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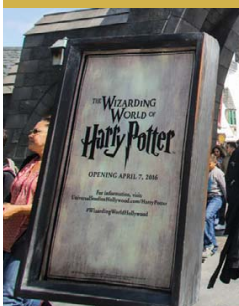
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Up Front



This man thinks he's sewn up a path out of homelessness. **PAGE 3**

News & Analysis



NBCUniversal expects Harry Potter won't muggle up business. **PAGE 6**

Exec Office



How one office design stands for comfort. **PAGE 48**

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Neighborhood Watched: Benedict Canyon residents Bob Schlesinger, left, Judy Winick and Nickie Miner. Development site is at center rear.

PHOTO: RINGO H.W. CHIU/LA8

Shut Out

Megamansion plan axed amid neighbor pushback

By **DAINA BETH SOLOMON** Staff Reporter

PLANS for a house bigger than Hearst Castle that was to rise on a weed-covered slope in Benedict Canyon have gone by the wayside, withdrawn in the wake of community and government pressure.

At more than 80,000 square feet of floor space, the project's proposed size raised alarms that it

would have dwarfed nearby homes, endangered wildlife, and clogged streets with trucks during a lengthy construction process. Perhaps worse, there was the fear it would become a party pad attracting hundreds of people to the tony neighborhood.

"It's one man's vision that would ruin a community," said **Nickie Miner**, a five-decade resident of the area, which sits between Bel Air and Beverly Hills.

The debate came as various L.A. neighborhoods grapple with how to slow down megadevelopments in residential areas long occupied by smaller – though not necessarily small – homes.

The house planned for the site was to be the home of **Michael Scott**, a partner at Anaheim mobile-home park owner and developer **Kort &**

Please see **REAL ESTATE** page 44

'Gig' Workers May Organize

By **HOWARD FINE** Staff Reporter

It's shaping up to be one of the major battles between business and labor in Sacramento this year: a bill to allow workers in the so-called "gig economy" to form unionlike organizations.

The 1099 Self-Organizing Act by Assemblywoman **Lorena Gonzalez**, D-San Diego, seeks to amend state labor law to allow 10 or more independent contractors working for a "hosting platform" such as **Uber** and **Lyft** – as well as other employers – to join in unionlike groups and negotiate wages

Please see **POLITICS** page 46

SPECIAL REPORT DEALMAKERS



CONNECTIONS: When it comes to making deals, connections are king. In our inaugural Dealmakers issue, we explore what creativity means to folks, such as **Greg Bettinelli**, who are behind L.A.'s biggest transactions and how they stay plugged in to the scene.

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Leak Fear Rises

ENERGY: Playa del Rey gas wells under regulator review.

By **OLGA GRIGORYANTS** and **HOWARD FINE** Staff Reporters

Southern California Gas Co.'s aging Playa del Rey natural gas storage facility has been beset by leaks and mechanical failures, forcing state regulators to conduct more than three dozen inspections since the start of the year.

Some of the wells at the facility, located within two miles of Los Angeles International Airport, **Loyola Marymount University**, and booming tech and residential campuses at Playa Vista, failed to

Please see **ENERGY** page 45

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