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Issue 1156 • November 25 - December 1, 2021



Giving Thanks



**Jean Mackie and Sophia Ucer have a lot to
be thankful for this Thanksgiving**



The City of Beverly Hills Invites you to Join a

Menorah Lighting Celebration

To share the historical meaning of Hanukkah and the festival of lights
With the Beverly Hills City Council

**Tuesday, November 30, 2021
4:30 PM**

Beverly Hills City Hall
Crescent Steps - 455 N Rexford Drive
Complimentary Parking Available
450 N. Crescent Dr. and 450 N. Rexford Dr.



WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

You can write us at:
140 South Beverly Drive
#201
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

You can fax us at:
310.887.0789

email us at:
editor@bhweekly.com

letters & email

“BHUSD Contract with Blake Sidelined”

[Issue 1155]

Excellent article!
‘Twas amazed as to the influence of [BHUSD attorney] Terry Tao. It is unbelievable that he included the clause not requiring TCDS to have a license.

As to [construction manager] Don Blake citing that the price of a sheet of plywood increased from \$18 to \$100, that reflects, as a “bond manager,” his ineptitude to either negotiate a fixed price on materials or use the futures market to lock-in a price for materials.

And being two years behind on El Rodeo? How did the construction schedule more than double?

It seems that Don Blake should be paying the district, not the other way around.

**Steve Mayer
Beverly Hills**

“Bike Lanes”

Susan Mishler [“Letters”, Issue #1155] does not speak for the many residents of Beverly Hills who would love to see a more bike-friendly city. As the recent suc-



SNAPSHOT



**THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!
RODEO DRIVE**

(L to R): Councilmembers Julian Gold and Lili Bosse, Mayor Robert Wunderlich, and Councilmembers John Mirisch and Lester Friedman at the Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Ceremony.



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OUR DATA SPEAKS
VOLUMES



cess of the restaurant parklets has demonstrated, using some of our precious public street space for things other than parking and the movement of cars can bring new vitality to our city. And look no further than our neighbors, Santa Monica or Culver City, to see that cities are moving away from car-centric streets.

As a resident of southwest Beverly Hills, I cycle daily for both exercise and transportation. My wife, who has a pediatric practice in Beverly Hills, would love to make her daily commute by bike, but does not feel safe on our car-clogged streets. We need to build real bike infrastructure to make cycling feel safe for residents of all ages and abilities. Convenient bike parking would also make shopping in our local businesses and eating in our Beverly Hills restaurants easy and convenient.

Having lived in several other cities where the car is not the only option to get around, we know a less car-dependent lifestyle is both healthier and a lot more fun.

Jason Neidleman
Nicole Nourmand MD
Beverly Hills

I am writing to support the City's intent to pursue more dedicated bike lanes in Beverly Hills. Part of the City's approved Complete Streets Plan proposes protected bike lanes connecting our parks, schools and shopping areas. This is not an easy task since so much of our current space is dominated by cars, which makes riding a bike dangerous. It is easy to say that it can't be done, and that there are not enough people who ride bikes to make it worthwhile. But this is simply untrue; visitors to Paris have seen a city very quickly transformed to be a quieter, safer, and easier to navigate place with its many new added bike lanes. If they can do it, why can't Beverly Hills?

There are (at least) three excellent reasons why we cannot let our streets continue to be dominated by cars:

Safety. When cars rule the roads our streets often become pseudo highways, where speeding is the norm. Redesigned public streets with infrastructure for other modalities—cyclists, pedestrians, and public transit—are safer for everyone—including drivers—because they calm the traffic down.

The climate change crisis is real and urgent. We need to encourage people to use other modes of transport that do not contribute to the warming and pollution of our city (and the planet). Young, and old alike are concerned about the future of our planet and want to live in vibrant, walkable, bikeable areas that are not car-dependent. The world is moving in this direction, and so should Beverly Hills.

The subway is coming. Like it or not, in a few years we will have two subway stops in Beverly Hills, and residents and visitors will need a way to get there by ways other than by car. Cycling is an ideal solution to the last mile issue.

The reasons to support bike mobility in our city are many: a boon to public health, cleaner air and quieter streets, budget-friendly transportation, fast trips, higher property values, independence for

our youngest residents, and fun.

Alissa Roston
Beverly Hills

There are many of the city residents, especially the younger generation, who would love to see a more multi-mobility city.

We live in the Southeast part of Beverly Hills and in a couple of years our sons will be students at Beverly High.

They plan to ride their bikes to school. We hope that they will have friends who will join them. What a shame that so many of our students are driven to our local schools because they or their parents don't feel it is safe to cycle on our residential streets!

As far as we are concerned, the city can't build protected bike lanes on Charleville and/or Gregory fast enough!

Ran Geller
Beverly Hills

briefs

Retail Storefronts Windows Smashed

The Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) is investigating two overnight attempted burglaries that occurred in the 200 block of North Rodeo Drive and the 9600 block of Wilshire Blvd that took place on Sunday.

Multiple suspects traveling in several vehicles descended on the locations and used a sledgehammer to try to break through front windows of Louis Vuitton and Saks Fifth Avenue.

No entry was made in both cases and BHPD Detectives are investigating this matter.

According to the BHPD, Beverly Hills Police units supported by armed private security have increased patrol in the area.

"Very little is known outside of this, but BHPD Detectives are still gathering video surveillance from the area," Lieutenant Gio Trejo said.

BHPD is also monitoring reports from neighboring communities regarding an increase in "follow-home robberies."

The department routinely monitors all residential neighborhoods with the added assistance of private security companies.

The BHPD wants to remind citizens to always remain aware of their surroundings and report any suspicious activity immediately. If you believe you are being followed, please call 911 and drive over to the Police Department at 464 North Rexford Drive. The BHPD urged residents not to engage or confront anyone who you suspect may be following you.

City Council Discusses South Crescent Permit Zone

At their Nov. 16 meeting the City Council discussed a recommendation from the Traffic and Parking Commission to approve a resolution modifying Preferential Parking Permit Zone "Q" on the 200 block of South Crescent Drive between Charleville Boulevard and Gregory Way with a regulation that states "No Parking Any-



Installation of the Newly Selected Provisional Board Appointee

(L to R): Noah Margo, Dr. Michael Bregy, Mandy Stern, Gabriel Halimi, Eli Ramer, Mary Wells, and Rachele Marcus.

Newly appointed Board Member Gabriel Halimi was sworn in as the new Board of Education Member on Nov. 16.

time, Permit 'Q' Exempt."

On Feb. 6, 2020, the Traffic and Parking Commission reviewed a resident-initiated preferential parking permit (PPP) zone modification petition signed by 66% (25 of 38) of the households on the 200 block of South Crescent Drive.

The petition has requested modifying the existing permit regulation of "1-Hour Parking, 8 a.m. to 2:30 a.m., Daily, Permit 'Q' Exempt" to "No Parking Anytime, Permit 'Q' Exempt," to address commuter parking impacts from businesses, traffic impacts from Beverly Vista Middle School and driveway ingress/egress issues.

City staff recommended the Council approve the petition because 65% of the block residents requested the modification, similar PPP zones modifications on the adjacent 200 and 300 single-family blocks of South Cañon Drive were previously approved, the impacts from changing Beverly Vista School to a middle school and to create consistent parking regulations throughout.

According to the staff report, the 200 block of South Crescent Drive has 38 single-family homes with about 67 on-street parking spaces.

In April of 2019, the parking regulations in the adjacent 200 and 300 blocks of South Cañon Drive were modified from "1-Hour Parking" to "No Parking Anytime." The residents petitioned and were approved for a speed hump, with installation scheduled this calendar year pending availability of materials.

On Jan. 20 the city conducted a parking occupancy survey on the 200 block of South Crescent Drive from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

On average, 30% of the on-street spaces were occupied during the 12-hour survey period, with peak-hour occupancy of 42% recorded at 1:00 p.m.

A concentration of vehicles was observed on the north end of the street block. Between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m., city staff also observed vehicles parked and student pick-ups on the street block during the dismissal time for Beverly Vista Middle

School.

City staff also conducted random spot counts on Jan. 15 and 16 several times of the day and found an average of 21 vehicles were parked on the 200 block South Crescent Drive.

Similar observations were also found from doing spot counts after the return to in-person classes.

"Is it really a problem that can be resolved by more restrictive parking, or by enforcement by what we have already? Is more restricted parking really the solution? The status quo is one hour parking. There already is restrictive parking in place," said Mayor Robert Wunderlich.

Some public comments referred to employees of the school parking for longer than allowed and shoppers overstaying the one hour limit.

"That would be prohibited by the existing restrictions on that street. If those existing restrictions were enforced that would not be a problem. And making it even more restrictive, making it no parking, unless that's enforced, that would not be a solution," said Wunderlich.

The Council will revisit this matter at a future study session.

Residents Voice Concerns Over Proposed Changes at Virginia Robinsons Gardens

At the Nov. 16 City Council meeting many residents called in to voice concerns they had over proposed changes to Virginia Robinsons Gardens that the county is looking into.

The Virginia Robinsons Gardens is located at 1008 Elden Way.

The county is at the very beginning of the review process for the proposed changes and they have indicated that they intend to prepare a supplemental environmental impact report.

The Virginia Robinson Gardens is a historic estate that was built in 1911. It was once the residence of retail giants Virginia and Harry Robinson and is the first luxury estate built in Beverly Hills.

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briefs cont. from page 3

A virtual community meeting was held on Nov. 15 to discuss the proposed operational modifications at the Virginia Robinson Gardens. These changes are intended to allow greater public access to the facility, however, many neighbors believe it will have a negative impact.



Virginia Robinsons Gardens

Most of the property is under county jurisdiction and not under the authority of Beverly Hills. In terms of land use, the city does not have much say on what goes on.

Some residents mentioned how the county was proposing these changes to help serve underprivileged people and criticized how these changes would only benefit affluent people.

The proposed project would not include any demolition or construction on the property, but rather a change in the operation of the facility. Specifically, keeping the facility open seven days a week and changing the hours for public use to 9:30 a.m. to sunset. The number of patrons in attendance will increase up to 200 visitors per day. In addition to existing events, the county will also consider family ceremonies such as weddings and increase the number of special uses from four to 24 special use events a year.

The city is planning on bringing an information item regarding this matter to the Council in Dec.

BHUSD Facilities and Construction Committee Discusses Blake Contract

At their Nov. 17 meeting the Facilities and Construction Committee discussed the proposed contract with Don Blake's Team Concept Development Services (TCDS).

The committee members were split between whether or not they should move forward with a legitimate discussion regarding the contract.

Committee members Ori Blumenfeld and Howard Goldstein did not want to discuss the TCDS contract stating that it would be "giving a legal opinion." Both Goldstein and Blumenfeld are lawyers.

Committee members Terri Kaplan and Donna Tryfman wanted to move forward with the discussion. Tryfman is also an attorney.

Kaplan was able to read her observations during the meeting but there was not enough time for Tryfman to read hers.

Committee member Jake Manaster left the meeting shortly after it began and did not come back prior to this agenda item being discussed, making the vote 2-2.

Goldstein is a former Board of Education member who approved the original contract with Blake.

Setian Charitable Foundation Tree Planting Ceremony To Take Place Dec. 5

To commemorate their 15th anniversary, The Vahagn Setian Charitable Foundation

will be having a tree planting ceremony at Roxbury Park on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 9 a.m.

Roxbury Park is located at 471 South Roxbury Drive.

The City Council also approved a request for a landscape boulder and plaque in recognition of a donation made in memory of Vahagn Setian, by the Vahagn Setian Charitable Foundation, at their Nov. 16 meeting.

Planning Commission Approve Time Extension for a Development Plan Review and In Lieu Parking

At their Nov. 18 meeting the Planning Commission approved a request for a one-year Time Extension for a Development Plan Review that was previously approved and In Lieu Parking to allow the construction of a new three-story commercial building and participation in the In Lieu



FIDF Holds Event Nov. 6

(L to R): Western Region Executive Director, Jenna Griffin, Young Leadership Board Member Shardae Hanookai, and Young Leadership Board Member Chantly Geoulla attended an event hosted by Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) on Nov. 6. FIDF is a non-political, non-military organization that provides for the wellbeing of the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), veterans and families.

Parking Program for 44 parking spaces. Cartier is the tenant of the building, which is located at 370 North Rodeo Drive.

The applicant was originally approved for the entitlements on Aug. 9, 2018, and is valid for three years unless it is extended.

The commission can grant up to two



Rendition of Cartier Project

one-year extensions if an application is made at least 30 days before the expiration of the time limit.

The applicant filed a request to extend the expiration date of the approved entitlements to Aug. 9, 2022.

The project includes the demolition of an existing two-story commercial building and the construction of a new three-story commercial building, which includes an outdoor terrace area on a portion of the third floor and a partial basement.

Human Relations Commission Approve Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Awareness Initiative

At their Nov. 18 meeting the Humans Relations Commission unanimously ap-

briefs cont. on page 7



SUMMARY NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS RENUMBERING EXISTING ARTICLE 5 (CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM) OF CHAPTER 1 (CITY UTILITY SERVICES) OF TITLE 6 (UTILITIES AND FRANCHISES) OF THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE TO ARTICLE 6 (CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM), ADDING NEW ARTICLE 5 (MANDATORY ORGANIC WASTE DISPOSAL REDUCTION) TO CHAPTER 1 (CITY UTILITIES SERVICES) OF TITLE 6 (UTILITIES AND FRANCHISES) OF THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER CEQA

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at a telephonic/video conference meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the City Council of the City of Beverly Hills will consider adopting an Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance of the City of Beverly Hills Renumbering Existing Article 5 (Cross Connection Control Program) of Chapter 1 (City Utility Services) of Title 6 (Utilities and Franchises) of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to Article 6 (Cross Connection Control Program), Adding New Article 5 (Mandatory Organic Waste Disposal Reduction) to Chapter 1 (City Utilities Services) of Title 6 (Utilities and Franchises) of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code, and Making a Determination of Exemption under CEQA." Live City Council meeting coverage will be available via BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable and webcast live at www.beverlyhills.org/live.


A summary of this Ordinance follows:

The Ordinance renumbers an existing Article 5 (Cross Connection Control Program) of Chapter 1 of Title 6 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to Article 6.

The Ordinance also adds a new Article 5 to Chapter 1 of Title 6 the Beverly Hills Municipal Code entitled "Mandatory Organic Waste Disposal Reduction." The Ordinance will be effective and amendments to the Municipal Code will become operative thirty (30) days after its passage. Pursuant to Senate Bill 1383 ("SB 1383"), the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery ("CalRecycle") developed regulations ("SB 1383 Regulations") to reduce organics in landfills as a source of methane. The SB 1383 Regulations impose requirements on cities to adopt and enforce an ordinance to implement relevant provisions of the SB 1383 Regulations. As such, this Ordinance adopts requirements for (1) mandatory organic waste disposal reductions for single-family, multi-family, and commercial business organic waste generators, (2) commercial edible food generators, (3) food recovery organizations and services, (4) haulers (including self-haulers and haulers that are solid waste enterprises), facility operators, and community composting organizations, (5) direct service providers and vendors regarding recovered organic waste product procurement, and (6) inspections, investigations, and enforcement by the City.

You may contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 285-2400 or by email at cityclerk@beverlyhills.org to receive a copy of the Ordinance by email or to make an appointment to review the Ordinance at City Hall located at 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 during regular business hours. For specific questions regarding the Ordinance, please contact **James Burnley, Solid Waste Manager at (310) 285-2467 or by email at AskPW@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 Disabilities Act ("ADA") please contact (310) 285-2400 or (310) 285-6881 (TTY) preferably 24-hours prior to the meeting for assistance.

proved a quarterly speaker series entitled, Critical Conversations, in regards to their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiative.

This series is meant to be a catalyst to facilitate discussions directly linked to DEI issues in an effort to enhance community awareness.

Some topics that were discussed are: how to integrate DEI in everyday life; the difference between diversity and inclusion; and awareness of unconscious bias.

One speaker the commission has been talking to is Frederick Joseph, who is the author of *The Black Friend*.

The first speaker series is expected to kick off in Feb.

Human Relations Commission Discusses 2022 Kindness Week

At their Nov. 18 meeting the Human Relations Commission discussed possible plans for Kindness Week that will take place from Feb. 13 until Feb. 19.

In prior years, Library staff has been active in facilitating Kindness Week activities. These activities have included the curation of kindness-themed literature and digital media, movie screenings, Baby Story Time, and commissioners reading books about kindness to preschoolers.

Last year, Leon Logothetis, who is the author of *Go be Kind* and *The Kindness Diaries*, provided a virtual keynote address about the power of kindness. The Commission also distributed Celebrate Kindness pins to members of the community and promoted various kindness challenges through the Community Services Department's social media channels. Community partners such as Beverly Hills Active Adult Club and Miracle Project also provided programming in relation to kindness week.

The commission proposed having ambassadors identify random acts of kindness throughout the community and have the people committing the acts of kindness participate in a raffle as a reward.

The commission will continue the discussion at a future meeting.

Architectural Commission Approve Saint Laurent Modification

At their Nov. 17 meeting the Architectural Commission approved an architectural review to allow a construction barricade with lifestyle graphics for Saint Laurent, located at 328 North Rodeo Drive.

The commission had conditionally approved an architectural review to allow facade modifications and a sign accommodation for multiple business identification signs and a construction barricade on Oct. 20.

The applicant requested to modify the previously approved architectural review to allow a construction barricade with lifestyle graphics for the tenant.

According to the staff report, the construction barricade is engaging with graphics that are representative of the brand and will help to activate the site during the installation of previously approved improvements for the site.

Board Approves Indoor and Outdoor Wireless Installation with CovergeOne and LAN Drop at Beverly High

At their Tuesday meeting the Board of Education approved indoor and outdoor wireless installation with CovergeOne and LAN Drop at Beverly High.

The Information Technology Department requested approval for an additional six wireless access points for the Konheim Building.

ConvergeOne has provided four quotes in the amounts of: \$10,629, \$2,229, \$3,826 and \$4,960.

These access points will provide wireless access in the 2nd-floor gyms where there is currently no access to the internet and will increase access outdoors midfield



“Great Gatsby” Playwright Lauds Beverly Production

Playwright Simon Levy (center) spoke with the Beverly High cast on his play *The Great Gatsby*. Levy said it took him many years to convince the F. Scott Fitzgerald estate to let him adapt the play. Levy told the cast he has seen many high school productions of his show, and “Beverly High was the best.”

along the south wall of the Konheim.

In building A, a special education services conference office and room have been added in Room A216. Two access points will also be installed along with a two-port drop for printer and telephone connections. The project includes conduit, wiring, and access points, and LAN drop (labor and installation).

The cost of the project is a total of \$21,645 which will be paid for by Measure BH funds.

Board Approves PowerStore Upgrade Purchase from Dell technologies at the District Data Center

At their Tuesday meeting the Board of Education approved a purchase for a PowerStore upgrade from Dell technologies at the district Data Center.

The Information Technology Department is increasing the storage capacity of the current PowerStore storage platform to allow for a full secondary backup of the current file, print, and application servers.

This increase is meant to ensure the district has a secondary backup to restore from in the event the primary backup appliance fails.

A quote was received from Dell Technologies for \$23,607. The quote includes the necessary equipment, installation, and professional services needed for the full installation.

Fees for this upgrade will be funded using the technology budget in Measure BH.

Beverly Hills Bar Association Announces Toy And Clothes Drive

The Beverly Hills Bar Association (BHBA) Barristers has announced their 2021 toys and clothes drive for clients of Inner City Visions, a 501(c)(3) providing at-risk and exploited youth in South Los Angeles with social services.

The drive received an in-kind donation of hundreds of items from Mattel including games for recipients of all ages as part of their annual Global Gift of Play.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties' Probate Real Estate Division, The Sanborn Team, committed to doubling impact by matching all dona-

tions made through the Amazon List, up to \$500.

Anyone can purchase toys and clothes to be delivered directly to Inner City Visions here: <https://amzn.to/3ny4AHT>.

Inner City Visions will host a distribution event the third week in Dec. to give the toys and clothes to families in need.

“We are enormously grateful to Mattel for its very generous donation that will brighten holidays for many families. We also very much appreciate The Sanborn Team's matching pledge that will double the first \$500 of purchases from our members and friends through the Amazon list. BHBA's Barristers—our young lawyers division—do a year-end charitable project annually, and to see the impact increased this year so significantly by the generosity of friends in the business community is wonderful,” Executive Director of the Beverly Hills Bar Association Belinda Macauley said.

For more information visit <https://inner-cityvisions.org/>.

Felder and The Wallis Present Seven World Premiere Live Streamed Musical Films

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has announced seven



Scene from *Dante in Florence*; Hershey Felder (*Dante*) and Olivia Merchant (*Gemma Donati*).

world premiere live streamed musical films produced by Hershey Felder Presents –

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EVERYTHING IS ON THE LINES

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-Kenny H

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coverstory

GIVING THANKS

Jean Mackie and Sophia Ucer have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving

By Danielle Berjikian

KIDNEY CRUSADER

Theatre 40 actress Jean Mackie thought she would be donating a kidney to her friend. When she found out she was not a match, she ended up donating it to a stranger at Phoenix Mayo on Nov. 2.



Jean Mackie

Mackie did what is called “pairing” which occurs when a kidney donor is incompatible with their preferred recipient but does match another person in the database. Because she donated her kidney to a stranger, her friend was also able to receive a kidney from another donor.

Mackie was paired with a recipient within three hours of being in the database. However, days before she went to Mayo for her surgery, she got a call informing her that her donee had gotten terribly sick and she was not able to do the surgery. They quickly found her another match.

“It feels even better because I got to help two people. And I find it rather exciting who that other person is. And my

friend finds it rather exciting who she got a kidney from,” Mackie said.

Mackie was not at all reluctant to give her kidney to a stranger and hopes to meet her recipient one day.

When people at Mayo asked her why she was donating a kidney she informed them that this was not even close to the hardest thing she has had to do. She said this was a “walk in the park” compared to giving up her addiction to alcohol.

“I’m in recovery for alcoholism. Seventeen years ago I was intervened by my family and I felt like I was kicked out of an airplane. I was being asked to give away the one thing that I thought I could at least make me feel ok about myself. Truth is, it was the best day of my life. My life is grand because I have been in recovery for 17 years,” Mackie said.

Throughout her whole experience, Mackie was not nervous.

“The hardest part for me was actually telling my friend, because for me to pull out would have created so much shame,” Mackie said.

Mackie is recuperating well.

“It’s just a couple of days that you’re really sore. I was even walking the first day, very slow, very hunched over. But it hasn’t even been two weeks yet. I have zero pain. I am definitely tired at times because my one kidney is doing the job of two and kind of learning how to do that,” Mackie said.

Her boyfriend, former Public Works Commissioner Steve Weinglass, has been very supportive of her decision.

This Thanksgiving Mackie is very grateful for this experience.

“Several doctors messaged me saying ‘this is life transforming’ they said you’re actually allowing a person to have a normal life by doing this. There’s just no price tag you can put on it. There’s

no check you can write large enough that would compare to the feeling it is. One of the biggest things is I can’t get over how easy this was for me to do. You know I should have been kind of nervous, and I just wasn’t,” Mackie said.

Mackie was honored at the Beverly Hills Rotary Club on Nov. 15.

Thanks to Rhoda Sharp for telling us about Mackie and her incredible story.

COURAGEOUS KID

On Nov. 7 ten-year-old Sophia Ucer, who is a fifth grader at Hawthorne Elementary School, was brought to the Cedars-Sinai Emergency Department thinking she had appendicitis, turns out she had an infected kidney stone which led to sepsis in her bloodstream.

“In the morning I woke up and my side started hurting, so we went to the hospital. We thought it was appendicitis but it



(L to R): Sophia Ucer, and brother Max Ucer

turns out it was a kidney stone and it got infected. I had to stay in the hospital for a week,” Sophia said.

She went through an Ultrasound, CT Scan, and lots of blood work to try to determine the problem. The doctor determined she had an infection and needed to be admitted for treatment. She was scheduled for emergency surgery the next morning at 2:00 a.m. They placed a stent to help drain the infected kidney. The stent came out on Nov. 16 along with the kidney stone.

Sophia said the hardest part about

UPDATE ON PAST PARTICIPANTS:

Stephanie Ordaz was interviewed in 2016’s “Giving Thanks” Issue #895. She has since moved to Denver and found a new pain management doctor at UHealth who has helped a lot with her chronic illness. She recently got a second round of trigger point injections (TPI) in her back. The first round was in her lumbar spine and the second round was in her cervical spine. “LET ME TELL YOU: I have not felt relief from trigger point injections in YEARS. I remember what it’s like to have mobility in my back and neck. Not to mention I was lucky enough to find a pain management doctor that will do more than just throw pills at me,” Ordaz said. She said she was giving up on medicine but said all she needed to do was find a healthcare team and advocate a little bit harder. She now works at the Immersive Van Gogh exhibit.

Angelina Mattos, who lost her tongue to cancer, and was profiled in 2014’s “Giving Thanks” Issue #791 is currently planning her wedding. Her son will be turning six and her daughter will be turning four, both in Dec. She is working as a full time security coordinator for In-N-Out Burger and has been with the company for 12 years. She is also going to start school in the new year to become a LVN.

her experience was the pain and nausea she felt. After surgery, she could not eat or drink for four days. She was able to cheer herself up by looking at the art in the hospital.

“The art was really pretty. My mom and I would go on walks and see the art. It was fun,” Sophia said.

Her mom Caroline Ucer says Sophia is very grateful to the team of doctors and nurses who helped save her life and for her new love of art. Sophia misses the team of doctors and nurses she had checking on her regularly and her art walks, but overall has a lot to be thankful for.

“I am grateful for being healthy again,” Sophia said.

Sophia is looking forward to seeing her friends again once she has fully recovered.

briefs cont. from page 5

Live From Florence, including Dante and Beatrice in Florence, Mozart and Figaro in Vienna, The Verdi Fiasco, The Assembly, Chopin in Paris, The Crazy Widow of

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Moses de Leon, and a musical surprise for holiday time.

Hershey Felder Presents – Live From Florence’s 2021/2022 season of

new musical and dramatic films are produced in Europe and broadcast for audiences in America by Hershey Felder and his broadcasting company.

The production company has expanded beyond its home base in Florence, Italy, with a season of new musical and dramatic stories set and filmed in Vienna, Paris, Warsaw, Venice, and Avila.

The season follows the Live From Florence’s 2020/2021 Season, which featured eight streaming productions that employed over 300 artists. The productions sold more than 56,000 tickets and distributed over \$1.5 million to U.S. and international arts institutions.

Dante in Florence, premieres Nov. 28 and is about poet, Dante Alighieri, and

his muse, Beatrice; Mozart and Figaro in Vienna, premieres Jan. 9; The Verdi Fiasco, premiering March 27 and is about the opening night of Verdi’s immortal La Traviata; The Assembly, premiering May 29 and features the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts and tells the real-life story of Holocaust survivor Eva Libitzky’s visit to diverse urban schools and the events that subsequently occurred; Chopin in Paris, premiering Aug. 7 and is adapted from Felder’s critically acclaimed play Monsieur Chopin about the music and life of Polish Pianist-composer Fryderyk Chopin; The Crazy Widow (of Moses de Leon), premieres Oct. 16 and is set in Avila, Spain, focuses on 13th century Jewish mysticism that is the basis for the

Kabbalah; and a musical surprise for holiday time, premiering Dec. 18, 2022, will have its subject decided on by viewers who purchase a World Premiere Pass.

Felder created the Live From Florence film studio in Tuscany in order to support artists during challenging times. Proceeds from the first season of productions benefited theatres and arts organizations, such as The Wallis, that have been Felder’s artistic homes in the U.S., as well as additional U.S. and international institutions.

For more information or to purchase the World Premiere Pass or single tickets, call (310) 746-4000 or visit TheWallis.org/HFSeason.

--Briefs Compiled by Danielle Berjikian



BHHS Basketball Player Signs Letter of Intent

By Steven Herbert

Forward Jac Mani has become the first Beverly High boys' basketball player to sign a letter of intent to accept a college scholarship while playing for the Normans since Chance Comanche signed with Arizona in 2014, according to Normans coach Jarvis Turner.

The 6-foot-9-inch Mani said he chose UC Davis over the seven other schools that offered him scholarships because "they wanted me the most, they cared for me the most."



Jac Mani

"I felt I fit perfectly in their system," Mani said. "The coach had a lot to do with it too. They were in contact with me every day. Coach (Jim) Les came to my house a couple times."

Mani also made visits to the University of Denver, University of Montana and an unofficial visit to UC Riverside, who had all offered him a scholarship. He said he also received scholarship offers from the University of Portland, Cal Poly, Howard and Bradley.

Turner said he "reached out to quite a few schools" on Mani's behalf "but Jac also had some interest generated from him playing travel ball but what really provided a great opportunity for him was" June's Section 7 tournament in Phoenix the Normans played in.

Turner called Mani "a very skilled and very talented big man" with "a natural feel and understanding for the game" and "a high basketball acumen."

Les said Mani "has a rare combination of size and skill that will allow him to be an impact player at UC Davis for years to come."

"We have watched him grow as a player and believe he has the drive and ability to continue to improve on an already impressive skill set," said Les, who has coached

the Aggies since 2011 after coaching at his alma mater Bradley from 2002-11. Les played in the NBA from the 1988-89 through 1994-95 seasons, including six games with the Clippers in the 1989-90 season.

Les said one reason he offered Mani a scholarship was that "he possesses the type of personality and character that we look for in the young men we recruit."

"I have no doubt he will have a positive impact when he arrives," Les said after Mani signed his letter of intent Nov. 11.

Mani attended Pressman Academy until eighth grade, spent his first two years of high school at Milken Community School, then transferred to Beverly High in part because of Turner.

"I knew that he would help me the most, help me to reach where I wanted to reach," Mani said.

Another reason was "I have a good chance of winning something at Beverly High," Mani said.

A difference between the schools is "they care more about sports at Beverly," Mani said.

"The teams you play at Beverly are more competitive than teams you play against at Milken," Mani said.

Boys' Basketball

Beverly Hills 72, Oakwood 43

Mani had 25 points and 13 rebounds and junior point guard Jameson Caruso had 24 points and eight assists as the Normans opened the season with a victory over the Gorillas in a nonleague game at

the Swim-Gym.

Beverly Hills 72, Hamilton 54

Mani, Jameson and Alex Nokes all scored in double figures as the shorthanded Normans won an intersectional game at the Swim-Gym Friday.

Beverly Hills played without one starter for nearly the entire game after he sustained a high ankle sprain in the opening five minutes while a reserve was not able to play because he was in a class with a student who tested positive for the coronavirus.

"We didn't have quite the depth that we wanted to have but the guys were able to rally together," Turner said.

Girls' Soccer

Beverly High is scheduled to open its 2021-22 season by playing host to Windward Monday at 3 p.m. and Brentwood Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at Nickoll Field in nonleague games.

Boys' Soccer

Beverly High is scheduled to open its 2021-22 season Tuesday with a 5 p.m. nonleague game at Brentwood and playing host to Windward Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Nickoll Field in nonleague games.

Steven Herbert has covered Beverly Hills High School sports for Beverly Hills Weekly since 1999. He has also covered college and professional sports for the Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post. He can be reached at (786) 201-2460 or by email at stvherbert@aol.com.

Festival of Lights

Holiday Lights and Décor
November 18, 2021 - January 1, 2022

For more info, visit beverlyhills.org/holidaysbh
#HolidaysBH #OnlyOnRodeo #LoveBevHills

CH City Hall	HD Holiday Décor	S Santa with Reindeer & Sleigh	P Parking
CT Christmas Tree Display	M Menorah Display	VC Visitor Center	
GR Glowing Reeds Audio & Light Show	RD Rodeo Drive Holiday Helpers Décor	W The Wallis	

detention&arrestsummary

Beverly Hills Weekly received the information that appears below from the Beverly Hills Police Department. This information is released each week to the public. We assume no responsibility for errors or omissions in the Detention and Arrest Summary.

ARUTYUNYAN, HOVANES, 28, arrested on 11/12/21 for theft or driving of vehicle, and having an outside felony warrant.

JACKSON, TAJUANA, RENEE, 34, arrested on 11/13/21 for driving unlicensed upon highway, and having expired registration.

HOLMES, KYLE, DARVEL, 31, arrested

on 11/14/21 for resisting, delaying or obstructing any public officer, peace officer or emergency medical technician, battery use of force or violence upon another, and remove, destroy or damage wireless equipment to prevent someone calling for help.

WHITE, CRAIG, JUSTIN, 35, arrested on 11/13/21 for possession of drug paraphernalia.

KUTZNER, BRITTANY, ALEKSANDRA, 35, arrested on 11/14/21 for possession of drug paraphernalia, destroying

arrests cont. on page 10



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The Beverly Hills City Council and the Beverly Hills Police Department invite you to join us for the Swearing-In of

CHIEF OF POLICE



MARK G. STAINBROOK


TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021
3:30PM

BEVERLY HILLS CITY HALL
Crescent Steps ~ 455 N. Rexford Dr.

Complimentary Parking Available
450 N. Crescent Dr. and 450 N. Rexford Dr.

This event can be watched live at [BeverlyHills.org/Live](https://www.beverlyhills.org/Live)

wellness 

wednesdays

Join Mayor Bob Wunderlich for 'Wellness Wednesdays,' a Mayoral Initiative that aims to inspire community members to get outside and participate in exercise classes, enjoy wholesome food options from local businesses and incorporate wellness into their lives.

Latin Sizzle

*The class will be held indoors; per LA County Department of Public Health protocols, masks will be required.

12-1-21 at 8 a.m.
Roxbury Park

(Meet in front of the Community Center)
471 S Roxbury Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90212



[beverlyhills.org/wellnesswednesdays](https://www.beverlyhills.org/wellnesswednesdays) | Questions can be directed to 310-285-1014 | #BHHealthyCity

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE
(Division 6 of the Commercial Code)
Escrow No. 67485-HH
(1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described
(2) The name and business addresses of the seller are: NEW ADVENTURES ALLIANCE CORPORATION, 8149 SANTA MONICA BLVD., WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046
(3) The location in California of the chief

executive office of the Seller is: SAME AS ABOVE
(4) The names and business address of the Buyer(s) are: KIBUM SONG AND TAEYEON SONG, 3822 FREDONIA DR., LOS ANGELES, CA 90068
(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT, TRADE-NAME, GOODWILL, LEASE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, AND COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE of that certain business located at: 8149 SANTA MONICA BLVD., WEST

HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046
(6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said location is: POSTAL CENTER AND MORE
(7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is DECEMBER 17, 2021 at the office of: UNITED ESCROW CO, 3440 WILSHIRE BLVD, #600, LOS ANGELES, CA 90010, Escrow No. 67485-HH, Escrow Officer: HARRY HWANG
(8) Claims may be filed with Same as "7" above
(9) The last day for filing claims is: DECEMBER 16, 2021.

(10) This Bulk Sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.
(11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE.
Dated: NOVEMBER 18, 2021
TRANSFEREES: KIBUM SONG AND TAEYEON SONG
ORD-692740 BEVERLY HILLS WEEKLY 11/25/21

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115-CEMETERY

Hollywood Hills Mt. Sinai Cemetery. Located in Maimonides section. Rare find in sold out section. Endowment and transfer fees included. \$18,000 obo. (818) 515-8345

Hollywood Forever Cemetery 2 plots in mausoleum. Garden of Israel-Tier B True Companion. Crypt B-46. Current value as of 6-1-19 \$16,500 (normally \$33,000, 50% discount) I will pay the transfer fee of \$1,500. (Live forever with the Hollywood stars). Call 310-228-8534

Mount Sinai Hollywood Hills. 2 plots side by side located in Maimonides section Endowment and Transfer Fees included \$ 36,000. Sold out

section near the entrance and a large tree. 818-585-0810

Pierce Brothers Valhalla in North Hollywood (Eye Level Side by Side) Mausoleums - 1 Single and 1 Double Deep. Spaces Only. Asking \$18,000 (949) 324-9665

Mt Sinai Hollywood - 2 plots in sold out Moses 25. Priced way below market! Call or text 805-300-1936

Pacific View Memorial Park, Corona del Mar Meadownlawn South, Plot 179-F (eligible to convert to double depth). Plot is adjacent to friend and veteran captain of John Wayne's yacht. \$16,000, (907) 903-5497 or 1bigdoggie@gmail.com.

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Every single transaction completed with my office has resulted in direct donations made to our communities or charitable organizations nominated by our clients including: The LA Food Bank, The Red Cross, Tower Cancer Research Foundation, Susan G. Komen Foundation, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Haven Hills, Give Back Homes, and several animal rescue organizations.

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