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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

	Friday	69°   54°
	Saturday	60°   49°
	Sunday	59°   48°
<u>~</u>	Monday	67°   51°
	Tuesday	68°   53°
<u>~</u>	Wednesday	70°   52°
$\triangle$	Thursday	71°   51°

# Mayor Friedman is Ready to Meet the City's Challenges

BY CLARA HARTER

Mayor Lester Friedman has an ambitious agenda to not only prepare Beverly Hills to meet the problems of today, but also the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

In an interview with the Courier, Friedman laid out his goals for his second term as mayor. This includes continuing to address issues around power outages, antisemitism and public safety; strengthening the city's finances through new revenue streams; and readying for the arrival of two Metro stations in Beverly Hills and three major sporting events in Los Angeles.

It's a lot to accomplish. But, between his seemingly inexhaustible supply of motivation and fantastic team of city staff, council members and commissioners, Friedman is not daunted by the workload.

"One of the measures that I will be working on is to expand the 24-hour day to 28 hours, that would give me four more hours of sleep," he jokingly told the Courier.

"In all seriousness, my wife and I moved to the community for the schools and boy the fact that we have such a great police and fire department were amazing extras," he continued. "I'm so thankful for the

See MAYOR FRIEDMAN, page 11



Photo courtesy city of Beverly Hills

Mayor Lester Friedman and his wife Simone at the City Council Reorganization/Installation on April 2  $\,$ 

# Rotary Club Welcomes L.A. County Assessor Prang



Jeffrey Prang

BY ANA FIGUEROA

Perfectly timed for tax season, the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills welcomed Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang to its April 8 luncheon. The Michigan native and Michigan State University graduate was first elected to the Assessor's position in 2014. He won reelection bids handily in 2018 and 2022. Before taking that office, Prang served for 18 years on the West Hollywood City Council.

Although a familiar name to most, Prang acknowledged that his role is not as high profile as the other two countywide elected officers, the LA County Sheriff and LA County District Attorney.

He began his remarks by joking that "the mosquito commissioner was not available," but delivered enlightening and topical remarks about the role his office plays.

He leads the largest assessor's office in the country, but contrary to popular belief, collects no taxes. Rather, he is charged with

See PRANG, page 7

# City Arborist Sheds More Light on Tiny Forest Project

BY JOEY WALDINGER

After receiving approval last month from the Recreation and Parks Commission for plans to plant a "tiny forest" at Greystone Mansion, City Arborist Ken Pfalzgraf appeared before the Cultural Heritage Commission on April 10 to further explain how the project will help Beverly Hills reach its sustainability goals.

According to the city's Urban Forest Management Plan, published in 2022, Beverly Hills has a citywide canopy cover of 26%, above the 20% for similar Southern

See CULTURAL HERITAGE, page 15

# Courier Calendar

#### NOW - APRIL 27 THEATRE 40: "UNSAVORY FELLOW" THURS., SAT. 7:30 P.M.

Theatre 40 presents "Unsavory Fellow." Nick James stars as the title character, a gigolo, model and actor in pursuit of a California dream. The show plays at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 Fourth St., Santa Monica. A full schedule is available online. theatre40.org

NOW - APRIL 28 A NOISE WITHIN: "KING HEDLEY II" THURS. 7:30 P.M. FRI., SAT. 8 P.M. SAT., SUN. 2 P.M.

A Noise Within continues its commitment to August Wilson's "American Century Cycle" with "King Hedley II," the ninth play in Wilson's 10-play cycle that explores the Black experience in 20th century America decade-by-decade. After seven years in prison, King Hedley reenters society eager to rebuild his life, but quickly confronts the inescapable challenges facing Black men in Reagan era Pittsburgh. King's disenfranchisement comes into conflict with the stories he's been telling himself. Yet, he continues to plant seeds where nothing can grow. A Noise Within is located at 3352 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena. Standard tickets start at \$29 and student tickets start at \$18. anoisewithin.org

NOW - JUNE 2 LACMA: "PAINTING IN THE RIVER OF ANGELS: JUDY BACA AND THE GREAT WALL" MON.-TUES., THURS. 11 A.M.-6 P.M. FRI. 11 A.M.-8 P.M. SAT.-SUN. 10 A.M.-7 P.M.

For the first time in her practice, Judy Baca transforms a museum into a studio. She and artists from the Social and Public Art Resource Center expand "The Great Wall" of Los Angeles into the 21st century, painting two sections of the mural at LACMA. LACMA's exhibition presents murals from the 1960s depicting the Chicano Movement, Watts Renaissance and archival materials that have never been exhibited, revealing Baca's process and innovations to muralism. Baca conceived "The Great Wall" (1975) as a monument to the people of California, featuring moments from prehistoric times to the 1950s. She collaborated with 400 youth and community members to design and paint the mural on the walls of the L.A. River to tell history from the perspective of those erased from it. After the artists complete the paintings at LACMA, they will add them to "The Great Wall," creating a mile of visual history. Tickets are free for members, L.A. County residents after 3 p.m. Mon.-Fri., and for those 17 and under. Tickets for adults are \$20 and \$16 for seniors and students with

lacma.org

NOW - NOV. 30 HOLOCAUST MUSEUM LA: "TO PAINT IS TO LIVE: ART AND RESISTANCE IN THERESIENSTADT" 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

Holocaust Museum LA presents "To Paint is to Live," which highlights the untold stories of endurance through remarkable artworks of those who survived and perished. This exhibition challenges viewers to contemplate the transformative power of art when faced with extreme adversity and reflect on the capacity for maintaining human dignity. Established by the Nazis on Nov. 24, 1941, Theresienstadt played a critical role in the Nazi government's deceptive propaganda to quell questions surrounding the deportations of Jews and their fate. The Nazis presented Theresienstadt as a model "settlement" or "spa" town, but the harsh reality was that it was a place designed to accelerate death. Jews resisted the horrific surroundings and cruel treatment in any way they could, wielding their brushes and pens as instruments of resistance. "To Paint is to Live" reveals the profound role of art in reaffirming human dignity as prisoners turned to creative expression to assert their identity, chronicle their existence, and honor their cultural heritage in the face of unspeakable atrocities. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and military, and free for students, children and teachers. The museum is also free all day on Sundays.

holocaustmuseumla.org

NOW - JANUARY 5, 2025 ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURES: "THE ART OF MOVIEMAKING: "THE GODFATHER"" SUN.-THURS. 10 A.M.-6 P.M. FRI.-SAT. 10 A.M.-8 P.M.

"The Art of Moviemaking: 'The Godfather'" features a wide array of original objects from "The Godfather" (1972) and "The Godfather Part II" (1974), offering an exciting glimpse into the process of making a masterpiece. Director Francis Ford Coppola's interpretation of Mario Puzo's popular novel provided an operatic and poignant reflection on the American dream, making the films an instant phenomenon that not only radically transformed the moviegoing experience, but also moviemaking in the 1970s. From costumes to props to scripts and equipment, these materials-many on view for the first time-highlight the contributions of several cinematic branches, and how they innovated amid the changing landscape of Hollywood. General admission is \$25 for adults, \$19 for seniors (age 62+), \$15 for students (age 18+ with valid ID), and free for children (17 and under) and members. academymuseum.org

APRIL 20 - 21 LACO: "TO BE A HORIZON" SAT. 8 P.M. SUN. 7 P.M.

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, under the baton of Music Director Jaime Martín, presents the world premiere of Artistic Advisor Derrick Skye's "To Be A Horizon." On April 20, the performance is at Glendale's Alex Theatre. On April 21, the show is at UCLA's Royce Hall. Skye's "To Be A Horizon" combines formal Western classical music with West African music and dance, Persian music theory, Balkan music theory and Hindustani classical music. laco.org

#### APRIL 23 SPAGO 40TH INTERFAITH CHARITY PASSOVER SEDER 5:30 P.M.

This festive event hosted by Spago co-founder Barbara Lazaroff will benefit MAZON, a national nonprofit working to end hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds in the United States. The dinner raises funds for food challenged families and individuals in Los Angeles. In addition to the spirited service led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier, performances by the West Los Angeles Children's Choir, the Kings of Klezmer band, musician, composer Craig Taubman and Hatikvah by Michael Libow will brighten the evening. Chefs Rosenson, Avanessian and Gossett's traditional holiday cuisine with a distinctive twist is a highlight. Tickets are \$265 per adult, \$150 per child (10 and under), plus 9.5% tax and 22% service. Tickets include dinner, wines, and to-go coconut macaroons and matzah. Guests can reserve now by booking online or by calling Spago at 310-385-0880. Spago is located at 176 N. Canon Dr., Beverly Hills. sevenrooms.com/experiences/spagobh



Photo by Craig Schwartz

Christian Henley, Aaron Jennings, Veralyn Jones and Kacie Rogers in "King Hedley II" at A Noise Within until April 28





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Learn More

# City Considers Colorful Crosswalks to Improve Safety



Photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

An example decorative crosswalks planned for Pride Month in June

BY JOEY WALDINGER

As part of a study of whether decorative crosswalks could improve traffic safety, Public Works Department crews will install two rainbow-colored crosswalks in front of City

Hall and the Beverly Hills Farmers' Market during Pride Month in June.

During the April 9 Arts and Culture Commission meeting, Transportation Planner Jessie Holzer Carpenter told the See ARTS AND CULTURE, page 11

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# Corman and Wells Begin Their First City Council Terms



Craig Corman

BY CLARA HARTER

After months of campaigning in a crowded field of candidates, Mary Wells and Craig Corman triumphed as Beverly Hills' newest City Council members. And now, the real work begins.

The pair were sworn in at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts during the City Council Reorganization/ Installation meeting on April 2. They each took the oath of office surrounded by family members, while an audience of civic leaders and community members proudly watched.

"It was a very special evening for me personally. I really feel that it truly is a privilege and an honor to be able to serve as a City Council member for our city," Wells told the Courier. "It just reaffirmed to me even more how important local government is and how much it affects our community."

Prior to her election to council, Wells served as a member and the immediate past president of the BHUSD Board of Education. Her professional career includes experience in brand management for the Walt Disney Company and account management and municipal bond trading with Shearson Lehman and Hutton.

Now she is excited to leverage all of these skills, knowledge and expertise to help advance Mayor Lester Friedman's agenda.

"The issues I spoke about during the campaign-our safety and security, improving our resident services and planning for the future of the city-really align well with everything that Mayor Friedman has outlined for his focus for this next year," said Wells.

Corman, a former member and chair of the Planning Commission, is also looking forward to rolling up his sleeves and supporting his fellow council members.

"Although I have extensive experience in city government, it takes some time to get acclimated to the council and so I want to support the more senior council members' initiatives at the outset and really see where I can help the most," he told the Courier.

In particular, Corman feels that his development expertise honed through three terms on the Planning Commission will be an asset to City Council.



Mary Wells

"I'm looking forward to helping any way I can on any subject, but obviously I have a planning background and development is a big issue facing the city right now," he said.

"Development is good for the city in the sense that it does bring in revenue, it freshens up the built-out environment and brings in new businesses," he continued. "But obviously you want to have a development that makes sense for the city, and I don't think revenue development should be the only factor in determining whether you want to have a certain development or not."

In addition, Corman hopes his career as an attorney will prove useful as the city navigates several legal battles. This includes ongoing litigation regarding the city's compliance with state housing law, allegations that the city interfered with an abortion clinic's opening and the removal of Ficus trees on Robertson Boulevard.

Wells, for her part, believes that her experience in managing finances and serving on the school board will help address two of Mayor Friedman's key goals: strengthening the city's finances and opening an early childhood education center.

"I'm really looking forward to supporting him in all of his initiatives, especially the early childhood education center," she said. "I think it's very exciting for everyone to see that start coming to fruition and I will always be a liaison for the schools."

While on the school board, she helped right side the district's troubled Construction Bond Program and saved taxpayers money by incorporating new accountability and transparency measures into the process for selecting construction contractors. She hopes that this experience coupled with her professional accounting background will be useful as the council explores new ways to cut costs and grow revenues.

In their free time both new council members enjoy strolling the city's streets and dining at its fantastic restaurants.

"One of my favorite things to do is walk through all the different neighborhoods and see the different character that each of them has," said Wells. "For a small city, we have a lot of personalities."

See NEW CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, from page 11

# Unveiling Untold Stories: Iranian Victims of Nazi Persecution Revealed



Photo by Richard Ehrlich for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Copies of more than 100 million documents with information on more than 17 million

BY ASHLEY ASHERIAN AFTALION

people are now available.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and IranWire.com, in cooperation with the Arsolen Archives, the world's largest repository of information on Holocaust victims and survivors, have unveiled the latest installment of its Sardari Project. This groundbreaking initiative sheds light on Iranian victims of Nazi persecution, marking a significant stride forward in Holocaust See UNTOLD STORIES, page 15

# Planning Commission Approves Beverly Hills Hotel Renovations



Photo courtesy Robbie Anderson

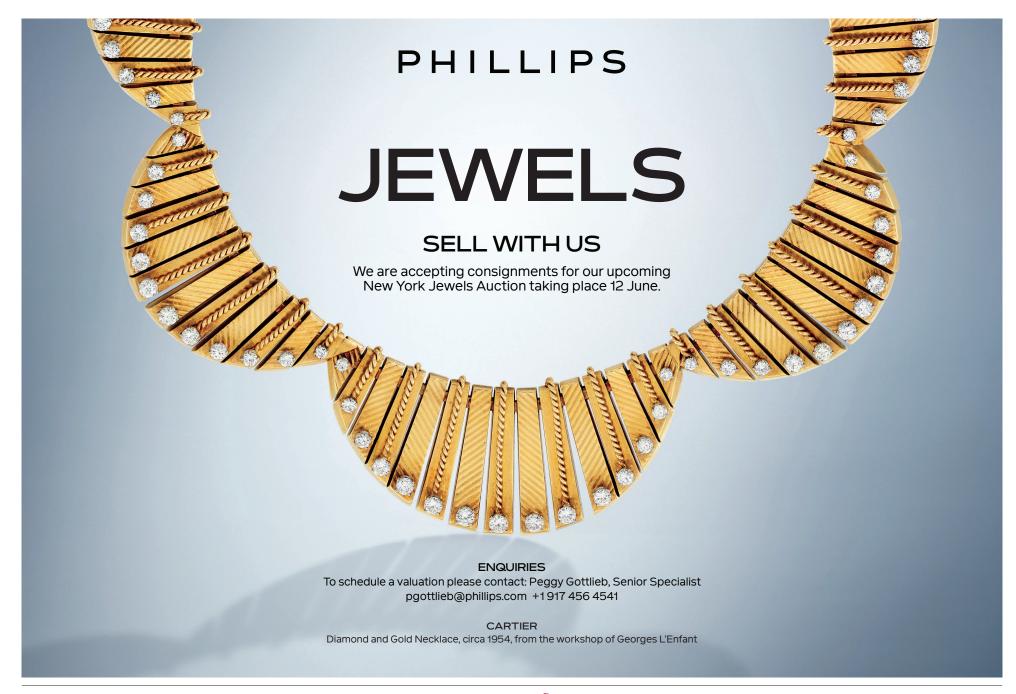
Exterior of the Beverly Hills Hotel

BY JOEY WALDINGER

The Planning Commission on April 11 unanimously approved a Conditional Use Permit allowing The Beverly Hills Hotel to renovate several of its indoor and outdoor spaces.

Hotel staff will repurpose an existing ballroom into a restaurant and bar, add a new café in the lobby, and turn an existing hotel room into a veranda bar.

The commission's decision came after See PLANNING COMMISSION, page 15



# Community

# Beverly Hills Talent Agent Honored by LACO

Beverly Hills resident and music talent agent Sam Schwartz was honored at the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (LACO) Gala Celebration on April 6 at the Skirball Cultural Center. Schwartz and Michael Gorfaine are co-founders of Gorfaine/Schwartz, and were recognized with the "LACO Hollywood Ally Award."



Photo by Ben Gibbs

Gorfaine/Schwartz client, composer John Williams (left) with Honorees Sam Schwartz (standing) and Michael Gorfaine

# Wallis Annenberg Recognized with "Unsung Hero Award" at Gala

Wallis Annenberg was honored with the Unsung Hero Award during "An Unforgettable Evening" benefiting The Women's Cancer Research Fund at Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel on April 10. Look for complete coverage of the event in the Courier's April 19 issue.



Photo by Phillip Faraone/Getty Images for Women's Cancer Research Fund Jamie Alexander Tisch (left) and Rita Wilson (right) present award to Wallis Annenberg.

# Antiques, Paintings & Collectibles For Sale



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#### PRANG, from page 1

locating and evaluating taxable property.

"My primary responsibility is the production of what we call the annual assessment roll, which is essentially just the inventory of all taxable property in the county. It includes both land and improvements as well as what's known as business personal property, which is furniture, equipment, machinery and fixtures, although it also includes commercial and general aviation aircraft, mobile homes, boats, and for some odd reason even racehorses," said Prang.

The 2.5 million real property parcels and business assessments on the LA County rolls add up to a total value of \$2 trillion and generate about \$24 billion in property taxes for cities, school districts and county government.

Acknowledging the presence of a significant number of real estate professionals in the audience, Prang noted that Beverly Hills is the fourth highest-valued city in Los Angeles County. That is a significant factor considering the city's modest size and population. Nonetheless, the total assessed value of 8,100 single-family residential homes and 843 commercial industrial properties in Beverly Hills is nearly \$43 billion.

He added that the median sales price of a single-family home in Beverly Hills is approximately \$6.7 million, which is a 14% reduction in median sales price over last year.

"That doesn't mean the property values are going down in Beverly Hills. That's just a bit of a correction from the overheated market," said Prang.

He also briefly discussed Proposition 19, the ballot measure that amended Proposition 13 back in 2020.

"It does a couple of things that are beneficial and does other things you may not think as much of," he said.

"Prop. 19 says that if you're 55 years or older, severely disabled or the victim of a natural disaster such as a flood, fire or earthquake, you can transfer your tax base to a new home without being reassessed. It greatly expanded on the previous law. You can now transfer your tax base to any county in the state. You can transfer it to a home with any value, and you can transfer it three times. If you're married, you can transfer it six times. So, once you're 55, your property tax base is portable for the rest of your life. The way that they offset that was they slashed and burned inheritance benefits under the old law. Your kids could inherit your house and they would not be reassessed. They could also inherit an additional \$1 million in other properties such as a rental without reassessment. Prop. 19 changed all that."

He continued, "So now the only property that your kids can inherit from you without reassessment is the home that you live in and you have to have the homeowner's exemption to qualify and for them to qualify, they have to move into that home within 12 months after the transfer, and they must file for the homeowner's exemption. After 12 months, you lose that tax base," said Prang.

On the currently hot topic of Accessory Dwelling Units or ADUs, Prang observed that

the industry has "gone off like a rocket. It's now about 25% of all the work that we're doing is processing ADU applications. If you add an ADU, we will assess the value of the new addition to your property. We don't reassess your entire property."

He also spoke about some of the technological systems in the Assessor's Office that he has proudly modernized.

"People who work in private industry don't realize that most government agencies at the local, state and federal level are still on old 1980s mainframe systems, which is probably why the DMV and EDD are so inefficient. But we have invested about \$100 million over the last eight years to upgrade our platform from a mainframe system to a cloud-based system. The 2.5 million property files in my office, when I was elected, were all associated with a paper file. We have digitized hundreds of millions of documents and moved everything online," said Prang.

He also pointed out a recently enacted program designed to help property owners.

"With our new technology platform, we're able to do a lot more things online and save people a lot of time and money. One of the programs we just launched is called the Assessor's e-service account. You can now register your property and set up an online account with your property. There'll be a lot of services that you can take care of from the comfort of your home or laptop. But what I wanted to emphasize here today is something we call the Homeowner Alert. I think we're all aware that there's been growing occurrences

of title and title fraud. One of the challenges in the past is if somebody potentially commits fraud against your property by filing a deed on your property. You may not know about it until you get a letter from the registrar-recorder, which usually is about 30 to 45 days after something has been recorded. And if there's fraud involved, that may be too late. But you can now register through our e-service account for the Homeowner Alert. We just need your email address and anytime something is recorded against your property, you'll get an email within 48 hours. So, if it is fraud, you'll be able to move much more quickly.

The Homeowner Alert system is available on the Assessor's Office home page at <a href="https://assessor.lacounty.gov/news-information/enotification">https://assessor.lacounty.gov/news-information/enotification</a>.

In closing, Prang noted, "I've been in this job for 10 years. It's hard to believe it's been that long, but I think we've provided a great deal of value to the people of Los Angeles County. Last year we were recertified for something called the Certificate of Excellence in Assessment Administration by the International Association of Assessing Officers. It is the highest award that can be granted to a public assessment agency. We are the only California county ever to receive it and we've received it twice. Wow. Only 100 agencies out of over 2,200 nationwide have ever received this designation. I'm really proud of the men and the women who work in my department who work so hard to bring good service and value to the people of LA County."



# **Arts and Entertainment**

# 'Fat Ham'-Very Juicy





Photos courtesy of Jeff Lorch

Left: Marcel Spears, Right: Nikki Crawford

BY NEELY SWANSON

Get thee to a nunnery, I mean to the Geffen, as soon as possible to immerse yourself in James Ljames' very (very) loose take on the Shakespeare classic "Hamlet." That is if Hamlet lived in the South, but not Deep South, and his family kingdom was a barbecue restaurant known for its ribs.

Juicy still lives at home with his mother Tedra, but things have changed significantly. Juicy's thug of a father has been shanked in prison by someone wielding a sharpened toothbrush. He'd been there quite some time, having slit the throat of a waiter who annoyed him, and it was an ignominious, if apt, way to die. His parenting style was similar, just without the knife and toothbrush. Juicy has mixed feelings about the man who raised him without love or compassion, but he's more certain of his disappointment in his mother for marrying Pap's brother Rev a mere week after Pap was put in the ground.

Juicy, known for his level-headed manner, almost a disconnect from situations around him, is mightily torn about the big wedding celebration happening at the house that day. Imagine his surprise when Pap suddenly appears to him, covered by a red and white checked sheet, a tip of the hat to the restaurant in a Casper the Friendly Ghost sort of way. Even ghosts have a sense of humor and off comes the tablecloth, revealing Pap in a Colonel Sanders white suit with rhinestone highlights. You must, he explains, kill Rev. Gut him like the pig that he is. Juicy learned the fine art of swine slaughter from his father, but this is not a skill he has practiced for many reasons. The look on his face makes you think this may not be the time even if it is the place. Conflicted in general, poor Juicy is at an impasse over this command.

Into a puff of smoke and sparkles, Pap disappears just as Tedra, joyful and shaking her fine rear end as she loads up the buffet table, appears. Which dress, she asks Juicy, should she wear? The turquoise or the pink? Obviously, an old hand at offering fashion advice, Juicy signals the turquoise, much to his mother's delight. Uncle Rev, as in Reverend although it's clear he worships at the altar of the Weber Grill more than God Almighty, sneers at Juicy. He's soft, Rev proclaims. He needs to harden up and proceeds to sucker punch him in the stomach.

But Mom has more bad news to share. Rev wanted a bathroom redo; pink was not his color. They've spent all of Juicy's tuition money for the online University of Phoenix courses in Human Resources he's been taking. Rev has robbed him of his mother and his education, all with a laugh and a self-satisfied smirk. Juicy's father's wishes are starting to make sense. Close friend Tio is sympathetic and an ally, having seen the ghost when Pap mistakenly thought he was Juicy.

More guests arrive and Juicy has to entertain Rabby, fresh from services in her magnificently large purple feathered church lady hat with matching accessories, and her children Opal and Larry, childhood friends of Juicy's. Larry, in his Marine uniform looking like a recruitment poster, and Opal, uncharacteristically in a dress she would like to rip to shreds, have their own secrets.

Tensions rise with Rev, and the closely guarded secrets of Juicy's friends are gradually revealed. Juicy, however, is a puzzle. Soft, yes, but what does that mean? He's ridden the fence his entire life. Fulfilling his father's wishes would be a giant leap for him, but at what expense?

At the heart of this inventive, hilarious and very warm play lies a theme of accept-ance—its cause, its cost, its satisfaction. Juicy, the perpetual observer, encourages others to be honest, all the while holding back from divulging his reality. It's also about the cost of authenticity because none of the four young people has had the courage to step out of the closet that others have pushed them into.

"Hamlet" was a bloodbath; "Fat Ham" is not. The ties to Shakespeare's classic are knowing, irreverent and only in passing. On occasion, Juicy will recite a passage that fits appropriately but if Opal is Ophelia, she doesn't die and her love interests lie elsewhere. She hates wearing a dress but likes those who do. Larry is the Laertes whose care and concern over his sister and Juicy disguises where his interests lie in agonizingly stoic style. In truth, she wants to wear his uniform and he'd like her dress. The similarities between Rev and Tedra to Claudius and Gertrude are definitely there, and Rabby in full "Sunday going to meeting" regalia is a hilarious Polonius who has no more clue as to who her children really are than Polonius's grasp on reality in "Hamlet." Tio, the comic relief in a play rife with it, is a would-be Horacio, having also seen the ghost-but he is an unreliable source because he's almost always high on something.

Ljames heightens the humor in his use of stereotypes, used primarily in the "adult" characters. Tedra brings the house down with her booty-shaking dirty dancing and karaoke (shoot me please!) that underscores a satire of class and archetype. Similarly, Rabby is cut from the same over-hyped cloth, right down to the feathers in her hat. Rev and Pap, however, are thugs, one subtle, the other not so much. It is the second generation, except for the perpetually stoned Tio, who presents real-world identity problems uncluttered with cliché. They are the heart and soul of this outrageous comedy in their search for acceptance and authenticity. It is, however, the still-conflicted Juicy who is left searching. Or maybe that's my interpretation, and he has always known who he was and needed no social approbation.

The Geffen was extraordinarily lucky to book this acclaimed Broadway play that got its start at the storied Public Theater and won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for drama. Most of the cast are reprising their roles from the original, and it makes you long for more transfers like this one. Chris Herbie Holland as Tio has the least to do, but then that was Horatio all over, wasn't it? Played as a clown, more like a combined Rosenkranz and Guildenstern on steroids, he's primarily expositional. Matthew Elijah Webb, an understudy in the original run of the play, is Larry, an enigma hiding his true self. Uninteresting almost throughout, his lack of character may have been by design because he closes the show and brings down the house. Adrianna Mitchell is Opal, the girl who likes girls but has a hard time expressing herself. Opal is a character who starts the tsunami that ends the play. Like Ophelia, her self-questioning opens up an avenue that is followed by others. Benja Kay Thomas is Rabby, the clueless church lady. Playing a definite type, one that adds to the

underlying absurdity, she eventually rises above stereotype but never loses the fun.

Billy Eugene Jones plays both Rev and Pap. Jones plays them with depth, relatable ugliness and command of the stage. His dual roles are the source of several jokes, but his ability to reveal a bully with nuance is superb. As shown in his recent star turn in "Purlie Victorious" as Gitlow Judson on Broadway, Jones's skill at transcending deliberate stereotypes inherent in a script is masterful. Nikki Crawford, Tony-nominated for her performance as Tedra, is a show-stopper, literally and figuratively. The moment she comes on stage in those tight denim shorts you know that Shakespeare's play has been reimagined from the bottom up, so to speak. Her elocution and every action emphasize her distance from her son as she opts for sex over love and loyalty.

It is Marcel Spears, Juicy, who is the heart and soul of this family dramedy. Spears, a seasoned theater and television actor ("The Neighborhood"), has a command of nuance and subtlety that makes this comedy of the absurd take flight. It is on his ambivalence that all the other characters and actions turn. Spears makes you understand that the accusation against Juicy of being "soft" is double-edged. His "soft" is thoughtful and pivotal. Spears would actually make a great Hamlet.

Now playing at the Geffen Playhouse through May 5. Performances take place Wednesday through Sunday with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Runtime is 100 minutes without intermission.

The Geffen Playhouse is located at 10886 Le Conte Ave., Los Angeles. •



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.



Matthew Elijah Webb, Billy Eugene Jones and Benja Kay Thomas

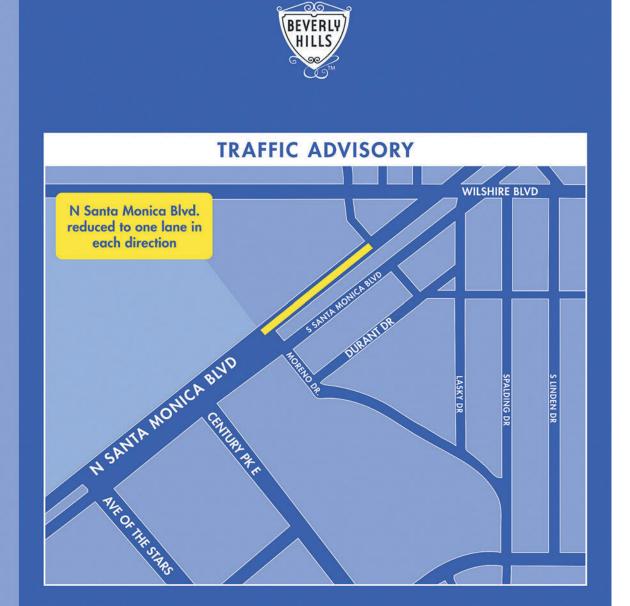


# Metropolitan Emergency Pipeline Repair

BEGINNING OVERNIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

N Santa Monica Blvd. from Moreno Dr. to Wilshire Blvd. will be reduced to <u>one lane in</u> <u>each direction</u> until further notice – please allow extra travel time and use alternate routes.

Questions can be directed to Metropolitan Water District by emailing: <a href="mailto:communityrelations@mwdh2o.com">communityrelations@mwdh2o.com</a>.





# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on **Tuesday**, **April 16**, **2024**, **at 7:00 p.m.**, **or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard**, in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of:

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHEDULE OF TAXES, FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

The City Council will consider a resolution which will increase certain fees and service charges that are charged to the public for the various activities and services as set forth in the schedule for fiscal year 2023-2024. In some cases, fees are proposed for an adjustment by 2.8% based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for November 2023 to reflect the increase in the City's costs. In other cases, new fees are proposed to be established or existing fees to be adjusted to reflect a more equitable distribution of costs, or a change in service level. Most fees would become effective on July 1, 2024.

At the public hearing, the City Council will hear and consider all comments. All interested persons are invited to attend and speak or provide written comments on this matter.

#### 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

City Council/Parking Authority meetings are broadcast on local Beverly Hills television and on other media platforms. Anyone who participates at the meeting and/or enters the City Council Chamber is subject to having their image displayed. These recordings will remain publicly accessible in perpetuity.

#### **Public Comment Participation:**

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

#### How to Submit Public Comment (Email/Video):

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

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

#### <u>In-Person Participation</u>:

Please be advised that pre-entry metal detector screening requirements are now in place at City Hall. Members of the public are requested to plan visits accordingly.

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.

The proposed Resolution will be available on the City website. For additional background information on the fees or if there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact the **Finance Department's Revenue Division** at (310) 285-2437, or by email at **revenue@beverlyhills.org**.

HUMA AHMED City Clerk



If you are an individual with a disability and need a reasonable modification or accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disability Act ("ADA") please contact (310) 285-2400 or (310) 285-6881 (TTY) preferably 24-hours prior to the meeting for assistance.

www.beverlyhills.org

# Letter to the Editor

I am writing to express my concern about the growing homeless population in Beverly Hills, particularly in the Triangle area. As a resident who frequently walks my dogs through this area in the mornings, I have personally witnessed an increasing number of homeless individuals sleeping in restaurant outdoor dining areas, doorways, and even bank ATM enclosed areas.

While I empathize with the plight of those experiencing homelessness and recognize the complex socioeconomic factors that contribute to this crisis, the current situation is becoming untenable for local businesses and residents. Despite the city's no camping ordinance, there appears to be little enforcement, leaving business owners to deal with the aftermath of overnight stays on their properties. It is worth noting that Beverly Hills does pay the City of West Hollywood for shelter access, yet the problem persists. As a concerned citizen, I have called the police several times to report individuals camping out in our neighborhood, but the issue remains unresolved.

Homelessness is an issue that requires a multi-faceted approach, including increased affordable housing, mental health services, addiction treatment, and job training programs. However, allowing unrestricted camping in our commercial districts is not a viable solution. It threatens public health and safety, deters customers from patronizing local establishments, and erodes the quality of life for residents.

I urge the city to take a more proactive stance in addressing this problem by consistently enforcing existing ordinances designed to prevent camping in public spaces. Additionally, the city should reevaluate its partnership with West Hollywood to ensure that the funds allocated for shelter access are being used effectively and efficiently.

Beverly Hills must confront the homeless crisis head-on. We cannot continue to ignore the growing number of individuals sleeping on our streets. Our collective responsibility is to find ways to help people experiencing homelessness while preserving the vitality of our neighborhoods.

Sincerely, Mike Lloyd Beverly Hills



## **NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCIES**

(O

### CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS COMMISSION

(One vacancy, term begins July 1, 2024)

#### **CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION**

(One vacancy, term begins July 1, 2024) (One vacancy, term begins January 1, 2025)

## \*ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

(One vacancy, term begins January 1, 2025)

## ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

(One vacancy, term begins January 1, 2025)

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

(One vacancy, term begins January 1, 2025)

# DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE ABOVE COMMISSION IS ON FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024 AT 5:00 P.M.

\*Architectural Commission: position must be filled by an architect, Beverly Hills residency not required for this vacancy.

For more information on the Commission positions and to apply online, please visit the City's website at www.beverlyhills.org/applyforacommission or call the City Clerk's Office at (310) 285-2400 to obtain the application form by mail or e-mail. Selected applicants will be required to complete a background check.



Huma Ahmed City Clerk





Mayor Lester Friedman

## MAYOR FRIEDMAN, from page 1

opportunities that the city has given me to be successful personally and this is really my way of giving back."

Friedman was elected to the City Council in 2017 after six years on the Traffic and Parking Commission and first served as Mayor during the pandemic in 2020. In addition to his civic duties, Friedman runs his own law practice and is an official scorer for the UCLA men's basketball team.

Top of his priority list this term is future proofing the city's finances to ensure Beverly Hills can maintain its world-class schools, police and fire departments going forward.

"I think this coming year we're going to still be okay, but our finances do not look that rosy after that, so we really do have to prepare for the future," he said.

While tax revenues have rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, the cost of staff salaries, equipment and capital improvement projects continues to increase with inflation.

Expenses will also grow when the police department hires 13 or more officers to staff the two Metro stations currently slated to open in 2025 and 2026, Friedman said. And revenues will suffer from the loss of a \$26 million public benefit contribution from the Cheval Blanc hotel project, which voters shot down in a May 2023 Special Election.

"Cheval Blanc is not coming back, it's a lost opportunity, it is unfortunate," he said. "Now we need to move on and be sure that we have other sources of revenue that will help support us."

To that end, Friedman looks forward to working hand in hand with the council to implement some of the revenue-raising strategies recently proposed by the Blue-Ribbon Committee on Long-Term Strategic Financial Planning. For example, he is excited by the potential financial gains from expediting commercial leases on city-owned properties.

He also intends to brainstorm ways to reap the economic benefits of increased tourism when Los Angeles hosts events for the 2026 World Cup, 2027 Super Bowl and 2028 Olympic Games. Friedman is already in conversation with Olympic organizers and plans on launching a Beverly Hills 2028 Olympics Task Force.

"There's no question that when these

events are occurring Beverly Hills will be front of mind for dignitaries, for athletes and visitors," he said. "It is something that we need to be prepared for because it will bring in additional revenue and visitors to our restaurants, our stores and our hotels."

Friedman also looks forward to advancing recommendations from the Electrical Resilience Ad Hoc Committee, such as potentially investing in microgrids that can supply energy during an SCE outage.

"Once there is a power outage, it puts the entire city on alert," he said. "There are people who are dependent on their medical equipment having a power source at all times. Our police are taken away from other jobs to provide extra patrols in the areas that have the outages."

"We need to have power resiliency."

Then there is also the matter of maintaining the city's-top-notch public safety, a perennial priority for city leaders.

Friedman will be working closely with the BHPD to expand its surveillance network by integrating cameras at private residences and businesses. In addition, he will oversee the placement of 12 sirens throughout the city to alert residents in the event of a public safety emergency or natural disaster such as a wildfire.

He also is excited to strengthen Beverly Hills' reputation as a bastion against Jew hatred by hosting the 2024 North American Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism on Dec. 11 to 13.

"We were honored to be asked to host," he said. "It really is an important issue for us as a community and important that we let the world know that antisemitism should not, cannot be tolerated."

Last, but by no means least, he plans to continue deepening his connection with the community through initiatives such as the "60-Second Shout Out" highlighting local businesses; "People Helping People" highlighting good deeds; and town hall-style meetings titled "Les is More: An Hour with the Mayor."

"We really are a big family," he said.
"Being an individual, you can only get so far, but when you have the support of your community, your team you can truly be successful."

NEW CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, from page 4

Corman can often be spotted walking his French bulldog Beau, who he jokes has become somewhat of a local celebrity following his frequent appearances on the campaign trail. Corman also enjoys golfing with friends and indulging in a good episode of TV with his wife Karen.

#### ARTS AND CULTURE, from page 4

commission the sites were chosen because they are busy locations with a "history of driver noncompliance in yielding to pedestrians."

"We think that given these details, the two intersections would be perfect study locations to determine if decorative crosswalks can improve drivers yielding to pedestrians and therefore improve safety, and then could potentially be expanded to other areas throughout the city," Holzer Carpenter said.

Holzer said the crosswalks would cost between \$5,000-\$10,000, including the before and after tests of driver behavior. She added that she is also seeking approval from the Human Relations Commission and anticipates the crosswalks to be installed in May if both commissions approve.

The commissioners were unanimously supportive of the proposal, though they had some questions about the specifics.

Responding to a question from Chair Maralee Beck, Holzer Carpenter said that to measure compliance at the crosswalk staff would hire a contractor to collect and review video footage at the crosswalks and detail their findings in a report.

In response to a question from Commissioner Deborah Frank, Holzer Carpenter said, "We have not considered what the next [steps] would be. We want to test this first and see."

May is also Jewish American Heritage Month, and during the April 9 meeting Recreation Supervisor Corinna Lesser previewed the city's JAHM programming. As with last year, the Farmers' Market will be a central hub of JAHM events.

The festivities will kick off with a rugelach baking contest during the May 5 market, which will also feature musical performances by the klezmers and kid-friendly crafts and face painting, Lesser said.

The fun continues after the market ends, as visitors can walk to the nearby Beverly Hills Public Library for a children's themed story hour at 1 p.m., Lesser said.

Both Wells and Corman are excited to work with their fellow council members and develop an even closer connection to the community.

"I think we're going to have a very good council," said Corman. "I think we're all going to get along well and work together well. I'm looking forward to doing just that."

Arts and storytelling are central components of Jewish culture, and in celebration of the Jewish American artistic tradition, May 5 will also mark the opening of a monthlong installation at the library by Jenny Yurshansky, a visual artist who draws heavily from her experience as a refugee.

On Feb. 9 and March 5, Yurshansky conducted workshops where participants explored their family's origin story and used collage and other art materials to depict the journeys. Those stories were then scanned and turned into a quilt that will displayed at the library, Lesser said.

The library will also host a Jewish Tales, Tunes and Tastes event on May 19, with additional programming spread out to institutions across the city.

The Roxbury Community Center will host an art class on May 17, and writing workshops on May 1, 8, 15 and 22, and a showcase on May 29. "The Prince of Egypt" will be shown at Greystone Mansion on May 16, and "Celebrating Jewish Culture and the Importance of Allyships," part of the Critical Conversations Series, will be held on May 28 at the City Hall Municipal Gallery.

The April 9 meeting concluded with a work plan update, where the commissioners pressed for details about the reinstallation of "The Hymn of Tulips," a sculpture by renowned Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama that was formerly in Beverly Park Gardens but has been undergoing refabrication since 2019.

"The eternal question is because people always drive by there and say when [will the sculpture be back]," Maralee Beck said.

Assistant Director of Community Services Patty Acuna said that staff does not yet have a date, adding that the process was slowed by the pandemic and a tedious, virtual authentication process.

"Every piece has to be to the artist's specification," she said.

She added that she will return to the commission next month with photos of the progress. •

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Writers

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Clara Harter

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Joey Waldinger

\*\*\*\*\*\*

Advertising Directors

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\*\*\*\*\*\*

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# **Birthdays**

The Courier's Birthday Page is Proudly Sponsored by

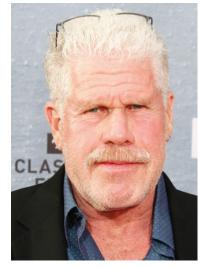
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April 13



RON PERLMAN April 13



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April 17



JANIS BARQUIST April 18



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April 18



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# Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even in your most work-a-day mode you still feel astonishment at life's essentials, like breath, warmth and the privilege of another trip around the sun. You'll celebrate the mere sense of being in the flow of life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). For optimum processing speed, your brain requires rest, play and exercise among other things. Sometimes you keep sharp by letting yourself be the opposite. Diffused, random, relaxed silliness can be restorative.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's said that lessons get repeated until they are learned. But no one can learn everything, nor should you try. If you can go a different way and avoid the issue altogether, do it. If that lesson is important, it will pop up again.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Self-compassion improves interpersonal dynamics because it's easier to have compassion for others when your soul and psyche experience the peace of self-acceptance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Today your

luck will run on momentum. It will be carried on the breeze of your movement. It will dance with you when you pivot, keep pace with you when you run, loft you when you leap.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You never know who's falling in love with your smile. Being unaware of the effect you have on others only makes your magnet stronger. All your attention goes into getting to know people better and there's none left for self-doubt.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Charles R. Swindoll said, "Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it." Though it should be noted he was neither mathematician nor neurologist. "What happens" affects the plot to widely varying degrees.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll sort out your mind. The best way is to record all your thoughts: the good, the bad, the ridiculous and logical alike. Look at them in the light of tomorrow and then distill into a few sentences of clarity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The project that's worthy of you will sharpen your mind. You will execute each step with purpose. You'll study the larger context and you'll get

feedback. Careful thought leads to stellar results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your connection to others dials you into deeper parts of yourself. You'll add to your social network, either by finding people who belong in it or honing your rules and standards on interactions with people who don't.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Spin your thinking to your own benefit. When you focus on what you have in the spirit of love, celebration and

enjoyment, you are rich. When you give a holistic look at what you lack, you are free. Every gift comes with responsibility.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). For you, it's easy to find beauty because you go by what you like. You can't use the same method for truth. Truth doesn't require you to like it, it remains the same regardless of public opinion. Today you'll seek and know it.



Rupert is this week's eligible dog for adoption. He is an 8-year-old, 20-pound poodle in need of a new home. If interested in Rupert, please contact Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.

shelterhopepetshop.org

PAGE 12 BEVERLY HILLS COURIER APRIL 12, 2024



Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills | 8556 Wilshire Blvd | (424) 438-4013 | www.fineartstheatrebh.com





April 19th 7:00pm

April 20th 4:00pm

April 20th 7:30pm



The Mummy (1932) & Nosferatu (1922)

April 20th 12:30pm



The Lemmon Curtis Double Feature

April 21st 1:00pm

PLAYING IN

**70mm** 



Mel Brooks Double Feature (Inclues short HUNG FRANKENSTEIN)

> April 21st 7:00pm

It's a **NOLAN Summer!** 

# Super WARS Spectacular

All 9 films, 1 weekend Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills - May 24-26



In person!

Apr 14th Kat Kramer





Jun 9th 2:00pm 7:30pm



Jul 14th 2:00pm

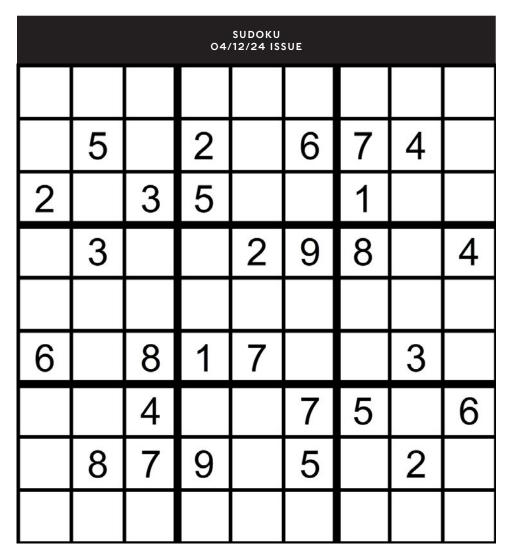


2:00pm



Sept 8th 2:00pm

# **Fun and Games**



SUDOKU ANSWERS O4/05/24 ISSUE										
1	4	6	2	9	5	7	3	8		
9	7	3	6	8	4	2	1	5		
8	2	5	7	3	1	4	6	9		
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7	3	9	5	1	2	8	4	6		
6	5	4	8	7	3	1	9	2		



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#### THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE 04/12/24 ISSUE

18

22

77

82

108

#### **TURNS OF PHRASE** BY SPENCER LEACH / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Spencer Leach is a third-year mechanical-engineering student at Virginia Tech. Their engineering background influences how they generate themes — for this puzzle, they used a custom bit of Python code to compare a list of homonyms against common phrases. Spencer is currently in the midst of a summer-internship search and hopes any would-be employers enjoy this puzzle!

#### ACROSS

- 1 "Let me repeat ... "
- **6** Musical speeds 11 When repeated, a cry of approval
- 15 Like many creatures in modern sci-fi movies, for short
- 18 Light wood
- 19 Cross figure
- 20 New Jersey's Sea
- \_ City 21 Spot for a shot
- 22 Spook some creatures 57 Welcomes at the door in an aquarium's touch tank?
- 24 Fiery matches?
- 26 Band with the 1994 hit "What's the Frequency, Kenneth?"
- 27 Some vocal solos
- ${\bf 28}$  In the style of **30** "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" playwright Edward
- **31** Bad material for a silk purse, proverbially
- 33 Deliver a blow to Dracula?
- 37 With "the," a sudden flip from attraction to disgust, in modern parlance
- 38 Brand whose stock price increased 50 percent in the first six months of 2020
- 40 Blooms named for their shape 41 Set of selections
- 43 "You sure?"
- 44 Before-

**ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S** PAPER...

- 45 No. calculated from letters
- 49 Went down
- Palmas, Canary Islands
- 51 Kind of history
- 52 About, on a memo
- **54** Support
- **55** "Forget it!"
- **59** Tender spots
- football game
- 64 Common pet fish
- **67** Superlative held by the Atacama Desert
- 73 Plain
- 74 Cap's place
- Manhattan or meteor
- 78 Fortitude
- 82 Airport abbr.
- 85 Nip and tuck, so to
- **86** Like some teas 88 Kind of edition with
- 89 Stadium cheer 90 Start preparing borscht?

- 47 References a Vatican
- Library source?
- a slippery slope

- 53 Certain Ivy Leaguer

- **60** Referees a Tennessee
- poorly?
- 68 "Barry" or "Ballers" 72 Stadium sounds
- **76** It might be a stretch
- 77 Suffix with
- a caffeinated soda?
- 83 Addresses online 84 Sound unit found
- in many Asian languages
- speak
- bonus tracks, perhaps

- 92 Fully commit 96 Court cry
- 97 Garnet is its birthstone: Abbr.
  - ${\bf 98} \; {\bf Sculpting} \; {\bf stuff}$ 99 Super \_\_\_\_ (GameCube
  - predecessor)
  - 101 "Bather in
  - the Woods" painter 104 Make smash
  - burgers? 108 Pretty cool stuff
  - 109 Burn a little
  - 110 Decides that one will 111 Major artery
  - 112 cha beef (Chinese dish)
  - 113 Jumped over, as a checkers piece 114 Michelangelo work whose name translates
  - to "compassion" 115 Suddenly think of

### DOWN

- 1 Letter-shaped support piece
- 2 Certain corporate department 3 Mission San Antonio
- de Valero, more familiarly 4 Neighbor of Leb.
- 5 World's oldest capital city, settled in the third millennium
- 6 Taylor Swift song that begins, "Combat, I'm ready for combat"
- 7 Makes a gaffe 8 "Mamma \_\_\_\_
  - "Gangnam Style"

- 10 Comment from
- 11 Pedal-operated
- 12 That, in Toledo
- 13 Umbrella term

- 19 Kind of seeds in a healthful smoothie 23 Footslog
- \_\_\_ Luthor, nemesis of Superman
- 32 Vintage restaurant
- items? 33 Spoil, with "on"
- **34** Git 35 "Just a little longer!"
- 36 Lauder of cosmetics 39 Do some light work on?
- 41 Barcelona museum subject
- H's on som
- 44 Actress Cravalho
- 49 Survive
- 54 Final phase of a
- 57 [Actually, don't 58 Sounds of doubt

- for eboys or goth girls
- 14 Struck out
- 15 Stealthy criminal 16 City feature that's been found to
- 17 "None for me, thanks"
- 25 Balm ingredient

- who voiced Moana
- 47 Swindle 48 Wedding-cake layer
- video game, perhaps **56** Big name in records

- someone exiting the mall on Black Friday

- improve mental health

- college houses \_-Caps (candy) 59 43 "The Lorax" setting 61 Birds known for
- their loud, complex songs **46** Doesn't just assume **62** Royal title 63 Assist in a crime
- fig jam 53 Chuck, slangily **65** Economic-justice catchphrase 66 Its water is nearly 10 times saltier than ocean water
  - 69 Animal product 70 Foreboding sign

64 Gooey pairing with

- - 71 "Impressive!" 73 Who cries, "You get a car. vou get a car!'
  - in a viral meme 74 Toy brand for a budding engineer, maybe
  - "I don't like that," in Spanish 78 Take away 79 Police captain on "Brooklyn Nine-
  - 80 Burden 81 Enthusiastic agreement

Nine'

- 84 Genre for many a boy band
- **87** GPS suggestions: Abbr. 88 Part of the D.O.J.
- 89 It's a four-letter word, aptly 90 Neighbors of the Navajos
- 91 One-named singer born in Reykjavik 93 What Ove's name was changed to for the American film adaptation of "A Man Called Ove"
- 94 Like neon
- 95 "Groovy!" 98 Sibilant summons
- 100 "South Park" boy 102 Density symbol, in engineering
  - 103 1990s Indian prime 105 Sch. in N.Y.
  - 106 Quebec's Festival ď 107 "You're accusing
    - me?!"



Photo courtesy city of Beverly Hills

The "tiny forest," stretching the size of a few tennis courts, would feature oak trees and other native plants.

#### **CULTURAL HERITAGE, from page 1**

California cities. The city's goal is to increase the canopy cover to 35% by 2040, and though the few hundred trees at Greystone won't bring this number within reach, it is a step in the right direction, Pfalzgraf said.

"The best time to plant a tree was yesterday, even if it's one," Pfalzgraf said. "If you plant one tree your canopy coverage just increased 100% at that site."

Replacing nonnative soil and plants with indigenous species, the forest will stretch across a plot of land roughly the size of a couple of tennis courts, with trees planted approximately 3 feet apart, Pfalzgraf said.

Commissioner Kimberly Vinokur asked about the tree species that will be planted. Pfalzgraf said crews will primarily plant indigenous oaks that already grow at Greystone as well as smaller scrub oaks native to Santa Clarita.

These oaks will replace many of the eucalyptus trees dotting the grounds, which shed limbs and develop weak root systems as they age, Pfalzgraf said.

In keeping with state laws around oak trees, Pfalzgraf added, "Part of this design is the understanding that we wouldn't be doing view pruning at Greystone."

Vinokur asked if this could affect the views of some of the neighboring properties, and Pfalzgraf said that because of how Greystone's grounds are graded, and because oaks grow more wide than tall, they can be planted in a tiered approach that would not obstruct nearby views.

Commissioner Josh Flagg, who used to be a docent and a junior ranger at Greystone Mansion, asked if it would be feasible to restore a waterfall that once flowed down the eastern terrace.

Phfazlgraf said there have been attempts to restore a similar water feature, and while it might be possible to incorporate a more substantial feature into the project designs, it would have to be in line with the goal of conserving water.

City staff have received a proposal to partner on the project with Moët Hennesy, part of the French conglomerate LVMH, and are considering similar projects at locations including an unused plot in the Cabrillo Reserve of the Coldwater Canyon area.

"The best part about this, I think, is

that people would be able to take a look at some aspects of this project and figure out what they can do with a small area in their backyard," Pfalzgraf added.

During the April 10 meeting, the commission also approved an updated Multi-Family Historic Districts Survey. The survey is the culmination of an intensive process, lasting more than a year, in which consultants and staff conducted multiple reviews and stakeholder meetings to determine which multi-family residences and districts could be eligible for historic status.

Of the approximately 1,400 multi-family residential properties in the city, three have been formally designated as historical, and 392 appear eligible for listing at the federal, state or local level, either individually or as contributors to a historic district, according to a staff report.

The survey found that 34 multi-family properties were individually eligible, and 20 were eligible as contributors to a historic district, and the eligible residences were generally concentrated in the southern and northeastern portions of the city.

The commission also bid adieu to their former colleague Craig Corman after he was elected to the City Council last month.

Vinokur said no one knows the Historic Preservation Ordinance better than Corman, and she concurred with Flagg that no one is more deserving and qualified for a seat on the CIty Council.

"I always enjoyed coming to this commission. You guys are a fun, fun bunch, I always learned something every time I came here," Corman said. "I'm only a few floors away. Feel free to stop by or call me anytime ... and we'll see each other again shortly," Corman said. •

## PLANNING COMMISSION, from page 5

almost two hours of deliberations and questions, and while there was ample support for the project some residents also expressed concerns that rideshares would cause congestion and the outdoor bar would cause noise impacts.

However, the commission was satisfied by hotel representatives' commitments to mitigate these concerns and voted unanimously for the project with amendments.

For the full story, read the Courier's April 19 issue. •

#### **UNTOLD STORIES, from page 5**

education and remembrance. This initiative resonates deeply within Beverly Hills, a community enriched by its vibrant Iranian American population.

The Sardari Project aims to uncover and share narratives of Iranian victims of the Holocaust. Historically, Iran has denied the Holocaust and has propagated antisemitic rhetoric among its populace. By revealing these untold stories of Iranian victims, the project illuminates the diverse backgrounds that were affected by the regime, addressing a truth that many Iranians feel has been dismissed, or even denied.

Tad Stahnke, Director of International Educational Outreach at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, emphasized the importance of acknowledging Iran's historical connection to the Holocaust and honoring the forgotten Iranian victims.

"Something often overlooked in mainstream Holocaust education is the countless Iranian victims and their stories that have yet to be told. Our mission is to collect these untold stories of Iranian victims of the Holocaust to expose the truth and educate young Iranians and beyond," he told the Courier.

Among these stories are "Anne Frank: The Graphic Biography" as well as lesser-known narratives, including the tale of "The Jolly Boys," a Polish-Jewish jazz band that found sanctuary in Iran during World War II. Additionally, the project features accounts of Polish-Jewish refugee children who were harbored in Tehran, along with the experiences of Iranian victims of the Nazis.

Presently housed within the Arolsen Archives are accounts of more than 44

Iranian victims, the majority of whom suffered imprisonment in concentration camps, forced labor and other atrocities. Among them are individuals like Aga Hassan, Toboj Magammed and Emir Farrokh Granmayeh, whose lives were permanently scarred by the horrors of Nazi rule.

Since launching in 2020, the Sardari Project has demonstrated significant success with its educational content that intertwines Iran, Iranians, and the history of the Holocaust at large. To date, the Sardari project has garnered over 13 million views across various social media platforms, primarily through IranWire, the Middle East's largest collaborative news website.

Maziar Bahari, founder of IranWire, highlighted the project's mission to confront hatred while fostering dialogue on the enduring lessons of the Holocaust.

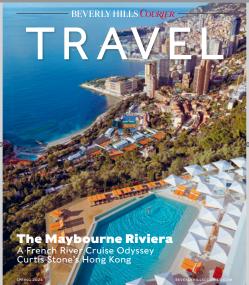
"The Islamic Republic is the only regime whose leaders regularly deny the Holocaust and invest millions of dollars every year in producing Holocaust denying and antisemitic productions," he said.

Bahari added that IranWire is the only media outlet in the Middle East to regularly produce articles, videos and other types of content about the Nazi regime and its victims.

Against a backdrop of rising antisemitism worldwide, the Sardari Project ensures that the stories of Iranian victims are not forgotten and that the lessons of the Holocaust continue to permeate across generations. By amplifying the voices of Iranian victims and survivors, they honor their memory and reaffirm the commitment to never forget. For more information visit ushmm.org and IranWire.com. •



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# **Public Notices**

#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

ORDINANCE NO. 24-O-2891

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING CHAP-TER 6 (SHARED MOBILITY DEVICES) OF TITLE 7 (TRAFFIC, PARKING, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION) OF THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE TO EXTEND THE PROHIBITION ON SHARED MOBILITY DEVICES BEING PLACED IN ANY PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY OR ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, OP-ERATED IN ANY PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY OR ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, OR OFFERED FOR USE ANYWHERE IN THE CITY, AND TO REPEAL THE SUN-SET DATE OF SUCH PROHIBITION

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS HEREBY DOES OR-DAIN AS FOLLOWS:

<u>Section 1.</u> On July 24, 2018, the City Council enacted an urgency ordinance (Ord. 18-0-2757) prohibiting for six months shared mobility devices from being placed in the public right-of-way or on public property, operated in the public right-of-way or on public property, or offered for use anywhere in the City (referred to herein as "the prohibition"). On December 18, 2018, the City Council enacted an ordinance (Ord. 18-O-2769) extending the prohibition for an additional twelve months until January 17, 2020. On November 19, 2019 the City Council enacted an ordinance (Ord. 19-O-2794) extending the prohibition for an additional twelve months until January 10, 2021.

Section 2. On March 15, 2020 the City Manager, acting as the Director of Emergency Services, enacted a local state of emergency related to the coronavirus pandemic. On December 1, 2020 the City Council enacted ordinance 20-O-2829 again extending the shared-mobility prohibition until one year after local state of emergency is ended by the latter date designated by the State of California or the City of Beverly Hills. On April 18, 2023 the City Council adopted resolution 23-R-13455 ending the local state of emergency, thus the existing ordinance sunset date is set for April 18, 2024. These extensions of the prohibition were necessary in order to address the serious safety hazards posed by the proliferation of unregulated shared mobility devices being illegally operated on the sidewalk and abandoned haphazardly on public and private property. The City remains open to exploring the feasibility of an alternative regulatory scheme or pilot project involving shared mobility devices. However, there is no pilot project or alternative regulatory scheme yet in place in the City. The City therefore intends to extend the prohibition beyond the April 18, 2024 sunset date by repealing the sunset date section.

Section 3. This Ordinance was assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. The adoption and implementation of the Ordinance would extend the current prohibition on shared mobility devices being placed in the public right-of-way or on public property, operated in the public right-of-way or on public property, or offered for use anywhere in the

#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

City. The Ordinance is exempt from the requirements of CEQA because it does not qualify as a project under CEQA and pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that continuing its current policy of prohibiting shared mobility devices from being placed in the public right-of-way or on public property, operated in the public right-of-way or on public property, or offered for use anywhere in the City will have a significant effect on the environment. The Ordinance is additionally exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c), as it involves no expansion of the use of existing facilities, a category that includes streets and sidewalks.

Section 4. The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills hereby extends the prohibition on shared mobility devices found in Chapter 6 (Shared Mobility Devices) of Title 7 (Traffic, Parking, and Public Transportation) of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code by deleting Section 7-6-5 (Sunset Provision), which is hereby re-

Section 5. Severability. If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or place, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the final decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall be and remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the City within fifteen (15) days after its passage in accordance with Section 36933 of the Government Code, shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance, and shall cause this Ordinance and this certification, together with proof of publication, to be entered in the Book of Ordinances of the Council of this City.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall go into effect and be in full force and effect at 12:01 a.m. on the thirty-first (31st) day after its passage.

Section 8. Certification. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance.

Adopted: March 18, 2024 Effective: April 18, 2024

JULIAN A. GOLD, M.D. Mayor of the City of Beverly Hills, Cali-

ATTEST: HUMA AHMED (SEAL) City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: LAURENCE S. WIENER City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT: NANCY HUNT-COFFEY City Manager

VOTE:

Councilmembers AYES: Nazarian. Bosse, Mirisch, Vice Mayor Friedman, and Mayor Gold NOES: None CARRIED

#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT **2024072773** The following is/are doing business as: LA MUSE BEVERLY HILLS

9675 HIGH RIDGE DRIVE, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210; Kazumi Hirokawa 9675 High Ridge Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: Kazumi Hirokawa, Owner; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: April 3, 2024; Published: April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 2024 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024056460 The following is/are doing business as: POLARIS PICTURES 1831 North Easterly Terrace Los Angeles, CA 90026; Jeremy Wall 1831 North Easterly Terrace, Los Angeles, CA 90026; The business is conducted by: <u>AN INDIVIDUAL</u> registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on March 2024: **Jeremy Wall, Owner.**; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: April 3, 2024; Published: March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 2024 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024064387 The following is/are doing business as: MEDIA HOME HEALTH 225 E. Broadway #111 Glendale, CA 91205; Visiting Angels Home Health Care, Inc. 225 E. Broadway #111 Glendale, CA 91205; The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION AI #ON 2842624 registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on JULY 2014: **Visiting** Angels Home Health Care, Inc., Janna Sherman, CEO; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: March 26, 2024; Published: March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 2024 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024071074 The following is/are doing business as: 1) AHER REAL ESTATE

2) JAZZY ENTERPRISE, LLC DBA: ASHER REAL ESTATE

4342 Redwood Avenue #C311 Marina Del Rey, CA 90292; Jazzy Enterprises, LLC

4342 Redwood Avenue #C311 Marina Del Rey, CA 90292; The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: Jazzy Enterprises, LLC, Paul Asher, Member; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: April 2, 2024; Published: April 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024 LACC N/C

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

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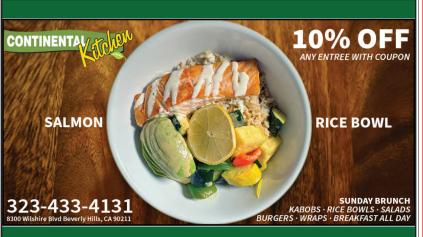
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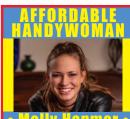
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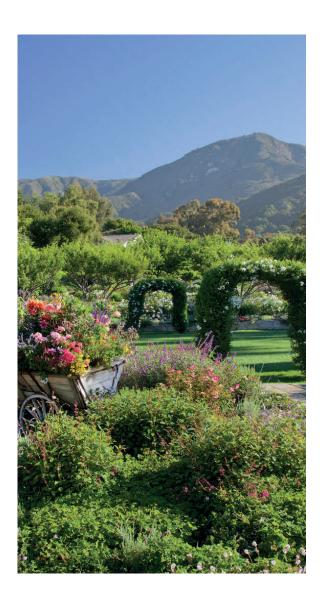
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San Ysidro Ranch, nestled in the picturesque foothills of Montecito and overlooking the Pacific Ocean, is a sanctuary of luxury and romance. This Forbes Five-Star resort, recognized as the #1 Resort Hotel in California by Travel + Leisure, offers an unparalleled experience of privacy and luxury across its 550 acres. The ranch's rich history is adorned with stories of famous guests like Winston Churchill, Groucho Marx, and John and Jackie Kennedy, adding to its legendary status. The resort provides an intimate escape with 38 vinecovered cottages, each featuring a private gated entry, garden, outdoor rainfall showers, and oversized sunken spas. The interiors boast a blend of antiques and original artworks, alongside modern comforts like king-sized beds, stone fireplaces, and Persian rugs, creating a European country-home ambiance. cozy, Culinary excellence is a cornerstone of the San Ysidro Ranch experience. Guests can enjoy allinclusive dining without additional resort

or parking fees, featuring menus that showcase the local bounty, much of which is grown onsite. The Stonehouse, located in a historic citrus packing house, offers a Wine Spectator Grand Award-winning wine list and ocean-view terrace dining. For a lively atmosphere, The Speakeasy provides a unique 1920's mixology experience, while private dining in historical settings like the Old Adobe adds to the exclusivity. The resort's Chef Matt Johnson brings a passion for Southern California flavors, further enriching the culinary offerings. In addition to the exquisite dining, the resort boasts a range of amenities and activities, including a heated swimming pool, fitness studio, nightly live music, access to private golf at Montecito Club, and the Pampered Pets Program for guests with furry companions. The resort's signature Salon & Spa offers an extensive menu of services, including unique treatments like the Lomi Lomi and Bamboo massages, alongside traditional offerings for rejuvenation and relaxation.

# SAN YSIDRO RANCH

#1 RESORT HOTEL IN CALIFORNIA

(805) 465-2196