21. While BHUSD officials closely monitored the situation, the superintendent, ultimately, determined to keep schools open.

"We took this very seriously," Bregy said. "Every day of instruction counts. We

See BHUSD, page 2

Mary Wells Declares 2024 City Council Candidacy

BY CLARA HARTER

With two open seats in the upcoming 2024 City Council elections, Beverly Hills is gearing up for a potentially seismic shift in its political landscape and BHUSD School Board Member Mary Wells is wasting no time in tossing her hat in the ring.

The longtime resident and civic leader officially declared her candidacy on Aug. 24 and is running on a platform of integrity, transparency and safety.

"I am deeply passionate about Beverly Hills—our rich history and the wonderful sense of community," said Wells in her campaign announcement. "As a council member, I will bring together diverse points of view from all parts of our community to build a citywide coalition to create a path forward."

The seats of Councilmember Lili Bosse



Mary Wells

and Mayor Dr. Julian Gold will be vacant in the next election.

The wide-open field means Wells may face many competitors, but she is hoping See MARY WELLS, page 14

Community Input Sought on Roxbury Drive Pilot Bike Lane Project

BY RYAN TOROK

The city is considering transitioning a protected bike lane on Roxbury Drive into a permanent street feature.

As part of that process, the Public Works department is encouraging residents and other stakeholders, including those living outside of Beverly Hills who use the bike lane, to complete a survey regarding their experiences traveling within or adjacent to the pilot lane.

See BIKE LANE, page 12

Courier Calendar

NOW - AUG. 26 HAMMER MUSEUM: ART LAB SAT. 1-4 P.M.

The Hammer presents a special program to supplement time at the galleries and provide activities for youth visitors to the gallery, Art Lab. It features hands-on creative activities inspired by artworks on view at the museum. This program is for anyone-at any age or skill level-who wants to experiment with art making. Art Lab is facilitated by Hammer educators. Children must be accompanied by guardians at all times. Admission to The Hammer is free. Visitors are encouraged to wear masks while indoors. The Hammer is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. Valet parking is available on Lindbrook Drive for \$10 cash only. Selfparking is available under the museum. Rates are \$8 for the first three hours with museum validation, and \$3 for each additional 20 minutes, with a \$22 daily maximum. There is a \$8 flat rate after 6 p.m. on weekdays, and all day on weekends. hammer.ucla.edu

NOW - AUG. 27 SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE:

"JEWS R 2 MUCH FUN" SAT. 7 P.M., SUN. 2:30 P.M.

Santa Monica Playhouse presents Jerry Mayer's 11th play at the Playhouse, "Jews R 2 Much Fun." Jewish Stanley and Catholic Kathy meet, fall in love, and get ready to present their upcoming nuptials to the family. Little do they know that their fathers, Jewish Marvin and Catholic Chris, once boyhood besties, are now bitterest enemies. Will Stanley and Kathy make it to the altar with blessings or curses? A match made in heaven or in hell? Santa Monica Playhouse is located at 1211 4th St., Santa Monica. Tickets are \$35 with discounts available for students, teachers, seniors and military.

santamonicaplayhouse.com

AUG. 27 HOLOCAUST MUSEUM LA: "REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST" 4-5:30 P.M.

"Remembrance of Things Present," is a Salon Theatre production from The Braid. This curated collection of stories, brought to life by professional actors, offers heroism, healing and hope at a moment when they are sorely needed. Audiences will discover how the son and grandson of legendary Tuvia Bielsky, the partisan leader who led Jewish armed resistance against the Nazis and was the subject of the film "Defiance," struggle to live up to the legacy of their heroic forebear. They will wrestle along with a daughter as she sees that having her father give testimony to the Shoah project video archive has reopened deep psychological wounds. And they will feel inspiration as the daughter of a French Resistance fighter carries her mother's indomitable example into her own life of activism. The performance takes place at the Holocaust

Museum LA at 100 The Grove Dr., Los Angeles. Reservations are available online. Members attend for free. Non-members can purchase tickets for \$25 each. holocaustmuseumla.org

NOW - AUG. 27 THEATRE 40: "ONE MOMENT OF FREEDOM" FRI.-SAT. 7:30 P.M. SUN. 2 P.M.

Theatre 40 presents the world premiere engagement of "One Moment of Freedom." The play is the little-known story of Bet, a courageous enslaved woman who sued her enslaver in court in 1780 for the basic human right to be free, ultimately leading to the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts. As the United States is currently experiencing a reckoning with its racial past, "One Moment of Freedom" couldn't be more timely. Theatre 40 is located at 241 S. Moreno Drive in the Mary Levin Cutler Theatre, Beverly Hills. The venue is on the campus of Beverly Hills High School. theatre40.org

SEPT. 9
ROTARY CLUB OF BEVERLY HILLS:
DONATIONS TO CAMP PENDLETON
FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN
9 A.M.-1 P.M.

The Rotary Club of Beverly Hills will host a donation drive for the mothers and children of Camp Pendleton. The military base hosts 70,000 marines, 10,000 children under the age of 5 and 160 babies each month. Many families arrive at the base without critical items and a low income. The Rotary Club asks for new and gently used baby, child and household items for the young families of Camp Pendleton. Items in greatest need are diapers (most needed), baby and young children's clothing, toys, books, bathtubs, strollers, cribs, dishes, cookware, meal preparation tools, bedding and gift cards (\$25) from Target and Walmart. Monetary donations can be made by contacting Rotarian Lillian Raffel (lraffel@gmail.com). Collection of these items takes place at the Beverly Hills Fire Station #1 on 445 N. Rexford Dr., Beverly Hills. bhrotary.org

SEPT. 10 CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS: DAY OF WELLNESS 10 A.M.-3 P.M.

The city of Beverly Hills presents a day of wellness with over 30 health and wellness providers to help prioritize self-care needs. Roxbury Community Center and Park will be fully activated with activities including seminars, meditation circles, group exercise classes, yoga for all ages and stress reduction techniques. This event is free to the public and all ages are welcome. More information is available online. beverlyhills.org

NEWS

BHUSD, from page 1

knew we were safe, and that's why we made that decision."

The school board approved updated language to district policies and regulations, including the outlining of high school graduation requirements. The board approved making a one-semester ethnic studies course required beginning in the 2029-2030 school year. The topic of ethnic studies has been controversial, with state elected officials, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, weighing in to ensure curriculums are inclusive and without hate speech.

Based on a state law passed in 2021, high schools must begin offering ethnic studies courses in the 2025-2026 school year, and students in the class of 2030 will be the first subject to the requirement.

The board also approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BHUSD and the Beverly Hills Education Association regarding Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher pay scale. With the approval of the MOU, any CTE teacher who has not earned a bachelor's degree but possesses a California CTE credential shall be placed in Group I of the Teacher Salary Schedule beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

Midway through the meeting, Assistant Superintendent Dustin Seeman gave an informational update about the Norman Guide, which includes language addressing the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in school. According to the updated guide, "academic dishonesty includes submitting work written by another person or generated via Artificial Intelligence technology."

The district sought to create an environment where AI is supporting student learning, not replacing it, Seeman said.

"We're working with our students to make sure we aren't kicking AI out of the equation but teaching our students to use it in an effective and efficient way," Seeman said. "It's a very helpful resource, 100%, and so we don't want to deny that resource to students."

Last year, the district purchased AI detection tools that can distinguish between original student writing and work created using ChatGPT, an AI-powered language model. Those detection tools include Turnitin.com.

Board Member Rachelle Marcus was encouraged that district staff members have taken steps to address the rapidly changing nature of education as AI usage becomes more widespread.

"I'm particularly pleased at the level of understanding and how [plagiarism using AI] will be treated," Marcus said.

The school year is in full swing. Student board members highlighted upcoming events in the district, including a Beverly Vista Middle School carnival scheduled for Aug. 25 that's organized exclusively for students at the school. Marcus said it will be "a fun day provided by the PTA."

Additionally, BHUSD was preparing for the Aug. 27 "Beverly Hills Reads!" event, featuring retired Beverly Hills educator Julie Goler interviewing author Bonnie Garmus about her bestselling novel, "Lessons in Chemistry." The event is taking place in person and virtually. While in-person tickets are sold out, those who'd like to watch the discussion online can tune in at Beverlyhills. org/live.

The Aug. 22 meeting wrapped a busy day for the school district officials. Before the evening meeting, the BHUSD board convened for a Study Session that outlined its goals as well as its strategic plan for the years ahead.

"It's really gratifying to see the evolution of our strategic plan and how much focus and how clearer we're getting each year," Board Member Mary Wells said.

Upcoming BHUSD board meetings are scheduled for Sept. 12 and 26. •





Beverly Hills Man Accused of Stealing \$1.8 Million in Goods from Hotel Guests



Photo of hotel security footage contained in criminal complaint filed by U.S. Attorney

BY CLARA HARTER

A Beverly Hills man is accused of stealing \$1.8 million worth of jewelry, clothing, and

accessories from two guests at the Peninsula Beverly Hills in May and then trying to sell the pilfered goods in Miami.

Jobson Marangoni De Castro, 37, has

been charged with interstate transportation of stolen property, according to a complaint filed on Aug. 21 in the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

De Castro was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport earlier this week and has also appeared at his preliminary hearing. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison if convicted. De Castro is a Brazilian citizen living in the United States as a legal permanent resident.

An affidavit sworn by FBI Special Gary Wallace supporting the complaint provides details on the alleged series of events leading up to De Castro's arrest.

It also states that De Castro is a suspect in a related theft that took place on April 27 at Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel. In this incident an estimated \$36,000 worth of jewelry, designer clothing, suitcases and cash were stolen from hotel guests.

According to the affidavit, the Peninsula victims, both of whom are also Brazilian nationals, traveled together to Beverly Hills on May 5 to attend a fashion event scheduled for May 9.

The alleged theft occurred on the evening of May 10 when De Castro acquired a key to their hotel room from an unsuspecting staff member at approximately 6:07 p.m.

De Castro told the staff member he was staying in their room and successfully answered all of the security questions. De Castro allegedly used the same strategy to gain access to the Beverly Wilshire hotel room.

After obtaining the Peninsula room key, De Castro entered the victims' hotel room, but promptly left after discovering that one victim was sleeping in the bedroom. De Castro then left the hotel at around 7 p.m. and returned a little over an hour later when the victims were out for dinner.

Taking advantage of their absence, De Castro made off in an Uber with six suitcases belonging to them. Surveillance footage from the Peninsula shows De Castro entering the hotel, obtaining the key and exiting with the suitcases, the affidavit states.

These suitcases held an assortment of jewelry, clothing, and accessories collectively See STOLEN GOODS, page 6



Vandalism in Pico-Robertson Strikes Kosher Restaurants



Photo courtesy of Sia Kordestani

A series of burglaries targeted restaurants in Pico-Robertson, including Nagila Pizza and Shanghai Diamond Garden.

BY RYAN TOROK

Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) officials are investigating a string of vandalism in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood.

The vandalism occurred in the 9300-9400 block on W. Pico Boulevard, on Aug. 19. At least five kosher restaurants—Fisherman's Bowl, Nagila Pizza, Shalom Grill, Shanghai See VANDALISM, page 13

Police Gala Set for Sept. 27



The Beverly Hills Police Officers Benevolent Fund will hold the Beverly Hills Police Gala (formerly the Black & White Gala) on Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. It will take place at Espelette at Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills. The event will feature a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception, live auction and awards presentation. Exclusive live auction items include oncein-a-lifetime BHPD experiences, including a VIP Chef Experience at Steak 48 with Chief

Mark Stainbrook. An online auction will be held Oct. 13-22.

The community is urged to recognize and show support to the police officers who steadfastly protect the city. For more information or to donate, contact Beverly Hills Police Officers Benevolent Fund at 310-550-4551 or visit https://bhpoa.org.

Back-to-school spending: Los Angeles exceeds the national trend

By Summer Taylor and Rebecca Lohrey, Deloitte & Touche LLP



As the beginning of a new school year approaches, Los Angeles parents are preparing with a mix of anticipation and apprehension. Deloitte's 2023 back-to-school survey provides insight into the current economic landscape and the struggles some families may be facing. While the nation seems to be tightening its belt, local K-12 parents are embracing the new school year and helping set their children up for success. Los Angeles parents surveyed expect to spend an average of \$756 per child this year, which is a notable 27% higher than the projected national average of \$597.

Effects of the economy and inflation



Parents in Los Angeles are navigating the financial waters carefully, with inflation affecting many households. Around 69% are likely to spend the same or less year over

year, as they balance budgeting and being willing to splurge for the right reasons.

Among Los Angeles households surveyed, 23% report that their financial situation has worsened since last year, and 45% anticipate the economy to weaken in the next six months. In Los Angeles, 33% of parents are postponing

non-essential back-to-school purchases, slightly lower than 34% nationally. To stretch their dollars further, parents are carefully planning where they'll shop, with nearly 44% believing that shopping earlier equates to better deals.

As parents seek ways to economize, in-store and online retail formats are favored in Los Angeles for back-to-school shopping (66% and 57%, respectively), and 65% of parents say they find lower prices in store. Despite this, more Los Angeles respondents are shopping online than their national counterparts, with 62% planning to shop online versus 56% nationally.

Increased spending on essentials and a willingness to splurge



There's a 20% upsurge in planned spending on school supplies this year nationwide, with Los Angeles parents planning to spend an average of \$161 per child, compared

to \$142 nationally. Parents are also willing to spend more if their children ask them to, with nearly three-quarters (72%) willing to splurge on tech items for better quality and nearly two-thirds (65%) willing to splurge on apparel to treat their children. Though national technology spending is down 13% in favor of school supplies, Los Angeles parents continue to prioritize technology. Those surveyed plan to spend an average of \$527 per child on tech products, compared to \$499 nationwide.

Greater desire for sustainable products

The desire for sustainable back-to-school products is down from 50% in 2022 to 35% nationally. However, Los Angeles families are more likely to seek out sustainable options. According to the survey, 51% plan to opt for eco-friendly products, even spending 18% more on such items.

Al in education

Only 26% of parents surveyed nationally see generative artificial intelligence (AI) as a positive tool for schoolwork, but 36% of Los Angeles parents view it positively, saying that it helps with academic performance and overall learning experiences. In addition, 26% of LA parents say their children use generative AI in their schoolwork, compared to 15% nationally.



The data underscores a complex shift in back-to-school shopping behavior. With a focus on value, sustainability, and technology, parents in Los Angeles are redefining

the paradigms of consumption and education, marking a departure from traditional norms, and signaling the emergence of new trends for the future.

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Community

Ribbon Cutting Celebrated at Sholé Beverly Hills



Photo by John Bendheim

Mayor Dr. Julian Gold, Councilmember Sharona Nazarian and Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Johnson presided over a ribbon-cutting and grand opening of Sholé Beverly Hills on Aug. 21.

Tommy's Field Dedicated at Vista del Mar



Photo by Robert Lurie Photography

Vista Del Mar Child & Family Services in West LA officially dedicated and opened Tommy's Field on Aug. 22. The sports field is a gift through Vista's Premiere Philanthropy program. Pictured (from left): Vista Del Mar CDO/CMO Craig Prizant, Kevyn Wynn, Vista CEO & President Lena Wilson, Vista Board Members Eden Alpert-Anastasio, Laurie Konheim and Doug Mark, Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky and Nikki Mark

NEWS





Photo of diamond necklace and luxury watch contained in criminal complaint filed by U.S. Attorney

STOLEN GOODS, from page 4

worth more than \$1.8 million. This includes a diamond necklace worth \$395,000 and a luxury watch worth \$89,400.

The theft was discovered later that night when the victims returned to their hotel room at around 9:05 p.m. Hotel staff then contacted the Beverly Hills Police Department and alerted them of the alleged burglary and theft.

The night before the incident, De Castro dined at the hotel bar and charged his meal

to the victims' room by writing their names and room number on the receipt. The victims neither knew De Castro nor authorized any of his actions, according to information provided to local law enforcement.

De Castro then traveled to Miami and on May 17, initiated contact with a potential buyer through Instagram and claimed to possess jewelry of great value, including a diamond necklace and a luxury watch. He told the buyer that the items lacked proper documentation because he found them in a box that belonged to his late mother.

The description of the jewelry closely matched the items stolen from the Beverly Hills victims a few days earlier. On May 18, De Castro received a wire transfer of \$50,000 from the buyer as payment for the items.

De Castro used the name "Jobs Marangoni" for both his Uber account and during the transaction with the buyer.

BHPD found that De Castro was listed in the DMV's registration system with a residence address on South Rodeo Drive. This address matches the location where De Castro took his Uber rides to and from the Peninsula Hotel.

A statement to the Courier from Offer Nissenbaum, managing director and spokesperson for the Peninsula Beverly Hills, noted, "The Peninsula Beverly Hills is committed to the safety, security, and well-being of all its guests and staff. Regrettably, two of our guests became victims of a theft which occurred on May 10, 2023. We are grateful to the Beverly Hills Police Department, and the FBI for their impressive detective work, which has led to the arrest of the perpetrator of this crime. We have and will continue to fully cooperate with law enforcement in this matter. We cannot comment further due to the ongoing investigation."

As of press time, the Beverly Wilshire has not responded to requests for comment.

The investigation into this matter is being jointly conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Beverly Hills Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Sarah S. Lee from the General Crimes Section is handling the prosecution of this case.

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Arts and Entertainment

'The Owners' - Neighbor vs. Neighbor



Photos courtesy of Big World Pictures

The Owners

BY NEELY SWANSON

Jiří Havelka has written and directed a comedy that is guaranteed to make you cringe with discomfort while you're laughing out loud. Havelka calls this "a comedy for those who haven't experienced it. A drama for those who live it." "The Owners" is the very embodiment of "Hell is other people," Sartre's famous line from "No Exit." I'm here to tell you that we've all experienced it but this time we get to laugh and laugh some more until we have to live it again.

Ostensibly about a Home Owners Association (HOA) meeting, I doubt there's anyone among you who hasn't experienced the horror of an endless committee meeting, trapping you in a version of hell on earth where, much like the victims of Buñuel's "Exterminating Angel," you are unable to leave. Havelka takes that and goes from there to the farthest reaches of self-dealing and political ideology.

As a metaphor for the collapse of democratic rule in general, but Czechoslovakia in particular, Havelka assembles the board of a deteriorating co-op apartment building. There are important issues to discuss, but this is the hell of other people as each member fights tooth and nail to block proposals that go against their self-interest. A character study par excellence, each member of the board is painstakingly analyzed for better or



Klára Melíškov

for worse and that, in essence, is the entire story. There is no plot, there is no mystery, there is, purely (rather impurely) and simply the disparate characters, each, in his or her own way, representing an aspect of present day society.

The apartment building in question, built during the post-war Soviet era, is badly in need of maintenance and repair. There is no elevator in this seven-floor walk up; the pipes are starting to rot; the electrical wiring is frayed; critters live in the attic and the roof has lost many tiles. But this costs money and the common fund is so limited that it might only cover the replacement of light bulbs in the building hallways. Most of the movie is filmed in one room that becomes more and more claustrophobic as frustrations increase and temperatures rise.

Mrs. Zahrádková (Tereza Ramba),

president of the board, has approached this honorary position, one without actual power, idealistically believing that her fellow members will support the common good in upgrading the building and acquiesce to the democratic process. Not entirely naive, she has surreptitiously bribed Mrs. Roubíčková (Klára Melíškov), board parliamentarian, with an expensive bottle of wine (with a cork, not a twist top) so that she will vote with her on the one issue that matters the most to her. Mrs. Zahrádková may be the ostensible leader, but it is Mrs. Roubíčková who has all the power. With her tight lips and hooded eyes, she makes up the rules and executes (emphasis on executes) them as she sees fit.

Each of the other members of the board insist on exercising their rights to block everyone else's. No doubt suppressed in earlier times, Ms. Horvátová (Dagmar Havlová) will exercise her right to disagree, no matter how illogically, contradicting everyone else without knowledge, context or reason. Mr. Nitranský (Andrej Polák) would like to see an elevator put in, something blocked by Mrs. Procházková (Pavla Tomicová) who lives on the first floor. She, a self-styled entrepreneur in the post-Soviet mold of corrupt oligarchs, but without the means, is always accompanied by her enforcer, a minor gangster who promotes his marginal businesses at every opportunity. Questions about her African

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Tereza Ramba

renters reveal the horrifically funny racism expressed by almost every participant. This, added to the overtly expressed homophobia toward Nitranský, leaves a jaw-dropping impression. The laughter, as uncomfortable as it might be, is just one more element in the many excruciating moments that follow.

But there are others at this table, others whose votes are equal, like sweet Mr. Švec (David Novotný), a man of indeterminate age but definitely on the far side of the middle, who lives with his mother in their small apartment. But now his aged mother is in a coma at the hospital and it is unlikely that this innocent creature who is a few bricks short of a load has the skill to live on his own. He spends most of his time at the meeting wolfing down sugar and cakes and partaking heartily of the whiskey provided by the Čermák brothers (Kryštof Hádek and Stanislav Majer), the newest owners. And who are they really? And why, one must ask, were they already in the room before the meeting? They are charming and knowledgeable with a courtesy that easily leads to seductive manipulation.

Finally, last but definitely not least, is Mr. Kubát (Jiří Lábus), the first proprietary tenant and owner of three apartments, only two of which were obtained "legally" from his connections at the housing authority during the Soviet era. Kubát, with his distinctive "hedgehog" haircut, blocks every

expenditure and punctuates every sentence with "In my day it wasn't like this." He is the perfect embodiment of the reemerging Socialists, tired of the economically failing Democracy that promised much but didn't come through, as far as the Kubáts of the world were concerned.

Those are the characters, that is the setting. Revealing more of this claustrophobic portrait of a deteriorating microcosm of society would spoil the joy of discovery. It is a film that will definitely make you squirm. Even without the experience of shared ownership, this exercise in futility closely mirrors every committee meeting ever held, whether academic or business, where different viewpoints are squashed and the loudest voice wins. There is never a sense of fulfillment or "enough."

Remarkably, this was Jiří Havelka's feature film debut. Known widely in the Czech Republic as a television personality and actor, he set up this movie as a theater piece and filmed it in 10 days. The actors, all extraordinary, anchor this tense exercise in character development realistically and hilariously where the humor is grounded in the seriousness of the low stakes, which may not, after all, be so small. Don't miss this one!

In Czech with English subtitles.

Opening August 25 at the Laemmle Royal. •



Pavla Tomicová



Kryštof Hádek and Stanislav Majer



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 tomato-approved critic.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, September 14, 2023 DATE:

TIME: 1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

LOCATION: Meeting will be held in person at:

Commission Meeting Room 280A

Beverly Hills City Hall 455 North Rexford Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Members of the public may also participate via teleconference; details provided

PROJECT ADDRESS:

350 South Beverly Drive (nearest cross street: Olympic

Boulevard)



The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2022, will hold a public hearing beginning at 1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider the following:

Conditional Use Permit. A request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow an educational institution (American Jewish University) use at 350 South Beverly Drive. The applicant proposes to occupy an existing 2nd floor office suite of approximately 7,500 square feet within an existing multi-tenant building. The project site is zoned Commercial (C-3) and, pursuant to Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) §10-3-1604, educational institutions are permitted only if authorized by a CUP.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000 et seq.), and the environmental regulations of the City. Upon review, the project appears to qualify for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption (Existing Facilities) in accordance with the requirements of Section 15301 of the state CEQA Guidelines. This exemption is applicable to the minor alteration of existing public or private structures involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Accordingly, the Planning Commission will consider a recommendation to find the project exempt from the environmental review requirements of CEQA.

How to Participate

In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate in, watch or listen to the commission meetings through the following methods:

- <u>In Person</u>: Submit a speaker card to the Recording Secretary at the meeting.
- Oral Comment: Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 1 when prompted. You will be placed on a brief hold, and called upon to make a comment at the appropriate time.
- <u>Video Comment</u>: <u>https://beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/my/bevpublic</u>, enter passcode: 90210 when prompted.
- Written Comment: Email commentPC@beverlyhills.org
- Audio Only: Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 2 when prompted.
- Watch LIVE: BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable or www.beverlyhills.org/watchlive

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 11:30 AM on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the Planning Commission.

Written comments should identify the Agenda Item number or topic in the subject line of the email. In order to be read at the meeting, written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately three (3) minutes of speaking time. If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of

Any written comments received by end of the day on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Tuesday, September 5, 2023, but prior the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission

According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City'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. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact Didier Murillo, Associate Planner, in the Planning Division at (310) 285-1156, or by email at dmurillo@beverlyhills.org. Copies of the project plans and associated application materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by contacting the project planner listed above.

Didier Murillo, Associate Planner



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) 285-1126 (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.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on **Tuesday, September 19, 2023 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:

A DRAFT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS TO PROVIDE OBJECTIVE STANDARDS FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS WITH NO MORE THAN TWO PRIMARY UNITS AND URBAN LOT SPLIT PARCEL MAPS IN SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONES PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 65852.21 AND 66411.7 (SENATE BILL 9, 2021), AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

At its December 7, 2021, meeting, the City Council voted to adopt an interim ordinance (Ordinance No. 21-O-2853) that created objective standards for Senate Bill 9 (2021) residential development projects under the authority of Government Code Sections 65852.21 and 66411.7. The standards apply to the ministerial review and approval of a two-lot subdivision ("urban lot split") and/or development projects with up to two residential units per lot in single-family residential zones constructed pursuant to SB 9 regulations. The interim ordinance adopted on December 7, 2021 took effect immediately, and was in effect for an initial 45-day period ending on January 21, 2022. This interim ordinance was subsequently extended for an additional ten (10) month and fifteen (15) day period through the adoption of Ordinance No. 21-O-2856, and for an additional one-year period through the adoption of Ordinance No. 22-O-2869. The interim ordinance has been extended the maximum period of time possible to provide additional time for staff to review the regulations and conditions in the City, and will expire on December 6, 2023. Staff has worked to study and develop regulations that can be adopted on a permanent basis and would create objective standards for urban lot split projects and development projects with up to two residential units per lot in single-family residential zones constructed pursuant to SB 9.

Staff presented a draft ordinance for the Planning Commission to review during their regular meeting on August 10, 2023. The Planning Commission deliberated, and recommended amendments to the draft ordinance, which were to change the inclusionary housing requirement to be consistent with the City's existing requirement in Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) §10-3-4803, and to exempt basement floor area from the total floor area maximum limitation applicable to SB 9 projects. The Planning Commission adopted a resolution (4-1) recommending the approval of the draft ordinance as amended

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State ČEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. The ordinance is not considered a project under CEQA pursuant to Government Code Sections 65852.21(j) and 66411.7(n) which provide that ordinances that implement Government Code Sections 65852.21 and 66411.7, respectively, shall not be considered projects under CEQA. Furthermore, the ordinance is exempt from CEQA because it can be seen with certainty that there is no potential for such ordinance to have a significant adverse effect on the environment pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). The draft ordinance does not authorize construction and consists of additional regulations on future development, which will be treated ministerially pursuant to the stipulations of SB 9. Accordingly, the City Council will consider a recommendation to find the project exempt from CEQA for the reasons set forth above.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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.

Public Comment Participation:

- Oral Comment/Listen only: (310) 288-2288
- Email: cityclerk@beverlyhills.org
- Video (during public comment only): http://beverlyhills.org/comment
- To Watch Video Live: http://beverlyhills.org/live or
- On-Demand: http://beverlyhills.org/citycouncilmeetings
- 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. 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

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.

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.

there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact Chloe Chen, Senior Planner in the in the Planning Division of the Community Development Department at (310) 285-1194, or by email at cchen@beverlyhills.org. 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



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.

OFFICE HOURS, from page 1

Because that's more important than this stuff. So, I'm open. I'm here."

One resident asked the mayor to share his thoughts on the city's approval of an agreement to provide shelter for up to 230 homeless people for the next 10 years. Gold noted that homelessness was discussed at length during the City Council's most recent meeting before going on to share a snapshot of the issue.

He said there were a little under 40 people who have been living on the street for a persistent period of time within the city's limits. And there was a much larger population of homeless people regularly passing through the city via public transit and other means.

However, only about five shelter beds have been made available by funding from Beverly Hills. Those facilities "obviously, in recent times, have been full," Gold said.

"Some people would say, why, who cares, don't bother... But the reality is that if we don't, then the law basically says they're able to be wherever they want to be," the mayor said. "If we are not able to offer them housing, then they can pretty much live in our parks. They can live on our streets. They can, and candidly, that's not good for us, and it's not good for them."

More than one resident asked Gold about what the city is doing to deter smash-and-grab robberies. The mayor was quick to note that those crimes appear to be relatively rare in Beverly Hills.

"In point of fact, Beverly Hills in recent times has had fewer," Gold said. "We have retail theft, even the break-ins, [but] not so much right now. We're seeing more people who just snatch something and run out of a store. So, the fortunate piece is that, well, we've been really well protected for that."

But that doesn't mean law enforcement in Beverly Hills has become complacent. City Council has approved significant amounts of funding for license plate readers and other surveillance equipment installed throughout the city. And last week, the police department announced that it had joined a task force made of local, state and federal agencies specifically assigned to combat smash-and-grab crimes.

"These are the kinds of regional cooperations that I think, ultimately, will be successful in stemming the tide. I know the chief has assigned a detective through this task force. We want to be very much engaged in it. Nobody has invested in technology infrastructure for public safety as we have.

Crimes that may have targeted the Jewish community in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood just south of Beverly Hills were also discussed at Wednesday's forum. Shalom Grill, Nagila Pizza and three other restaurants serving kosher food were burglarized early on Aug. 19. (See separate story on pg. 5). One resident asked what officials were doing to support or reassure Jewish people in the city.

Gold announced that the Police Department will be inviting members of the Jewish community to an event on Sept. 5, during which they will go into detail about their response to potential hate crimes and hate incidents. He also urged the public not to hesitate in reporting potential cases to law enforcement.

"I would also say if somebody's feeling uncomfortable, threatened, they should let us know and our police will reach out and help them," said Gold. •





BIKE LANE, from page 1

The online survey link is available at <u>beverlyhills.org/completestreets</u>.

Installed in late 2021, the Roxbury Drive Protected Bike Lane Pilot Project includes a southbound parking-protected bike lane and a northbound conventional bike lane, connecting to existing bike lanes in Los Angeles and improving bicycle access to Roxbury Park. The southbound lane runs south of Olympic Boulevard alongside the park. Prior to its installation, the city held a demonstration ride for people to test out what the bike lane would look like.

Daren Grilley, assistant director of Public Works and a city engineer, said there are approximately 40-50 bikes per day using the pilot bike lane in the southbound direction. The Public Works department uses a citywide camera system, pulling data from that, he said.

City Council approved the pilot in Sept. 2021 as part of an effort to transform Beverly Hills into a more bike-friendly city. While the evaluation period of the lane was initially intended to be one year, it has lasted longer.

"It's been working so well we just continued with it," Grilley said. "We didn't have any complaints."

Grilley said most of the feedback about the pilot program has been supportive.

"It's been installed for almost two years, and we've heard positive feedback. We're bringing this back to our Traffic and Parking Commission because we want to find out what the community thinks about it now that it's

been there for a while," Grilley said. "We're still in that information-gathering stage."

"It's been working pretty well," Grilley added. "There are a couple of things we've learned and modified." This includes how to allow for angular parking so that larger vehicles can continue to park alongside the park as well as how to keep the area clean of falling leaves and other debris.

The survey, the city engineer said, provides important feedback for the city. Because the bike lane is located near the city's border with Los Angeles, the city is interested in not only what Beverly Hills-based cyclists think but also anybody who makes use of the protected bike lane.

"It's open to anybody," Grilley said of the survey. "And we want to know what residents think, especially folks who live on that street."

According to the Public Works department, the goal of the Roxbury Drive bike lane pilot is providing a more comfortable street for people to bicycle on by providing physical separation from moving traffic, while not removing any on-street parking or vehicle travel lanes.

Bike lanes on Roxbury Drive are identified as a high priority in the City's Complete Streets Plan, a comprehensive vision approved in 2021 by City Council that aims to make the city more accessible to cyclists and pedestrians.

Presently, flex posts separate the southbound protected bike lane on Roxbury Drive from parking spaces and vehicular lanes. That may change, however, depending on community feedback and the decision of City Council. The survey presents five options for the design of the bike lane. One option is replacing the current flex posts with a permanent curb barrier comprised of concrete and landscaping. Another is to raise the bike lane to sidewalk level and separate it from the street with paving material and landscaping. Yet another option is to remove the protected bike lane altogether.

The city does not yet have an estimate of what it'll cost to transition the pilot into a permanent street feature.

"When we bring this to our Traffic and Parking commission, we'll have rough cost estimates for different options," Grilley said.

The deadline to complete the survey is Sept. 15.

Drawing on feedback provided by the survey, the Traffic and Parking Commission will review potential options during its Oct. 5 meeting before making a recommendation to City Council about next steps. •



Photo by Ryan Torok

The protected bike lane on Roxbury Drive runs alongside Roxbury Park.



VANDALISM, from page 5

Diamond Garden and Sushiko—had their glass window entrances smashed. One of these restaurants, Fisherman's Bowl, was preparing for an Aug. 21 grand opening at the time of the incident.

Despite the apparent targeting of kosher establishments, Jewish groups said they did not have evidence the incidents were motivated by antisemitism.

"Our Community Security Initiative team is working closely with LAPD to determine if there are any additional motives. However, at this time, according to our law enforcement partners, there are no indications of antisemitic motivations," the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles said in an Aug. 20 statement. "We will continue to remain vigilant and monitor the situation to inform the community, should new developments arise."

Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, whose district includes Pico-Robertson, denounced the crimes and was one of several city leaders to visit the sites in person earlier this week.

"Early Saturday morning, as many as four businesses on the 9300-9400 block of Pico Boulevard were broken into, with some being robbed," Yaroslavsky said. "My office has been in touch with the Los Angeles Police Department, and while we have not seen evidence to suggest these incidents are connected to hate crimes, we are taking the situation very seriously. My staff has also visited the affected businesses to offer

support. More information will be provided as the investigation continues."

As of press time, LAPD was continuing to investigate the incident and no suspects had been arrested in connection with the incident, a LAPD spokesperson told the Courier.

The break-ins were discovered around 5 a.m. as much of the community was preparing to walk to the area's synagogues for Saturday morning Shabbat services. The stretch of Pico Boulevard in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood is lined with synagogues, kosher restaurants and Judaica stores.

LAPD officials responded to the scene at approximately 5:30 a.m.

According to the LAPD, officers also responded to a burglary at a nearby non-kosher restaurant one day before, on Aug. 18, about a half-mile away on Robertson Boulevard. A LAPD spokesperson could not confirm whether it was connected to the Aug. 19 incidents.

On Aug. 19, the vandals attempted to steal cash registers from the targeted restaurants, according to law enforcement. There did not appear to be any overt antisemitic activity, such as anti-Jewish graffiti, accompanying the smashing of the windows.

"Both Jewish and non-Jewish businesses were vandalized, and there is apparently no evidence at this time of overt antisemitism or a hate crime," Anti-Defamation League Regional Director Jeffrey Abrams said in a statement.

Police described the suspects as men wearing dark clothing. It was unclear how many suspects were involved. Additional information was not immediately available.

In February, over two consecutive days, two visibly Jewish men leaving prayer services in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood were shot at in drive-by shootings, though neither victim was badly hurt. Additionally, in the summer of 2021, a man attempted to throw a cinderblock through the window of

a Pico-Robertson synagogue.

It also occurred as "flash robs"—or organized retail theft—have been occurring at businesses across Southern California, rattling shoppers and residents as large groups of people break into high-end stores and make off with thousands of dollars worth of merchandise.

They also took place as the Jewish community prepares to mark the High Holidays, beginning in mid-September. •



Photo courtesy of Sia Kordestani

Shanghai Diamond Garden was one of the affected businesses.



AUGUST CONSTRUCTION

Weekend piling and decking work on station appendages for the Wilshire/Rodeo Station is taking place on weekends through August.

After piling and decking completes on S Beverly Dr, excavation for appendage construction will start. Appendage potholing on S Canon Dr will occur through August.

Lane reductions will be required for both activities.

CONTACT US 213.922.6934 purplelineext@metro.net metro.net/purple purplelineext purplelineext purplelineext

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SCANDIA HOME BEVERLY HILLS

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MARY WELLS, from page 1

that her dedicated service on the School Board as well as her early campaign kickoff will set her candidacy apart.

"Throughout my career, I have been intentional about lifting up young people, supporting families and empowering our community," she said. "I have a proven track record of getting things done with integrity, and I am eager to speak with residents one door at a time."

Wells was elected to the Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education in 2020 and is the immediate past president of the board.

Wells says she is proud of the essential role she played in getting the district's flailing construction projects back on track by leading an initiative to restructure the board's bond program. She also takes credit for significant cost savings for the district by spearheading financial audits and vendor performance assessments.

"Transformative changes have happened at the school district over the past few years, in particular with our construction and our security programs, which were hard fought. It took leadership, hard work and ultimately consensus building to effect positive changes we now see. These are the qualities that I will bring to City Council," Wells told the Courier.

Wells holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management (specializing in Finance and Accounting) from the University of Southern California. She has extensive experience in construction, in brand management for the Walt Disney Company and account management and municipal bond trading with Shearson Lehman and Hutton.

Now she seeks to leverage her skills in construction risk management, finance and collaborative problem solving to help preserve the special Beverly Hills quality of life for the next generation of residents.

Prior to launching her campaign, Wells held a meeting with residents to try and determine the biggest issues facing the community. One overwhelming theme arose: safety.

"We must address the mounting factors impacting our safety and security," said Wells. "We have one of the finest police departments in the country. I want them to continue to have the resources they need to protect our city."

Other key issues Wells took note of were neighborhood traffic, the sustainability of the city, and the city's infrastructure. Wells believes that her breadth of professional experience and community involvement gives her well-rounded insights into the different issues facing the community today.

"Truly my greatest joy is the connection I share with this community. Building these collaborative relationships is not only informative but also incredibly rewarding and fruitful. I have always made a point of being accessible to everyone and will continue to be throughout my campaign and hopefully, my service on council," Wells told

the Courier.

In addition to her role on the School Board, Wells has participated in the Beverly Hills Rotary Club, Team Beverly Hills, Just In Case Beverly Hills, Visionary Women, Beverly Hills Fire Department C.E.R.T. Program and Next BH Committee. •



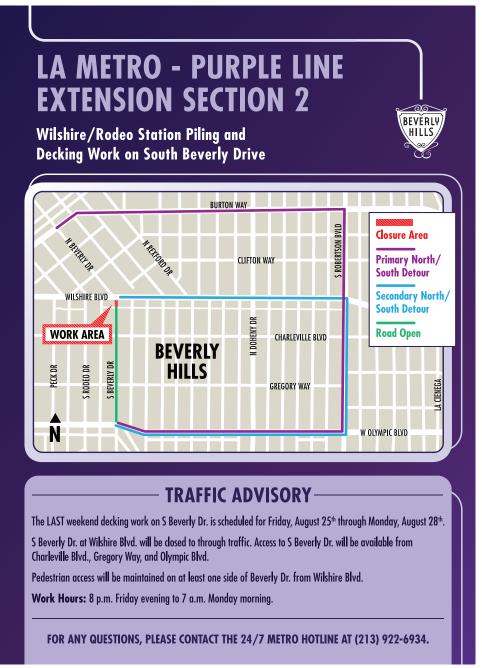
Wells, second from right, at the Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast at Horace Mann Elementary School on Aug. 13

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Police Blotter

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

ASSAULT - SIMPLE

8/19/2023, 2 p.m. at 400 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

8/16/2023, 8:26 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

8/12/2023, 6:35 a.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

BURGLARY -COMMERCIAL BUILDING

8/12/2023, 7:58 p.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

BURGLARY - FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

8/20/2023, 1:44 a.m. at 300 Block of N. OAKHURST DRIVE

8/19/2023, 8 p.m. at 100 Block of N. CLARK DRIVE

8/19/2023, 12:15 a.m. at 300 Block of S. ELM DRIVE 8/19/2023, 10 p.m. at 100 Block of N. CLARK DRIVE

8/16/2023, 9:55 p.m. at 9100 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

8/14/2023, 2 a.m. at 400 Block of N. MAPLE DRIVE

8/11/2023, 2:55 p.m. at 100 Block of N. ALMONT DRIVE

8/11/2023, 1:50 a.m. at 100 Block of N. GALE DRIVE

8/10/2023, 7:30 p.m. at 600 Block of FOOTHILL ROAD

BURGLARY -RESIDENTIAL (NO ONE HOME)

8/14/2023, 8:15 a.m. at 200 Block of S. WETHERLY DRIVE

8/12/2023, 6 p.m. at 500 Block of N. LINDEN DRIVE

DUI ARREST

8/20/2023, 12:08 a.m. at 1100 Block of COLDWATER CANYON DRIVE

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

8/18/2023, 3 p.m. at 300 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

8/18/2023, 10 p.m. at 100 Block of S. CANON DRIVE

8/16/2023, 9:30 p.m. at 100 Block of S. OAKHURST DRIVE

8/12/2023, 6:20 p.m. at 500 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

ROBBERY

8/18/2023, 7 a.m. at 100 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

8/12/2023, 3:23 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

THEFT OF AUTO PARTS

8/20/2023, 12 p.m. at 400 Block of PECK DRIVE

THEFT FROM COMMERCIAL BUILDING

8/17/2023, 1:54 p.m. at 300 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

8/13/2023, 1:41 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

THEFT - GRAND

8/21/2023, 7:28 p.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

8/21/2023, 1:38 p.m. at 400 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

8/19/2023, 5:58 p.m. at 200 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

8/18/2023, 12 p.m. at 9300 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

8/17/2023, 12:47 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

8/12/2023, 12:02 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

8/11/2023, 1:40 a.m. at 300 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

THEFT - GRAND (FROM VEHICLE)

8/19/2023, 8:39 a.m. at 100 Block of S. DOHENY DRIVE

8/18/2023, 11 p.m. at 300 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

8/14/2023, 6:56 p.m. at 200 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

8/12/2023, 11:35 a.m. at 300 Block of N. MAPLE DRIVE

PURPLE (D LINE) EXTENSION TRANSIT PROJECT

La Cienega Station (Sec 1) - Deck Removal Phase 2 Weekend Closures of Wilshire Blvd./La Cienega Blvd.



-TRAFFIC ADVISORY -

The closure may resume as early as the weekend of August 4th and will continue each weekend (excluding holidays) through early September 2023 due to the Metro Purple (D Line) construction taking place

Full Street Closure on Wilshire Blvd between La Cienega Blvd and San Vicente Blvd, and La Cienega Blvd closed at the intersection of Wilshire Blvd.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE 24/7 METRO HOTLINE AT (213) 922-6934.

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Birthdays



NORMAN SHORR August 25



MELISSA MCCARTHY
August 26



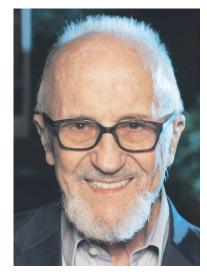
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August 31

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Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Remember when things went off-plan, but you still something unexpectedly wonderful out of the deal? Well, this will happen again, so try not to control the action too tightly. You can trust life to delight you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Situations will bring out heightened emotions and relationships have an intensity level that could get uncomfortable. For these reasons, you'll need to make a conscious effort toward moderation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll return to an old scene with a fresh perspective and see the opportunity you missed earlier. Also, you don't need anything extra here. You can use what's there and shape it into something new.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It is brave to speak your mind, but that doesn't automatically make it your best option. Sometimes being vocal is not the kindest or most effective choice. Think about the role of diplomacy in your overall strategy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Everyone likes the idea of progress; far fewer people like the idea of change. But since progress without change is impossible, you'll embrace the day's work. By taking action now, you avoid getting into a bad position later.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Usually, people don't think too much about the ego they are bringing to a situation. Maturity allows you to detach from your personal interest and ask, "What if this is not about me? What then?"

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Stick with your own purposes and projects today and you'll attract money. People want to take a chance on you because what you're doing seems like a lucrative opportunity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You want to know how to do things better, but it's not so easy to read the feedback. Those who fear you or respect you immensely won't offer correction unless prompted directly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Because you recognize that you have a lot to learn, you are a very good teacher. You are open to the flow of information and find it easy

to collaborate with other brilliant minds.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Things go differently depending on who you spend the hours with. Sometimes you forget that you have a choice about this, but it's one of the most important choices you make. You are the casting director of your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Stress causes you to misbehave. Do the

thing that will bring your stress level down, or better yet, will prevent stress from entering the equation at all. This probably has to do with drawing a boundary.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What some people would call a luxury, you call a necessity and what you call a luxury is a necessity to someone else. You may as well give up on being sensible today; it will only limit your options.



This is Fez, the featured adoptable pup this week. He is a 9-year-old, 25-pound shih tzu mix. If you're interested in Fez, please contact Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.

shelterhopepetshop.org



www.FineArtsTheatreBH.com

Labor Day Weekend - \$10



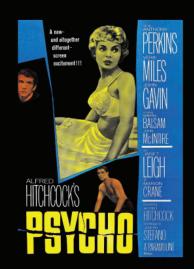


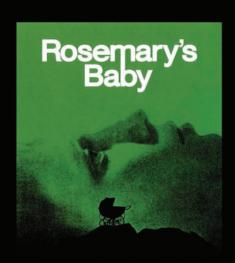
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL HOUSE., A DIFFERENT KIND OF ANIMAL.









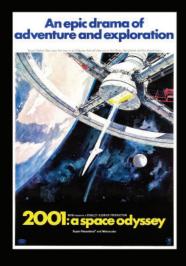




70mm Movies - \$10

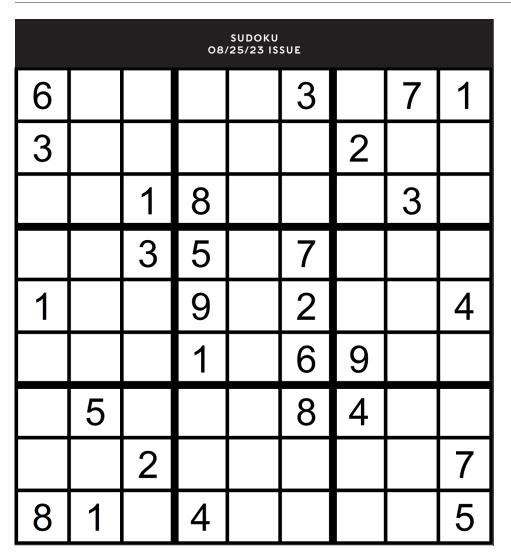
Sept 10th



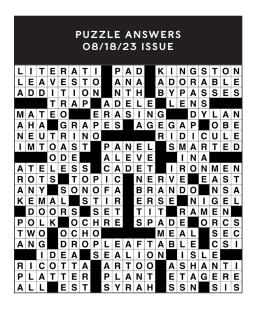


Oct 8th

Fun and Games



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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE 08/25/23 ISSUE

18

114

63 "_

or posting

72 Like AAA, among all

bond ratings

USE YOUR NOODLE BY MANAAL MOHAMMED / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Manaal Mohammed is a junior at M.I.T. studying computer science. This is her first crossword for The Times. It started when she saw the phrase [27-Across] and thought that was an apt way to describe mac 'n' cheese. The grid is full of references with personal significance. Manaal is from the 7-Down area. Her mother uses 14-Down to make rotis. Her older sister used to be obsessed with 23-Downs. And her dad keeps a 41-Across interview stuck on the family refrigerator. — W.S.

ACROSS

- 1 Drinks named after a city in Yemen
- 7 Remove, as a cap 11 Bloody Mary ingredient
- 18 Deluge
- 19 Collection of threads, of a sort
- 21 Person pursuing
- passion, not pay 22 Cookbook for rotelle lovers?
- 25 Play lists?
- 26 Creature thought to inspire mermaid legends
- 27 Olive oil for a macaroni salad?
- 29 Chills
- 30 Lose it
- 33 Clothing style with retro and preppy influences
- 34 Camel relative
- 37 Bit of high jinks
- 38 "You think?
- 40 Fairy-tale antagonist
- 41 Best-selling personal finance guru
- 43 Electrify
- 45 Advice for saucing a lasagna?
- 50 Region of ancient Palestine

ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...

- 51 Down
- 52 Competition for boxers
- 53 Martin Scorsese and Spike Lee, for 67-Across
- **55** Running fettuccine dough through the pasta machine?
- 61 Concealed field, for
- 62 Cacao bit
- 65 Pigeon's sound
- 66 Rubber-stamps 67 Where Ross taught
- paleontology on "Friends," for short 68 Self-serve spots at
- pasta bars? 73 Star clusters?
- 76 Butch Cassidy, famously
- 77 Astronaut Jemison
- 79 Baked, so to speak 80 Kitchen disaster with rotini?
- 36 Gate listing, for short 86 Hits on the head,
 - informally 87 Topic of a traveler's inquiry
 - 88 Keepsakes for some of the world's greatest dads?
 - 89 Appropriate rhyme for "stash"
 - 92 Hummus brand
 - 93 "Ugh!" 96 Big news for a co.
 - 97 Singer Bareilles
 - 98 Storage story 99 Sets of mathematical points

- 100 With 108-Across, aftermath of a
 - farfalle dinner?
- 105 Canvas carry-on 107 Asanas in a sauna,
 - say **108** See 100-Across
- 111 Question from a poker dealer
- 112 Horror or humor 113 Like O. Henry's "The 28 "All Quiet on the Gift of the Magi"
- 114 Signifies 115 Jungian topic
- 116 Some party lines

DOWN

- _ Dearest" (1981 film)
- 2 Like the musical "Come From Away" or "Six"
- 3 Stretched out to see 4 Hip things to do in
- Hawaii? 5 Part of T.A.: Abbr.
- 6 Style of alternative rock with psychedelic influences
- 7 Texas metroplex, to locals
- 8 Expression of amazement
- 9 Let go
- 10 Truck stop purchase __ audience 11 _
- 12 "La Bohème" subject
- **13** The "x" in x2 14 Roti flour

- - salesmen sell
 - 17 Surgery spots, for
 - 20 Cardinals' org. 23 Early 2000s virtual
 - 24 Lushes
- 31 Tom callin's?
- 37 Ham-and-cheese
- 38 Washed out, maybe
- **40** Forcibly pull
- 41 Education acronym
- 42 Dynasty name in Italian history
- "God Bless" or "Party in"
- 44 Bulk
- 47 "Barry" airer 48 Rubik who created
- 49 III
- 50 Pokes
- short 56 "That su-u-ucks!"

- 15 Takes care of something
- 16 Things that snake oil
- short
- animal companion
- Western Front"
- setting, for short
- 32 Unpaid debt 35 Cardinals' org.
- sandwich
- 39 Word with fire or red
- 43 Song words after
- 45 Narrow ravine
- 46 Bring out
- the Rubik's Cube
- 54 Photo-sharing social media accounts, for
- 71 Low digit 57 Snappy quip

- 103
- 58 Motivational content, 74 "Whole ____ Red" in modern slang (2020 chart-topping
- album for Playboi 59 Bedtime brand Carti) 60 Blast of wind 75 Legal memo header __ do"
- 78 Flair 64 Meadow sounds 80 Stock option? 69 Some large cuts 70 Browse social media 81 Stuff oneself with
 - without commenting **82** [I'm thinking ...] 83 Low digit
 - 84 Global revolutions? 85 Like some sedatives
- 86 Weight-to-height
- 89 Pearl units 90 One form of bark 91 Third-largest city of
- Colombia 93 Japanese board game also called Five in
- a Row **94** Tree that yields gum arabic
- 95 Soprano's feats 97 Transition
- 98 Together 99 Shade of yellow 101 Beginner 102 Horn sound 103 Gerund end
- 104 Distinctive features of a chameleon 106 Fatty tuna, on a
 - sushi menu 107 Stashed
 - 109 Link letters
 - 110 One making calls, informally

Health and Wellness

The Phenomenon of Taylor Swift: Beauty and Brains Seize the Spotlight

BY EVA RITVO, M.D.

From Martha Stewart gracing the covers of Sports Illustrated to the runaway success of the "Barbie" movie and now to Taylor Swift, it seems the blondes do have it. We have discussed the power of triggering our innate beauty receptors and the latest example is the record-breaking "Eras" World Tour.

Taylor Swift rocked Los Angeles earlier this month, performing six nights to sold-out crowds at SoFi Stadium. Her "Eras" world tour is poised to become the highest-grossing concert of all time expecting to produce \$1.4 billion in net revenue making it the first tour ever to gross \$1 billion in ticket sales according to Pollstar. Swift's relationship with her fans, known as "Swifties," is unique and powerful. So powerful that her July 22 and 23 concerts in Seattle generated "Swift Quakes" registering seismic activity equivalent to a 2.3 magnitude earthquake according to seismologist Jackie Caplan-Auerbach.

Just like Marta Stewart and "Barbie," it is the brains and imagination along with the exaggerated beauty and lots of hard work that create their legendary impact.

"Girls Just Want to Have Fun," a song written by Robert Hazard in the late 1970s and popularized by Cyndi Lauper makes a great theme song for the summer of 2023. "Barbie" is everywhere, even in Whole Foods. Swift concert tickets are near impossible to get on the primary market with secondary prices climbing to over \$3,500 a seat, according to StubHub.

Both Martha Stewart and Taylor Swift have been working since age 13 and Barbie is now 64 years old without one day off! These role models show that hard work pays—a crucial lesson in an era of instant gratification. Taylor Swift earned an honorary doctorate from NYU in 2022 and delivered the commencement speech despite forgoing her own college education to work. Her physical stamina and endurance rival elite athletes, as she performs for three hours and 20 minutes at her shows multiple nights each week for 20 months. With an estimated net worth of \$740 million, according to Forbes, she shows no signs of slowing down.

Resilience is always a key element to success. Martha Stewart was able to bounce back even after serving time in prison. Ruth Handler, Barbie's creator, rode through financial allegations and lost her position as CEO of Mattel. When she had breast cancer, she used the experience to invent breast prosthetics for women. Taylor Swift has struggled with public breakups, legal battles, an eating disorder and a mother with cancer. These women demonstrate what Hellen Keller said, "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

Unlike many celebrities, Taylor Swift

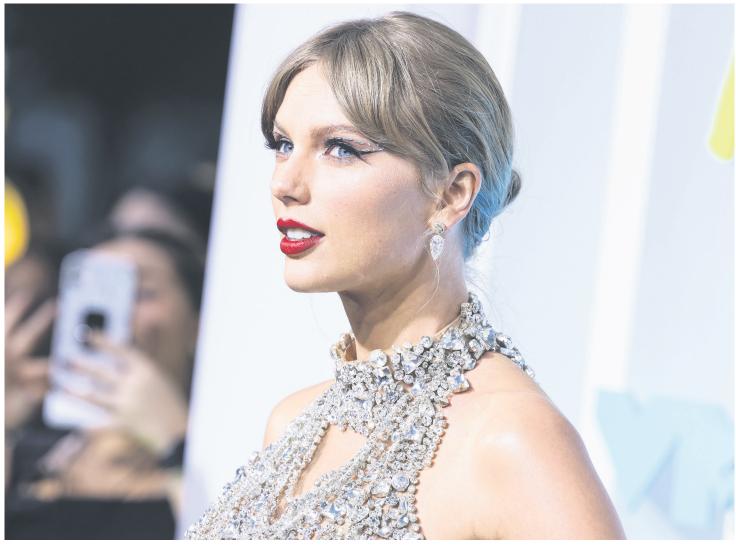


Photo by imagepressagency/depositphotos.com

Taylor Swift

has managed to avoid many of the common pitfalls of fame and maintain what she says is her most innate desire "to be seen as good." She is widely recognized for her kindness and generosity. The tradition of Swift-made bracelets continues to be a symbolic gesture among fans, fostering a caring culture where they support each other both online and offline. She has 270 million followers on Instagram and posts weekly. Swift constantly surprises and connects with her fans through Easter Eggs and unexpected announcements, fostering a sense of connection that goes beyond music. At the conclusion of the North American leg of tour this month in L.A., published reports say she gave away \$55 million dollars. She surprised all 50 truck drivers with a \$100,000 bonus and a handwritten thank-you note. She also donated to food banks in every city she visited along the way.

Taylor Swift is often referred to by fans as a "real life Barbie." Her seismic impact, both literal and metaphorical, brings to life the Barbie motto "You can be anything." Martha Stewart looking sexy at 84 says the same!

In the words of another icon, Madonna, "Blonde ambition isn't just about hair color. It's about pushing boundaries, redefining norms, and showing the world that success, resilience, and kindness can coexist. •



Photo by ChinaImages/depositphotos.com



Beverly Hills Courier columnist Dr. Eva Ritvo is a psychiatrist with more than 30 years' experience practicing in Miami Beach. She is the author of "Bekindr-The Transformative Power of Kindness" and the founder of the Bekindr Global Initiative, a movement to bring more kindness in the world. She is the co-author of "The Beauty Prescription" and "The Concise Guide to Marriage and Family Therapy." She is also the co-founder of the Bold Beauty Project, a nonprofit that pairs women

with disabilities with award-winning photographers creating art exhibitions to raise awareness. Dr. Ritvo received her undergraduate and medical degrees from UCLA, and psychiatry residency training at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Public Notices

SUMMONS (CITATION JUDICIAL) CASE NO: 21STCV32851

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: FERNAN MARTICIO BALICOCO

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: EDUARDO GOMEZ, ET AL

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo. ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia. org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the

The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles 312 Spring Street. Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney: Igor Fradkin, Esq.
Downtown L.A. Law Group
910 S Broadway, Los Angelles, CA 90015
(213) 389-3765
Igor@downtownlalaw.com

DATE: August 11, 2023 By: David W. Slayton, Executive Office/Clerk I. Mariscal, Deputy BHC • 08/18/23, 08/25/23, 09/01/23, 09/08/23

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).

WE PUBLISH DBA's, SUMMONS

NAME CHANGE, BIDS

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CASE NO: 23SMCP00417 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

In the Matter of the petition of: **Saul Fitzmaurice Kozubei**To all interested person(s): Petitioner:

Saul Fitzmaurice Kozubei current residence address: 445 Edinburgh Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90048 filed a petition with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401, on July 31, 2023 for a Decree changing names as follows:

Present Name:
Saul Fitzmaurice Kozubei
Proposed Name:
SAUL FITZMAURICE
KOTZUBEI

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: October 2, 2023 Time: 8:30am Dept: K

Room: 203
The address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401, SANTA MONICA COURTHOUSE.

Reason for name change: Petitioner would like to change the spelling of his last name to make it more phonetically accurate in the English language.

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:

Saul Fitzmaurice Kozubei Judge of the Superior Court: Lawrence Cho Executive Officer/Clerk, David W. Slayton Dated: July 31, 2023 BHC - 08/04/23, 08/11/23, 08/18/23, 98/25/23

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CASE NO: 23SMCP00333 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

In the Matter of the petition of: **Ashley Stiles Turek** To all interested person(s): Petitioner:

Ashley Stiles Turek current residence address: 9663 Santa Monica Bl. Box 775, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 filed a petition with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401, on July 25, 2023 for a Decree changing names as follows: Present Name:

Ashley Stiles Turek
Proposed Name:
Ashley Parrant Devine
Phillip Washington
Adams Charlemagne
Wie Amandpolandz
Lalinopatar
Drenkopgriskop Stiles

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: September 15, 2023 Time: 8:30am Dept: K

The address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401, SANTA MONICA COURTHOUSE.

Reason for name change: Petitioner is already known by her proposed name wishes to be known by her proposed name in all personal/business affairs. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in the foregoing petition is true and correct.

Signed:
Ashley Stiles Turek
Judge of the Superior
Court: Lawrence Cho
Executive Officer/Clerk,
David W. Slayton
Dated: August 16, 2023
BHC - 08/18/23, 08/25/23,
09/01/23, 09/08/23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023163393 The following is/are doing business

as: 1) THE GROWCERY 2) THE GROWCERY LA 5816-5818 W. Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90019; The Relief Collective, Inc. 5816-5818 W. Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90019; The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on April 2018: The Relief Collective, Inc. Rinaldo Randy Cruzado, CEO: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: July 27, 2023; Published: August 04, 11, 18, 25, 2023 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023166375 The following is/are doing business as:LEISURE LIFE INTERIORS 23324 Gleneagle Court, Valencia, CA 91354; Meechi Design LLC., 23324 Gleneagle Court, Valencia, CA 91354; The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION, registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: Meechi Design LLC., Leonard De Los Prados, Treasurer: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: August 1, 2023; Published: August 04, 11, 18, 25, 2023 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023169875 The following is/are doing business as: ENCINO TOWERS

5150 Yarmouth Ave. Encino, CA 91316; Migdal Properties, LLC. 4929 Queen Florence Lane, Woodland Hills, CA 91364; The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on November 2012: Migdal Properties, LLC., Mark David Midgal, Member: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: August 4, 2023; Published: August 11, 18, 25, September 1, 2023 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023167778 The following is/are doing business as: BOOKS 2 CHERISH 10401 Wilshire Blvd #917, Los Angeles, CA 90024; Bookfield Productions, Inc. 2554 Lincoln Blvd #619, Venice, CA 90291; The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on October 2013: Bookfield Productions, Inc., Fern Field, President: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: August 2, 2023; Published: August 18, 15, September 1, 8, 2023 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023178107 The following is/are doing business as: BEVERLY HILLS NEWSSTAND 216 S. Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; Mader News, Inc. 508 S. Varney Street, Burbank, CA 91502 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION, reg-

istrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on July 2023: **Mader News, Inc. Evan Mader, CEO**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: August 15, 2023; Published: August 18, 15, September 1, 8, 2023 LACC N/C

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PAGE 20 BEVERLY HILLS COURIER AUGUST 25, 2023

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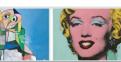
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