

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

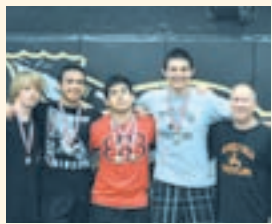
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SINCE 1965

APRIL 8, 2011

THIS ISSUE



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Horace Mann School celebrate end of Bookends event with worm eating. 4



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George Christy, Page 6

Nobody Does A Royal Wedding Better Than The Brits—The Pubs Will Stay Open Later When Prince William Weds Kate Middleton

Editorial from Rabbi Pressman AND MORE

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- Announcements
- Real Estate
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- and More

Superheros Prepare To Save Schools At Apple Ball

The Beverly Hills Education Foundation is busily preparing for the upcoming April 27 Apple Ball. This year's auction and dinner gala is themed, "Why Wait for Superman?"

The Education Foundation hopes the Apple Ball theme will remind the community that they have been working together to supplement diminishing public funds of education since the BHEF's inception in the 1970's.

Chaired by Deborah (see 'VIP,' page 9)



APPLE BALL—Apple Ball Dinner Committee Chairs from left: Michelle Kaye, Sandra Walder, Jodi Galen and Deborah Deutsch.

BHUSD Makes Site Favoring Metro Station

By Marla Schevker

The BHUSD, in conjunction with public relations firm Sitrick & Company, launched a website last week promoting the Santa Monica Boulevard station option in the Westside Subway Extension project.

The website (<http://centurycitysubway.org/>), is a combined effort to present as many facts as possible from Metro's Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) that highlight the benefits of the Santa Monica

(see 'WEBSITE,' page 9)

City Postpones Action On 2P, Still No Trial Court Date Set

By Brenton Garen

The Beverly Hills City Council this week discussed but took no action on Measure 2P, the two-hour free parking ballot initiative passed overwhelmingly by City voters in last month's

election.

The council fought the measure, proposed by local property owner G&L Realty, claiming it would increase a "deficit" in the city's Parking En-

(see 'MEASURE 2P,' page 15)

City Manager Kolin Stumbles Again, Gets 2 Percent Raise

By Courier Staff

Despite again being unprepared to answer council questions on agenda items, City Manager Jeff Kolin was awarded a raise of \$5,610 to his \$280,500 annual salary (plus benefits) on a 4-1 vote by the City Council Tuesday. The raise was characterized as a "cost of living" increase. Councilmember John Mirisch refused to rubber-stamp the salary bump which was on

the consent calendar.

The "consent calendar" contains unopposed items and are approved in one vote without debate. Mirisch said while he did not object to Kolin's performance, but did not believe he should receive above a 1.8 percent cost of living increase. No council member discussed the multiplier effect the raise would have on Kolin's benefit package,

(see 'KOLIN,' page 8)



CANCER RESEARCH RETREAT—Xiaojiang Cui, Ph.D., Director Translational Breast Cancer and Frederick R. Singer, M.D., Director Endocrine/Bone Disease Program were part of a multidisciplinary panel of physicians and scientists present the latest advances in cancer research and treatment at the St John's Health Center Foundation Board of Trustees annual "Chautauqua" retreat last weekend. The retreat highlighted the 20th anniversary of the John Wayne Cancer Institute by featuring an array of presentations that provided details about the latest advances in cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment. For the full story, see Health and Wellness on pg 14.

Equinox Fitness Center Given Go Ahead From City Council

By Marla Schevker

The City Council Tuesday approved the Equinox Fitness Center proposal on a 4-0-1 vote with Councilmember Lili Bosse recusing herself because she was

a member of the Planning Commission when it approved the project. The project came before the council because of an appeal by a shadowy organization from

(see 'EQUINOX,' page 15)



A "LOVE IN" AFTERNOON—The reclusive Johnny Depp joined his Pirates of the Caribbean co-star Penelope Cruz when she was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. More photos in George Christy's column on page 6. Scott Downie/Celebrity Photo



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its adjourned regular meeting to be held on **Thursday, April 21, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California, will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHEDULE OF TAXES, FEES & SERVICE CHARGES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2011/2012.

The proposed resolution will increase the taxes, 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 2011/2012. The majority of the fees and charges would be increased by 0.7% based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for November 2010 to reflect the increase in the City's costs. In some cases, the fees were adjusted to reflect a change in service level, more equitable distribution of costs, or to obtain full-cost recovery, rather than by the CPI. The fees would become effective on July 1, 2011.

Copies of the proposed Resolution and the Fee Study Report are available for review or purchase in the Office of the City Clerk, Room 290, 455 N. Rexford Drive, and in the Finance Department, 3rd Floor, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California. Any interested person may attend the meeting and be heard. Written comments may also be submitted and should be addressed to the City Council, c/o City Clerk, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California, 90210. The comments should be received prior to the hearing date. If you need more information, please contact Carolyn Johnson at (310) 285-2459.

Please note that if you challenge the Council's action in regard to this matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

BYRON POPE, CMC, City Clerk

Speak Up and Be Counted



Attend a City Meeting to discuss your views on Beverly Hills' quality of life as it relates to evening social events in your community.

The City's Human Relations Commission will hear public comments relating to nighttime social events, along with impacts of amplified music and entertainment in residential neighborhoods.

Public Meeting Dates:

- Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 24, 9:15 a.m.



Meetings will be held at City Hall in Council Chambers. Parking is free. 455 N. Rexford Dr., Room 280

For more information visit the City's website at www.beverlyhills.org/noiseordinance or call 310-285-1006.



Come Help us Celebrate Earth Day with the City of Beverly Hills

**Sunday, April 10, 2011
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
At The Farmers' Market**

**Join Us For
Compost, Strawberries,
Chocolate Strawberries
Wristbands For Kids
(While Supplies Last)**

Our **neonatology experts** nurture so your baby continues to **soar.**



Born three months premature, Christopher Hopkins weighed only 1 pound 6 ounces at birth. Most babies born this early have little chance of survival. But with access to the latest technology in the Saint John's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and expert care from the specialized neonatology team, Christopher is now a typical 4-year old. He continues to soar and love life – as does his mother.

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Scan this code with your mobile phone to learn more about Christopher's story.



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Judge Rules In Favor Of Julien's Auction House In Jackson Suit

A jury on Monday rejected a lawsuit in which a collector of celebrity memorabilia maintained that a Beverly Hills auction house broke a contract to sell him 14 items that belonged to Michael Jackson.

The Los Angeles Superior Court panel deliberated for a

half-hour Friday afternoon and part of Monday morning before finding in favor of Julien's Auction House and against collector Richard LaPointe.

The auction, which would have been the largest authorized sale of items associated

(see 'JULIEN,' page 8)



WINNING WRESTLERS—Beverly Hills High School wrestlers won five medals at the Southern California Wrestling Association Open Tournament at Canyon High School in Anaheim last Saturday. From left: Ean Irwin, Dylan Lojac, Armand Farrokh, Marshall Stevens and Assistant Coach Marty Lockwood.

BHPD Make Two Quick Arrests

By Brenton Garen

Police in Beverly Hills made two arrests this past week – one a knife wielding man with an outstanding warrant trying to flee arrest and the other a man on parole for a narcotics violation who robbed a Shell gas station.

Last Thursday at 10:35 p.m., officers made contact with 58-year-old Ronald Rivers in the area of Doheny Drive and Sierra.

While they waited for a computer check, Rivers was able to walk 30 feet away to an

(see 'ARRESTS,' page 9)

Beverly Hills AYSO U12 Teams Place 1st, 4th In Arrowhead Cup



WINNING FORM—Beverly Hills AYSO Boys U12 soccer teams, Clockwork Orange and FCLA, finished 1st and 4th at the tournament.

Two Beverly Hills AYSO boys under 12 soccer teams, Clockwork Orange and FCLA, showed brilliant teamwork to finish 1st and 4th in the recent Arrowhead Cup Tournament held in San Bernardino.

Both teams went through the preliminary rounds with only one tie and the rest wins.

Clockwork Orange, known for its explosive offense, and FCLA, known for its tenacious defense, lived up to their reputations.

Clockwork scored five goals in the semi-final game and three in the finals, while FCLA gave up only two goals in the preliminary rounds and the semi-final game.

This is the third tournament this season the two Bev-

erly Hills AYSO teams have found themselves in the semi-finals battling it out with opponents for the championship.

Both teams play this weekend in the Founder's Cup Tournament in Palos Verdes.

Pictured above at the Arrowhead Cup Tournament are both teams: Front row from left are players Dustin Jones, Lucas Thau, Lucho Gazcon, Jamison Neal, Kyle Chlavin, Spencer Flores. Second row from left: Daniel Simantob, Nick Pupiec, Joe Leichenger, Joshua Stern. Back row from left: Ademi Adeniji, Bill Batbayar, Michael Nobbs, Max Ginsberg, Miles Perfors, Patrick Levy, Nicky Savich, Yoel Cohavy, Jonty Nobbs and Michael Revah.



BEST IN THE STATE—The Beverly Hills Recreation & Parks Commission was named "best recreation and parks commission of 2010" from the California Parks and Recreation Society. From left: Commission Chair Alan Block, Former Commissioner Jill Tavelman Collins, Commissioner Michael Blumenfeld, Vice Chair Kathi Rothner, former Commissioner and Councilmember Julian Gold, Vice Mayor William W. Brien, MD and Mayor Barry Brucker.

Neighborhood Watch Zone Meeting This Saturday

By Brenton Garen

Join the Beverly Hills Police Department this Saturday at its new Neighborhood Watch Zone meeting to be held on Bedford Drive.

From noon to 1:30 p.m., BHPD will close Bedford Dr. between Sunset and Lomitas to educate the community on safety related issues.

BHPD Crime Prevention Officer Don Chase said residents should attend to hear about the latest trends and

crime patterns.

On Feb. 12, BHPD held its first Neighborhood Watch Block party of the year, which attracted more than 100 people, but the department has since renamed the events to Neighborhood Watch Zone meetings.

Chase will speak during the event on different subject matters every 20 minutes.

There will also be handouts and the police rescue vehicle will be on display along

with several SWAT officers to answer questions.

Gourmet food truck 'The Munchie Machine' will have items available for purchase.

The zone meetings will continue to be held about every two months in different parts of the City. The next is scheduled for June 5 on the 200 block of South Gale Dr.

For more information, call Officer Chase at 310-285-2133 or email dchase@beverlyhills.org.

Christiansen, Hubbard Case May Be Separated

By Marla Schevker

A hearing date was set last Friday by Judge Stephen Marcus to hear a motion to sever on behalf of former BHUSD Director of Planning and Facilities Karen Christiansen and former BHUSD Superintendent

Jeffrey Hubbard in an attempt to separate their cases before going to trial.

Judge Marcus also ruled both Hubbard's attorney, Salvatore Ciulla, and Christiansen's attorneys, Hillel Chodos and Phillip Kaufler, did not present

enough evidence to grant a 995 motion.

A 995 motion to dismiss is filed by attorneys who believe there is insufficient evidence presented at a preliminary

(see 'CHRISTIANSEN,' page 15)

Earthquake Preparedness Month Begins In City

April is Earthquake preparedness month in Beverly Hills. While the City is constantly planning and preparing for a disaster, this month the City is dedicated to encouraging residents of Beverly Hills to prepare.

"It's a time we can concentrate on encouraging our com-

munity that we live in an area of great risk and with that takes great responsibility," Director of Emergency Management Pamela Mottice Muller said. "With what's happened in the last years with all the earthquakes and then what just happened in Japan, (earthquake preparedness month) is another

way to tell everyone that disasters happen. We need to know what to do, we need to plan for it and we need to be ready."

Mottice Muller said the City spends a lot of effort to ensure they are prepared for disasters and the community must

(see 'EARTHQUAKE,' page 17)



HOW TO EAT FRIED WORMS—

Horace Mann School held a showing of the movie *How To Eat Fried Worms* as the culmination of its annual Bookends event, with its sister school Los Angeles Elementary School, last Friday. Before the movie, hot dogs, chips, home made lemonade and various "worm" themed treats were served. In addition, Principal Kessler, Interim Assistant Principal Christian Fuhrer, and sister school Principal Bruce Clark competed in a "fried worm" eating contest (really, gummy worms, pudding, and whipped cream). Principal Clark won the gummy eating contest. Moreover, 30 parents and students did eat real live worms, just like in the movie.

City's Noise Ordinance To Be Discussed

By Marla Schevker

The Human Relations Commission will hold three hearings regarding the Beverly Hills noise ordinance.

The current noise ordinance states no amplified music or sound may be played after 6 p.m., but is not generally enforced until 10 p.m.

The hearings will give City resi-

dents a chance to share their opinions on the current noise policies, which the Human Relations Commission will use in their report to be submitted to City Council.

The hearings are set for April 13 at 7 p.m., May 9 at 7 p.m. and May 24 at 9:15 a.m. in the Council chambers at City Hall.



SHANGHAI BOUND—American Airlines launched its new nonstop service from LAX to Shanghai on Tuesday.

American Airlines Launch New Services

By Brenton Garen

Ten new destinations, including a new daily nonstop service to Shanghai, has been added to American Airlines service schedule from Los Angeles International Airport.

American Airlines and its regional affiliate American Eagle launched the new services on Tuesday and is the first U.S. airline to offer daily nonstop service from Los Angeles to Shanghai, the largest U.S.-China air travel market.

"Los Angeles is a key international gateway for American, as well as our oneworld partners," said Derek De-

Cross, American's vice president of sales.

"Our focus is on providing customers with as many travel options as possible at LAX, and that's what our moves today are all about. These new routes, along with our joint businesses with British Airways, Iberia and Japan Airlines, give customers more choices for flights, connections and ways to earn AAdvantage miles."

American Eagle also launched Tuesday nine new daily domestic des-

(see 'AIRLINE,' page 17)



MAJOR DIVISION WINNERS—The winners of Beverly Hills Basketball's major division celebrate their championship season. Members of Team California included from left: Front row: David Parvizi, Kevin Mizrahi, Eric Ross, Kyle Chlavin and Blake Sloane; Middle row: Isaac Rabbanian, Dylan Rutigliano, Matthew Reskin and Cameron Smith; Back row: Coaches Gary Ross, Tom Rutigliano and Jordan Gibson.

BHUSD Seek New Oversight Members

The Beverly Hills Unified School District is seeking new applicants for its Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC).

The COC was established to oversee the bond proceeds, expenditures and audits associated with Measure E.

The district is currently seeking applicants for the following two year positions in the Citizens' Oversight Committee: Business Organization Members, Parent or Guardian Member, Parent or Guardian/PTA Members, Senior

Citizens' Organization Member, Tax Payers' Organization Member and At-Large Members.

The district is asking for community support in communicating with friends and colleagues in Beverly Hills about this opportunity.

The application can be found on the district website: www.bhusd.org.

Click "About Us" and go to Citizens' Oversight Committee or call 310-551-5100 ext. 2210.

—mschevker@bhcourier.com



ADOPT A PET—The Beverly Hills Pet Care Foundation will host a pet adoption event on May 1 at Roxbury Park. This event promises to have more than 100 dogs and cats ready for adoption.
Photo by Bill Crowe

Pets 90210 To Host Pet Adoption Event

The Beverly Hills Pet Care Foundation (PETS 90210) will host another spectacular pet adoption event on Sunday, May 1, at Roxbury Park on Olympic Boulevard from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This event promises to have more than 100 dogs and cats up for adoption.

Participating shelters include L.A. City and L.A. County Animal Shelters, Bark Avenue Foundation, Westside German Shepherd Rescue and SEEACA.

There will be a huge variety available too – everything from pure bred to mutts to persians and tabbies.

It will be a great day for residents to find their new best friend, or their new furry family member.

Roxbury Park also has basketball, beach sand volleyball, tennis courts, a putting green, bocce ball and playground equipment so the entire family can come and spend the day.

For more event information, or information about pet overpopulation, the L.A. City and County Shelter locations, or other Pet Care Foundation programs, call 310-887-7070 or email bcrowe@kenquest.com.

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GEORGE CHRISTY



Celebrity Photo/Scott Downie

Nick Cannon participated in the 2011 Nickelodeon Awards at USC's Galen Center.

"Like the beat, beat, beat of the tom-tom ... the tick, tick, tock of the stately clock ... the drip, drip, drip of the raindrop" — so wrote composer Cole Porter in his classic love song *Night and Day*. Anticipated from this day forward until April 29th, the beat and tick and drip of gossip and news will keep leaking about the grandeur surrounding the wedding of the year (the decade?). We believe — and our LA arbiters agree — there's nothing better than a royal wedding arranged by the Brits.

The British Empire's heir to the throne H.R.H. **Prince**



Celebrity Photo/Gilbert Flores

Blake Lively was "girl on the go" covering the 2011 Cinema-Con events in Las Vegas



Joe Jonas with brother Frankie

William of Wales, 28, will wed beauty **Catherine "Kate" Middleton**, 29, at Westminster Abbey, where they've invited 1,900 guests. (Rather than wedding gifts, Kate and William are suggesting contributions to charity, although there is a personal registry for family.) **Prince Charles** and Lady Diana Spencer included 3,500 guests for their ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral.

William will wear his bespoke RAF uniform (\$6,000?), and talk surfaces that **Sarah Burton** of Alexander McQueen is designing Kate's wedding dress. Dress code is "uniform, morning coat or lounge suit" (in our parlance, a business suit). The Queen and Prince Charles are picking up the wedding tab, estimated at more than \$50 million. (The **Middletons** are contributing a six-figure sum.) A champagne "finger food" breakfast after the service will serve 600 guests at Buckingham Palace, and the dinner dance that evening hosted by Prince Charles will include 300 guests (100 from each of the newlewyeds and 100 from Prince Charles). The following day, the newlewyeds depart for their honeymoon, and in June will visit Canada for an official tour. They are planning a family soon.

William's a qualified search and rescue pilot flying helicopters with the Royal Air Force. His squadron's based in North Wales, where he and Kate live in a leased \$1,200 a month cottage. Kate trains daily at a gym, plays tennis weekly, and is studying French and Spanish.

Photogenic and telegenic Kate, a soon-to-be princess of pure delight, captivated the

media in every continent during her eight-year-long romance with William. It was Kate's mother, **Carole**, who knocked on the door and asked William when did he plan to make an honest woman of "Waity-Katie." William's explanation? After graduation from military training.

Londoners have fallen in love with Kate, who's invited her butcher and mailman to the wedding. William and brother **Prince Harry** were raised by their mom in, more or less, normal and comfortable circumstances -- dining at diners, department stores, etc. The brothers, they say, represent the forefront of England's "cycle of change."

Diana and Charles rode in a horse-drawn golden carriage for their wedding, while Kate and William are arriving at Westminster Abbey in the open-top royal Landau for their 11 AM ceremony officiated by **Rowan Douglas Williams**, Archbishop of Canterbury. Harry will be his brother's best man, and Kate's sister **Philippa** (Pippa) is the maid of honor.

Stiff-upper-lip Brits tattle that Kate's a commoner, but does anyone nowadays give a damn? Lady Diana and **Camilla Parker-Bowles** aren't of royal blood, **Princess Margaret** and daughter **Princess Anne** married commoners, as did **Prince Edward** and **Prince Andrew**. The Queen Mother was a commoner, a great lady about whom we recall an article from a years-ago issue of a *Palm Beach* magazine that sur-



AnnaSophia Robb, Miranda Cosgrove, Lorraine Nicholson (Jack's daughter), Bella Thorne, Sofia Vergara, Will.I.Am



Miley Cyrus, Selena Gomez

veyed a swath of celebrities. "What starts your motor every morning?" was the question. Replies ranged from a protein shake to scrambled eggs with Tabasco, etc. How the feature writer tracked down this quote from Queen Mum shall forever remain a mystery: "A sip of gin helps."

William proposed to Kate on bended knee in a log cabin during their camping trip and safari in Kenya, where, after asking for his father's approval, he presented her with his mother's engagement ring. Designed for Diana by London's Garraud Jewelers in 1981, the oval ring with a blue Ceylon sapphire is surrounded by diamonds set in 18-carat white gold, valued then around \$50,000. With its royal heirloom history, the value today is estimated at \$500,000.

Queen Elizabeth II has given Kate a diamond and pearl tiara -- the Queen's jewelry collection is acclaimed among the world's largest, collected from the reigns of many British sovereigns. Mahine Fallah's jewels are ranked second in purity and value. Mahine's the wife of the late Ambassador Reza Fallah, architect of Iran's oil industry, and they are the parents of **Lilly Fallah Lawrence**. In America, Lilly's jewelry collection was second to none before the fire at her Malibu estate destroyed most of it in 2007. Her magnificent collection of heavily jeweled Russian fans, carried at the court of Nicholas and Alexandra, also were destroyed in the fire. Those who have seen the famous fans were awestruck by their beauty.

Brooke Shields and **Maksim Chmerkovskiy** befriended rescue dogs

Cindy Crawford with **Sugar** and **Widget** at the Much Love Animal Rescue Fundraiser Breakfast in Malibu

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

Among the highest-ranking jewelry collections of the world is Elizabeth Taylor's at \$160 million. Others include **Phyllis McGuire's** (of the McGuire singing trio) with her mega-million dollar collection that our *Courier's* **Marcia Hobbs** has seen and "played with." **Candy Spelling's** collection was flawless, equal to the greatest, but it has been sold. Early during the last century, Woolworth heiress **Barbara Hutton** owned a huge collection, along with *grande dames* of her era.

Variety and New York newspapers announced a breaking news item last week that **John Travolta** will star as John Gotti Senior in his next film. Weeks ago, in our February 11th column we reported that the two Johns wine and dined at Amici Brentwood for two consecutive nights with producer **Mark Fiore**, director **Nick Cassavetes** and **James Franco**, hoping he would co-star as John Junior.

John Senior was the merciless Mafia don of the Gambino family, whose custom-tailored wardrobe earned him the name of Dapper Don. He died in solitary confinement behind bars. **Sly Stallone** turned down the role, demanding creative control, which John Junior nixed. Amici Brentwood's **Pietro Smargiassi** says that there was no holding back on the red wine during the two dinners nor with the spaghetti with lobster, langoustines, Dover sole, T-bone steaks. Yes, you read it here first.

Online at www.bhcourier.com/georgechristy.cfm



Celebrity Photo/Scott Downie

Cindy Crawford with Sugar and Widget at the Much Love Animal Rescue Fundraiser Breakfast in Malibu

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

Beverly Hills City Council News And Notes

Three City Employee Furlough Days Officially Canceled

The Beverly Hills Firemen's Association's offer to delay a 3.04 percent salary increase for nearly a year to pay for three City furlough days was officially accepted at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

This means the City's 400-500 affected employees were able to work last Friday and will also work on the two other scheduled furlough days on May 6 and June 3 this year.

The association's deal to pay for the furlough days will save the City about \$280,000.

Noah Furie Reinstated As Interim City Planning Commissioner

City Councilmembers on Tuesday decided to reinstate former Planning Commissioner Noah Furie on a temporary basis back into the position.

He will continue in the role until the Planning Commission can find a permanent replacement for now Councilmember Lili Bosse.

The process of appointing a Planning Commissioner takes about 90 days from posting notice of the position to approval by the City Council.

However, it may take longer for people to become familiar with the current Planning Commission projects prior to applying.

City Staff project Furie's temporary time on the Planning Commission to last anywhere from four to six months.

Google Entertainment Division Officially Moving To Beverly Hills

It's official. The entertainment division of Google is moving to Beverly Hills. Google will occupy more than 13,000 square feet at the City-owned

building on Foothill Road.

The agreement spans 11 years and will bring lease revenue to the City of \$6.3 million.

Google will occupy the fourth floor of the building at 331 Foothill Rd.

Council Meeting To Air On *The Real Housewives Of Beverly Hills*

The Beverly Hills City Council is going to appear on an upcoming episode of *The Real Housewives Of Beverly Hills*.

Real Housewife Lisa Vanderpump received a proclamation from then-Mayor Jimmy Delshad at a recent City Council meeting for her branding efforts for Beverly Hills.

At Tuesday's Study Session, Bravo sought the Council's approval regarding the required legal releases to allow footage of the City Councilmembers and the City shield to be aired on season 2 of the show.

The City will be making the standard \$1,500 fee for Bravo using the shield on television.

City Engages Arnie Berghoff & Associates For Public Affairs Services

Los Angeles-based public affairs firm Arnie Berghoff & Associates has been contracted by City Council for the next six months to promote the City's interests before key MTA, City and County decision makers and agencies.

Councilmembers approved a contract between the City and the firm at a monthly retainer fee of \$7500 per month, for a six-month total of \$45,000.

Funds for this initiative were identified from the City's FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-2012 budgets.

—Compiled by Brenton Garen and Marla Schevker

SHEN YUN 神韻 PERFORMING ARTS 晚會

ALL-NEW 2011 PROGRAM WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA 20-COUNTRY WORLD TOUR

"It's absolutely beautiful... It was so inspiring. I think I may have found some new ideas for the next *Avatar*."

— Robert Stromberg, Oscar-winning production designer for *Avatar*

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— BroadwayWorld.com

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— WVOX

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CITY HOSTS ECO-FRIENDLY GUEST SPEAKER—Woodrow W. Clark, MA3, PHD, lecturer and author of *Global Sustainable Communities: The Third Industrial Revolution* spoke at the City of Beverly Hills Forum Series Monday where he spoke about his book. The next lecture in the series is on April 12 at 7:30 p.m. called, "Do Great Books Make Great Movies?" featuring Ron Bernstein. The lectures are free and located in the council chambers. For more information, call (310) 285-6930. *Photo by Brad Meyerowitz*

JULIEN

(Continued from page 4)

with Jackson, was aborted in April 2009 after the singer reached a separate legal settlement in his own legal dispute with Julien's Auction House. Jackson died two months later at age 50.

The items that were to be auctioned off included Jackson's large collection of antiques, decorative arts, music awards and other items.

LaPointe, of Quebec,

Canada, filed suit against the auction house and founder Darren Julien in Oct. 2009, claiming ownership of items he bid for online ahead of the auction. They included a replica classic automobile used by Jackson. LaPointe sought \$306,600 in damages. His attorney, Nicholas Hornberger, said the jury was unable to find a contract existed between his client and Julien's. He also said current contract law has not kept up with the advent of the Internet and online bidding.

Hornberger said he is considering an appeal.

"We're disappointed, but this may not be the end of it," Hornberger said.

Julien's attorney, Miles Feldman, said the lawsuit should never have been brought and that the verdict was "a complete vindication of my clients."

Hornberger maintains the auction was "no reserve" in nature, meaning the highest bidder could claim each item.

—City News Service

KOLIN

(Continued from page 1)

worth approximately another \$150,000 per year.

"I think a lot of our employees do great jobs and it would be great to be able to award all of them," Mirisch said. "But we're faced with the unique situation where we wouldn't be able to afford that." He voted "no."

Earlier that day, in response to a question from Mirisch about city finances, Kolin was unable to tell the council the increase in the city's Transient Occupancy Tax over last year, claiming the amounts were "uncertain." He did not provide an estimate.

Kolin, who at a study session just weeks earlier stated it had increased 5.5 percent over last year, said he did not know the number Tuesday.

This was another instance in which Kolin and his staff failed to be prepared at city council meetings to discuss agenda items.

In the recent election at which Measure O, the oil severance tax, was presented to the voters, city staff had failed to learn on whom the tax would fall, did not disclose that residents who received royalties already paid taxes on the oil and gas reserves under their properties, that they would be taxed more, and that staff had not reviewed terms of any oil and gas leases.

On Measures 2P and 3P,

Kolin's staff never prepared a plan to implement the city-sponsored measure, Measure 3P, and could not advise the council of the costs of implementing 3P.

This contrasts with the performance of his predecessor as city manager, Roderick Wood, who invariably was prepared to discuss city revenues and expenses or had appropriate city staff present to provide the information should the council request it.

More recently, Kolin admitted that city staff had not reviewed materials submitted to the council by promoter Jeffrey Best trying to convince Beverly Hills to subsidize his new agreement with the *Los Angeles Times* to use the City as one venue of many for a food show event. The council was blindsided and staff could not comment because they had not even looked at the materials.

Independently, *The Courier* confirmed that TOT taxes are reported monthly and that sales tax amounts are reported quarterly, two quarters in arrears.

Thus, TOT through January 31 of the current fiscal year and sales tax through at least the first quarter of the current fiscal year (September 30, 2010) would be available for comparison to the previous year.

Kolin provided neither amount and said they were not "final" although specific numbers were available.

Neighborhood Watch Zone Meeting

Join the Beverly Hills Police Department at the new Neighborhood Watch Zone Meeting



Saturday, April 9, 2011
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Bedford Dr. between Sunset and Lomitas
(rain or shine)

The Neighborhood Watch program is hosting these Zone Meetings throughout the City as a way to educate the community on safety related issues.

Special Presentations:
Crime Prevention and How to Protect Yourself
Current Crime Trends
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To learn more, contact Officer Don Chase at 310-285-2133 or dchase@beverlyhills.org

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ARRESTS

(Continued from page 4)

easement slope in foliage.

When the computer check revealed he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest, Rivers produced a knife and threatened to harm the officers in order to avoid arrest.

Additional units, a k-9 officer and an officer with a bean bag shotgun arrived at the scene in a matter of minutes.

Rivers ultimately dropped his knife once surrounded and taken into custody without further incident.

He was charged with Drawing/Exhibiting Weapon at a peace officer and an outstanding warrant for resisting/obstructing a peace officer.

BHPD Lt. Tony Lee said this type of scenario could easily have ended tragically, but professionalism led to a safe surrender.

"Considering the volatile circumstances where deadly force can sometimes be a split second decision, our officers used tremendous restraint in getting Mr. Rivers to peacefully surrender," Lee said.

VIP

(Continued from page 1)

Deutsch, Jodi Galen, Michelle Kaye and Sandra Walder, this year's Apple Ball will honor district teachers and administrators, The City of Beverly Hills with the Metropolis award and Candace and Clif Smith with the Clark Kent and Lois Lane award.

This award for the Spirit of Philanthropy is given to the Smiths for their tremendous support of not only the Education Foundation, with whom they are an Education Partner, but also for the work they do in this community and in Los Angeles. Previous recipients include Lili and Jon Bosse, Judie and Frank Fenton, Lillian and Stuart Raffel and Shawn and Larry King.

The honorees, Founding Families and sponsors are acknowledged at a VIP reception next week generously hosted by Robert Zarnegin at The

WEBSITE

(Continued from page 1)

Boulevard route and station.

"Our whole approach is if you put the facts out there, it helps people come to a conclusion that is at least based on fact as opposed to opinion," Sitrick Senior Executive Aaron Curtiss said.

Sitrick was paid for out of the \$400,000 allocated in early February from the BHUSD budget for expenses in fighting Metro on the Westside Subway Extension.

BHUSD Board of Education Vice President Brian Goldberg said he felt the goal of the website is to tap into social media. They have also made a Facebook group, which shares the same message as the website.

"There is a whole lot of information that our engineers and consultants have been able to glean from the preliminary EIS/EIR," Goldberg said. "Unfortunately for us in Beverly Hills, every mistake that's been made in the EIS/EIR favors the Constellation location."

Both Goldberg and Curtiss said there were several important facts on the website. First if an individual looks at a map, while Constellation looks like it's the geographic center of Centu-

The BHPD's second arrest was last Sunday at 3 a.m. when officers were dispatched to Olympic and Robertson regarding the burglary at the Shell gas station.

The suspect was last seen running northbound on Robertson wearing a grey hood.

Additional units were called to the area and 30 minutes later, an officer located a parked, occupied vehicle in the Robertson/Clark alley just north of the gas station.

Through investigation the officer identified the man as 40-year-old William Bird, on parole for narcotics violation, who was in possession of pry bars and other burglary tools in the car, as well as stolen cigarettes from the gas station.

Bird was taken into custody on burglary, receiving stolen property, possession of burglary tools and violation of parole.

Lee said Bird's arrest was an excellent investigation especially because of the 30 minute lapse from the initial call out.

"The capture of this convicted felon saved other victims from monetary loss and inconvenience," Lee said.

Peninsula Beverly Hills.

Those who paid \$1,200 or more, as a Founding Family, for a table and honorees are invited to the reception.

Founding Families as well as major sponsors, including Adrienne and Robert Zarnegin/Peninsula Beverly Hills, Brenda Ellerin and Steve Dubin, The Beverly Hilton, Lili and Jon Bosse, Wells Fargo, Mary Ann Murphy, *Beverly Hills Weekly*, Beverly Hills Police Officers Association, Mercedes Benz of Beverly Hills and *The Courier* will be thanked for making the Apple Ball a success.

The Apple Ball Committee has been hard at work on every detail of the event including a silent auction chaired by Linda Kadisha and her committee.

For more information or to purchase tickets or sponsorship, go to bhcf.org or call (310) 557-0651.

ry City the bulk of retail and office space are clustered along Santa Monica Boulevard. Second is by Metro's own figures, a station at Constellation would cost an additional \$60 million.

"No one has contradicted us, no one has said Metro's numbers are flawed or wrong," Curtiss said. "When you look at the numbers (Metro has) put out, it's a pretty compelling case."

Curtiss said based on the information presented by Metro, a station at Santa Monica Boulevard would get more riders for less cost.

"We really want to try to make a site that's as straight forward as possible," Curtiss said. "There's a lot of misinformation and we really want to have the conversation be based in fact."

One piece of information that is frequently repeated, Goldberg said, is the claim there are only a few noisy Beverly Hills "NIMBY's" (Not In My Backyard) who are disrupting the station selection for everyone.

"This is a unified City against tunneling under our district and high school property," Goldberg said. "The facts are there for everyone to see. This community has been overwhelmingly supportive of (the subway) and will continue to be if it doesn't tunnel under our high school and district."

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HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

•New Make-Up Salon Opens On Bedford

Long-Time-Liner/Conture Make-up Salon opened last night at 421 N. Bedford Dr.

Taylor Armstrong of Bravo's *Real Housewives Of Beverly Hills* hosted the opening night party which drew her castmates Lisa Vanderpump and Kyle Richards, Lynne Curtin and Peggy Tanous of *Real Housewives Of Orange County*, Star Jones and Lisa Rinna of *Celebrity Apprentice*, and other celebs including Jackie Collins, Kate Linder, Sofia Milos, Laila Milani, Melana Scantlin, Shaun Robinson, Kat Kramer, Karen Kramer, Agnes Nicole, Jennifer Blanc, director Michael Beihn, Katie Cleary, Jessica Hall and others.

Long-Time-Liner's founder Waltraud Kuffner and her daughter, Corinna, flew in from corporate headquarters in Munich for the event.

This new make-up technology is said to last from one to three years and to subtly enhance a client's natural beauty with arched eyebrows, smudge-proof eyeliner and flawlessly colored lips which compliments skin tone and hair color, according to Michelle Park, owner and master liner-gist.

"I am proud to provide this new beauty technique which is extremely natural looking for so many clients here in Beverly Hills," she said.

The salon is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with appointments at 310-271-3322.

•Montage Residences Sells Its 9th and 10th Properties

Montage Residences, which crown the top three floors of the Five-Star Montage Beverly Hills, has announced the sale of its 10th Residence, a

three-bedroom, three-bath unit which sold for \$6.6 million (approximately \$2,200 per square foot). This most recent sale follows on the heels of a four-bedroom Residence that sold for more than \$10 million, the second to top that price point.

"We continue to be encouraged by the response received," said John Mansour, a representative for its owner, Beverly Hills Luxury Hotel LLC.

The 20-Residence collection affords owners all the services and special features associated with the luxury hotel, including access to the 20,000-square-foot spa, fitness center and restaurants. Residents also enjoy the services of both a dedicated concierge staff as well as a full complement of hotel staff.

Joy Denton of Sotheby's International Realty in Beverly Hills has the Montage Residences listings.

•Author's Event At Brentwood Library With Connie Martinson

On Sunday, April 17, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. the Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Blvd., will hold its annual Friends of the Library's Author Event.

The *Courier's* Connie Martinson will be moderating A.J. Langguth, author of *Driven West*; Leslie Klinger of *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes* in two volumes and *Count Dracula*. And Kelli James, author of the memoir *Smile For The Camera* and Sonya Sones, *The Hunchback Of Neiman Marcus*, "one of the funniest books I have read," Martinson said. Refreshments will be served.

•Ivanka Trump Jewelry Collection At Saks Thursday

Ivanka Trump, "the Donald's" daughter, will give a sneak peak at her fine jewelry collection next Thursday at Saks

Fifth Avenue, 9600 Wilshire Blvd. The showing will be from noon to 5 p.m. in the jewelry area.

•Upcoming Chamber Of Commerce Events

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce will hold an April networking breakfast 8-9:30 a.m. today at El Torito Grill, 9595 Wilshire Blvd. On-site registration is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

Those interested in hosting a networking breakfast or for information, email events@beverlyhillschamber.com or call 310-248-1000, ext. 114.

Meanwhile, the chamber's Government Affairs Committee meeting to hear issues that impact the local business community will be held at the Beverly Hills Municipal Gallery, 455 N. Rexford Dr. on Thursday, April 21, from 8 to 9 a.m.

For more information contact May Soth at the chamber, ext. 110.

The chamber's Economic Summit 2011 called "A New Dawn or a New Bubble" will forecast where the economy and particular industries including real estate, investment, hospitality, retail, etc. may be heading in today's market.

The event will be at The Beverly Hilton on Tuesday, April 26, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

•Holocaust Remembrance (Yom Hashoah) At Museum of Tolerance May 1

In commemoration of those who perished in the Holocaust and to honor the legacy of those who suffered, fought and died, the Museum of Tolerance will present survivors who will share their stories of perseverance and survival on Sunday, May 1, from noon to 4 p.m. There will be a special art project painting ceramic butterflies to remember the 1.5 million Jewish children who were killed; and a discussion of Anne Frank's diary.

Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended by calling 310-772-2505.

•Vista Del Mar Appoints Jackie Redner As Resident Rabbi

Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services has appointed Jackie Redner as the organization's rabbi in residence, announced Dr. Elias Lefferman, Vista's president/CEO.

•Iberia Airlines Inaugurates Thrice Weekly Flights To Madrid

Iberia Airlines has introduced Monday, Wednesday and Saturday flights non-stop flights between LAX and Madrid, the only ones between the West Coast and the Spanish

Philanthropist Nancy Davis Still Leading The Campaign To Fight MS



By Julie Russ

The *Courier* sat down to speak with philanthropist Nancy Davis to find out what the color orange means to her. Davis was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis 20 years ago, and since then, has sought to raise awareness and funding for research through the Nancy Davis Foundation. The "Orange You Happy to Erase MS" is her annual campaign in the month of May. It started a few years back and has been growing steadily. To her, orange is a color of vibrancy and good health.

Davis has various products available on her Web site that support the Nancy Davis Foundation. She also has sponsors who donate a percentage of their proceeds in May that will go towards finding a cure. Items on Shop to Erase MS include earrings, rings and necklaces from Davis' Peace and Love Jewelry line, Laura Gellar Cosmetics, Judith Ripka, Don Francisco Coffee, Harry and David, and special items sold at Kitson Boutique. Tiger J also created the gift bag for the Race to Erase MS Event. For more information go to www.erasems.org and click on 'Shop to Erase MS'.

On April 29, Davis will also be hosting the 18th annual Race to Erase MS. This year's gala coincides with the royal wedding, thus will be boasting a Rock and Royalty theme. Tommy Hilfiger along with brother Andrew, will host a fashion show entitled Andrew Charles. The line is debuting with a twist this year, and was inspired by rock stars such as Mick Jagger.

capital.It expects to carry 68,000 passengers during its first year of operation.

•Circa 55 Already Taking Reservations For Easter

Circa 55 at The Beverly Hilton is already taking reservations for its Easter Sunday dining program on April 24.

The sophisticated poolside will be serving Executive Chef Suki Sugiura's buffet brunch.

Seating times are between 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

Price per adult is \$75 and \$25for children 3-11 years of age (exclusive of tax and gratuity). Reservations: 310-887-6055 or on-line: www.circa55beverlyhills.com.

•Odyssey Ball Saturday Benefits John Wayne Cancer Institute At St. John's

Actress Alana Stewart, president of the Farrah Fawcett Foundation, will be presented with the "True Grit" Humanitarian Award and philanthropist Ruth Weil "The Duke" Award at the 26th annual Odyssey Ball, the yearly fundraising event that benefits the John Wayne Cancer Institute (JWCI) (at St. John's Health Center, Saturday at The Beverly Hilton.)

This year's gala will celebrate "Hollywood Iconic Glamour," and will feature a special performance by singer/dancer Julianne Hough (left), star of the upcoming feature film, *Footloose*. KTLA's Sam Rubin will emcee.

The ball is organized by the John Wayne Cancer Institute Auxiliary, established in 1982 by two breast cancer survivors, Noreen Nelson and Sandy Cohen. This year's gala chairs are Wendy Feldman, Teddi Gilderman (daughter of Auxiliary Co-Founder Sandy Cohen) and Marisol Zarco.

Since its inception, the event has raised more than \$17 million to support the JWCI's life-saving cancer research and treatment programs. Call 310-829-8324 or visit www.jwci.org.



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Joe's Jeans Mini Shirt
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Joe's Jeans Micro Flare Jeans
\$172
Ron Herman
325 N. Beverly Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Fashion News & Notes

Gap, Ann Inc. CEOs Receive Pay Hikes
Glenn Murphy, CEO of Gap Inc. saw his pay package grow 18 percent in 2010 after voluntarily reducing his salary 15 percent in 2009. In appreciation of his willingness to earn less, Gap's compensation committee awarded him a special bonus of \$635,000.
WWD

Puig Said in Talks to Buy Gaultier Stake
Puig, a Barcelona-based parent of Carolina Herrera, Nina Ricci and Paco Rabanne, has entered into exclusive negotiations to acquire the 45 percent stake in Jean Paul Gaultier, owned by Hermès International.
WWD

Juicy Leaving L.A.?
According to the *New York Post*, Juicy Couture is dissolving its Los Angeles office and moving to New York. Declining sales, high turnover, loss of clientele and lower quality due to overseas production are attributed to the move.
Apparel News

Balmain, Christophe Decarnin Parting Ways
The label Balmain announced its separation from designer Christophe Decarnin.

An internal candidate is likely to take up the head designer position at Balmain. Decarnin vamped up the brand to the sexy, audacious and expensive brand that it is.
WWD

Renée Zellweger Boosts Tommy Hilfiger Charity Initiative
Renée Zellweger, ambassador for Tommy Hilfiger and the support of Breast Health Institute, said she will continue involvement if her celebrity raises awareness about the initiative. A limited edition bag by Hilfiger will retail in stores in April.
WWD

Editor's Note
There is a misconception among locals that stores in Beverly Hills are more expensive than those in the Los Angeles area. A Gap spokesperson has confirmed with *The Courier* that prices are consistent across all locations. If a consumer is looking for value, the recent sales tax hike in Santa Monica may persuade shoppers to think twice before shopping outside of Beverly Hills. Effective April 1, voters in Santa Monica approved Measure Y, which established a 1/2 cent transactions and use tax.

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HIGH TEA—The L.A. Chapter of the Israel Cancer Research Fund launched the Rachel's Society with a high tea at the Four Seasons. With 35 guests on hand, more than \$50,000 was raised for breast cancer research in Israel. (Top, (from left): Judith Reichman, MD (guest speaker), co-chairs Jeannine Sefton, and Beverly Cohen, and Neile McQueen Toffle. Jacqueline Burdorf (left) and Sonya Waldow (right) were among others on hand.



The Colleagues Spring Luncheon Set Tuesday

Next Tuesday at The Beverly Wilshire, one of the most anticipated luncheons of the year will be held.

The Colleagues are presenting its 22nd annual affair sponsored by Oscar de la Renta and underwritten by Italian jeweler Vhernier.

Oscar de la Renta's fall collection will be unveiled with the designer himself on hand.

Nancy Reagan, a longtime member, will be honored with the group's Champion of Children award.

All proceeds benefit Children's Institute, Inc. and once again the event is a sell-out.

Founded in 1950, The Colleagues is comprised of 65 active and 50 sustaining members.

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BEVERLY HILLS BEST REAL ESTATE AGENTS — READER'S CHOICE —

Courier Celebrates Top Real Estate Agents At Montage Beverly Hills **'Best Real Estate Agent In Beverly Hills 2010SM' Top Five**



Winners Drew Mandile and Brooke Knapp of Sotheby's International Realty.

Courier Honors Its 'Best Real Estate Agent In Beverly Hills 2010SM' Contest Winners

A night honoring *The Courier's* "Readers Choice Awards for Best Real Estate Agent in Beverly Hills 2010" was held Monday at a private reception at the Montage Beverly Hills.

The winners were nominated by their Beverly Hills clients in 100-200 word essays submitted to *The Courier* by its readers last year.

Nominations could only be made by current or former Beverly Hills residents who had bought or sold real estate through the nominees.

The Courier's Associate Publisher Marcia Hobbs and

Senior Editor John Seitz presented award certificates to the winners.

Drew Mandile and Brooke Knapp of Sotheby's International Realty were the overall winners. The Top 5 winners were rounded out by Jerry Jolton of Coldwell Banker Previews International, Timothy Di Prizito of Nourmand & Associates and Elaine Dannenberg of Nelson Shelton & Associates.

"There are a number of other good real estate agents that deserve credit who've done fantastic work," Mandile said. "We're proud to be in the company of them."

Finalists presented with their awards were Ronna Mee Brand of Brand Realty, Inc., Cathy Hodes Greenly of Coldwell Banker South, Dale Shephard of Coldwell Banker South, Alexandra North of North Real Estate Services, Judy Feder of Nourmand & Associates Realtors, Rochelle Maize of Nourmand & Associates Realtors.

Judging criteria included, besides professionalism in representations, contributions to the community. The essays, which were the sole basis of the awards, were judged by *The Courier's* editorial staff.



***Courier* Associate Publisher Marcia Hobbs with Jerry Jolton of Coldwell Banker Previews International, and *The Courier's* Senior Editor John Seitz.**



Hobbs and Elaine Dannenberg of Nelson Shelton & Associates.



Timothy Di Prizito of Nourmand & Associates Realtors, with Seitz. *Courier* Photos by Brenton Garen

Readers' Choice Awards Best Real Estate Agent in Beverly Hills 2010SM Finalists



Ronna Mee Brand of Brand Realty Inc., with Seitz.



Hobbs with Dale Shephard of Coldwell Banker South.



Cathy Hodes Greenly of Coldwell Banker South.



Representing The Montage Beverly Hills for *The Courier's* recognition reception for winners and finalists in "The Best Real Estate Agent in Beverly Hills 2010" contest were: from left, Hermann Elger, general manager; Tyrone Phillips of The Montage Residences and Charles Black, director of marketing.



Rochelle Maize of Nourmand & Associates Realtors.



Alexandra North of North Real Estate Services.



Judy Feder of Nourmand & Associates Realtors.



Betty Graham, president of Previews International, N.R.T. at Coldwell Banker, with Jerry and Sandi Jolton.

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

HEALTH & WELLNESS

St. John's, JWCI celebrate 30 Years Of Cancer Research

For more than three decades, the St. John's Health Center Foundation Board of Trustees has held an annual "Chautauqua" retreat to bring together top physicians, scientists and supporters to discuss the latest advances in medical care and translational research that impact the healthcare community.

Last weekend, the retreat highlighted the 30th Anniversary of the John Wayne Cancer Institute (JWCI) at St. John's by featuring an array of presentations that provided details about the latest advances in cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment.

"The John Wayne Cancer Institute plays a vital role in bringing the best options for our cancer patients, and we are committed to staying at the forefront of research," said Lou Lazatin, St. John's and JWCI president/CEO. "The groundbreaking discoveries led by Donald L. Morton, MD, and our talented team of physicians and scientists have fundamentally changed the way cancer is treated across the world."

A multidisciplinary team of physicians, scientists and pathologists each provided updates about innovative approaches and new technology used in cancer care, which included a special panel of experts who described how their close collaboration provides the basis for the translational science and medicine.

"This synergy among the team enables us to provide personalized patient care through a multi-modality approach," said Dr. Morton, chief of melanoma program and director of JWCI surgical oncology fellowship program. "In fact, this partnership often sparks new ideas the lead to advances in clinical and basic science research."

Presentations included an update about the latest research in melanoma and the international impact of the sentinel node procedure from Dr. Morton and a report on how advances in the institute's molecular oncology department led by Dave S.B. Hoon, PhD, are leading to blood tests that can provide earlier cancer detection and more effective treatment.

Other topics covered included the immune system and cancer, experimental therapeutics, vitamin D and breast cancer, lung cancer, and metastatic brain tumors.

Thirty years since JWCI's inception, and 20 years in association with St. John's, the Institute is focused on advanced technologies, newer, more effective treatments and new hope for cancer patients everywhere.

For information about St. John's Health Center or the John Wayne Cancer Institute, visit: www.newstjohns.org or www.jwci.org.



BOXING GREATS UNITE TO K.O. CANCER—Approximately 320 guests attended Sports L.A.'s K.O. Cancer Wednesday night that raised more than \$120,000 for research, treatment and education for the City of Hope. Boxing greats (from left) Jake LaMotta, Jackie Kallen and Micky Ward were recognized for their business and philanthropic achievements. At The Beverly Hilton, K.O. Cancer was co-chaired by Stanley Black and Bob Barth. Robert Shapiro was emcee. The extravaganza featured two heavyweight bouts in addition to a celebrity matchup between Mario Lopez, host of television's *Extra*, and Jimmy Lange from *The Contender*.
Photo by Amy Cantrell Photography

Research Roundup

New 'Nanodrug' Breaks Down Barriers To Attack Breast Cancer Cells From The Inside Out

Throwing stones at castle walls is one way to attack an enemy, but sneaking inside makes the target much more vulnerable.

Researchers at Cedars-Sinai's Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute have employed a similar strategy using a mouse model to target important mechanisms inside the most challenging breast cancer cells. Earlier studies at Cedars-Sinai found a similar approach effective in attacking malignant brain tumor targets.

Unlike other drugs that target cancer cells from outside and often injure normal cells as a side effect, this therapy consists of multiple drugs chemically bonded to a "transport vehicle." The drugs bypass healthy cells, accumulate inside tumor cells and attack mo-

lecular targets that enable cancer cells to grow and spread. Studies using a mouse model show this highly targeted approach, using combinations of drugs, to be more effective than standard treatment methods.

This research targeted HER2-positive breast cancer — a type that, due to a genetic mutation, makes excessive amounts of a protein that promotes the growth of cancer cells. HER2-positive breast cancers tend to be more aggressive and less responsive to treatment than other breast cancers.

One commonly used anti-tumor drug, trastuzumab (Herceptin®), is sometimes beneficial, but with advantages and disadvantages. It is an antibody to the HER2 antigen, which

means it naturally seeks out this protein in cancers. But its effectiveness as a treatment usually is limited because in 66 to 88 percent of patients, the tumors become resistant within the first year of treatment. Herceptin also can injure normal organs it contacts.

The researchers reported in their recent studies, published in a recent issue of *Cancer Research*, that the new drug carried multiple molecular components, each with a distinct role. These key components included: Herceptin to target the existing HER2 protein; another molecule to attack a genetic mechanism responsible for the production of new protein; and a molecule to open tumor blood vessels and deliver the drugs into the cancer cells for release.

Health Happenings...

BridgePoint Sets Seminars On Parkinson's Disease, Medical Directives

BridgePoint Beverly Hills, a boutique senior community, has set two free seminars for April.

- Linda O'Connor, coordinator for the American Parkinson's Disease Association Information and Referral Center at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, will present "Understanding Parkinson's Disease," from 6-7 p.m., Wednesday, April 13.

- Joel Loquvam will present a workshop from 2-4 p.m., Thursday, April 14 where participants can fill out an Advanced Healthcare Directive from (the California Medical Power of Attorney) and a HIPAA Authorization, for free.

Since space is limited, reservations are required. They may be made by contacting Ann Siegal, BridgePoint marketing director, at 310-860-9234 or BridgePointMKG@islllc.com.

Communicating With Children, Disciplining With Love, Topic Of Seminar

The Iranian-American Parents Association (IAPA) and Dr. Nanaz Pirnia, Ph.D., MFT will present "How Parents Should Communicate With Their Young Children (From Birth To Age 13)" from 6:30 - 9 p.m., Thursday, April 28 at the Beverly Hills Country Club, 3084 Motor Ave.

The theatrical/educational seminar and panel discussion will help parents learn effective ways to discipline with love.

Space is limited and tickets, at \$20, are available at IranianHotline.com or by phone at 310-358-3337.

Refreshments will be served.

For more information, send email to info@iapabh.org or call Dr. Pirnia at 310-286-1480.

KIRN670AM Radio Iran and the Beverly Hills Country Club are sponsors of the event.

CHLA Launches Interactive Online Game Featuring Stars From The Lakers, Dodgers, Kings And Galaxy

Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) has unveiled "Where's Pau Now?," the first in a four-part online interactive game series featuring four prominent L.A. sports figures: L.A. Lakers forward and NBA All Star Pau Gasol; former L.A. Kings left wing and hockey Hall of Famer Luc Robitaille; L.A. Galaxy and U.S. National Team forward Landon Donovan; and L.A. Dodgers first baseman James Loney.

Each series of the game features a player "hiding" in various areas throughout the new and existing hospital. Participants are given multiple choice

options to guess the player's location for the chance to accumulate points—those with the highest point score at the end of the individual game series will be put into a drawing for prizes, such as autographed gear and game tickets.

Visit www.CHLA.org/Pau to find the game and information on rules and prizes.

"The game was created as a fun and unique way to engage and introduce the community to our pediatric hospital building that will open in July," said DeAnn Marshall, CHLA vice president and chief marketing officer. "Participants will get

sneak peeks into the new hospital building, learn about its cutting-edge technology, amenities and services and see how the new hospital specifically caters to children, adolescents and their families."

"Children's Hospital Los Angeles has become a big part of my life recently and I have a great respect for the incredible work they do," said Gasol. "I was thrilled to be part of this game and help promote the new hospital building. It is truly a state-of-the-art facility that is going to positively change the lives of so many children in need."

MEASURE 2P

(Continued from page 1)

terprise Fund.

As reported by *The Courier*, this "fund" does not really exist but is an accounting device used by the City to allocate income and expense from parking operations.

The City Council tried unsuccessfully to ban the measure from the March ballot by

EQUINOX

(Continued from page 1)

the unanimous decision of the Planning Commission to approve it.

The appeal was filed by Todd Elliot, an attorney who stated he represented Ron and Sharon Gart and an organization that called itself "Neighbors Organized to Protect the Environment in Beverly Hills" or "N.O.P.E. Beverly Hills".

Equinox Fitness Center applied for a conditional use permit, beginning in Oct. 2010. The fitness club will be located at 9465 Wilshire Boulevard, in the 37,000 ft, three story former Bank of America Building. Equinox will not only have fitness equipment and locker rooms available for members but will have a café, retail store

CHRISTIANSEN

(Continued from page 4)

hearing by which a judge can make a finding of probable cause.

Ciulla argued to Judge Marcus the statute of limitations, which is four years from the discovery of the crime, had run up. In District Attorney Juliet Schmidt's criminal complaint, she alleges it was current Superintendent of Business Services Alex Cherniss who discovered the memorandum's authorizing Christiansen to receive the stipends in September of 2009. These memos would not have been discovered had Christiansen not sued the BHUSD for \$16 million in the fall of 2009.

Judge Marcus said he thought Hubbard's case was an "obscure situation" and he did not expect "people who work in payroll to know the superintendent cannot offer raises." He ruled that neither former Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Cheryl Plotkin nor former Senior Payroll and Benefits Specialist Melody Voyles, who were aware of the stipends, could have known it was a crime.

Judge Marcus also alleged Hubbard put the

suing in Superior Court.

The Superior Court struck the measure from the ballot but was in turn blocked by the Court of Appeal and the measure went to the voters. Last Wednesday, the Court of Appeal returned the lawsuit to Superior Court.

The council must decide whether or not to continue its litigation to stop implementation of the measure.

and spa open to the public.

The conditional use permit allows for four things. One, to allow an exercise club to be located on the ground floor of a building within the business triangle; two, to allow portions of the exercise areas to be visible from the street; three, to allow approximately 90 ft of street frontage along N Beverly Drive and 33 ft along Wilshire (while the standard is 25 ft); and four, to allow the use of shared parking facilities to satisfy parking requirements.

Elliot alleged the Planning Commission could not make positive findings to allow shared parking and the environmental review process was flawed. The Bank of America building controls 474 spaces, with another 212 specifically dedicated to patrons of the

memos in Christiansen's personnel file so the board would not realize he gave her stipends.

Chodos argued to Judge Marcus Christiansen cannot be held responsible for any conflict of interest charges because a 1090 violation can only apply to board members, officers or employees. Judge Marcus ruled 1090 charges apply to Christiansen because she was performing all the same duties as a consultant as when she was employed at the district. She also kept the same office and continued to use an e-mail signature claiming she was the director of planning and facilities.

Judge Marcus said the key issue over a 1090 violation is whether or not an individual is wearing "two hats."

"Is she urging the BHUSD

No date has been set by the Superior Court to resume consideration of the matter.

Earlier in the litigation, the Superior Court found the measure unconstitutional as an improper imposition on "administrative" matters as opposed to "legislative" matters. Different legal standards will apply to the case if the city continues the litigation although most observers believe the measure

building, and has access to an additional 485 spaces in the MGM garage.

Elliot claimed the building is subject California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) evaluations, because the building will be converted from office buildings to an exercise club. However, City Staff states the changes are minimal, in line with building codes and are not considered a change in use of the space and are therefore exempt.

Neither Ron or Sharon Gart nor members of N.O.P.E. attended any of the public or appeal hearings. While Elliot said his clients chose to allow their lawyer to represent them, Mayor Barry Brucker said he found it to be unusual the appellants never appeared.

"The organization N.O.P.E.

to place a bond on the ballot because they need it or because she stands to make money," Judge Marcus asked the court.

Hubbard is charged with two counts of misappropriation of funds and Christiansen with four counts of conflict of interest.

The hearing is scheduled for April 22 at 10 a.m. in department 102 of the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, in downtown Los Angeles.

would again be stricken by the Court. Nonetheless, the council faces an electorate determined to preserve the traditional two-hour free parking policy of Beverly Hills.

Council members discussed means to address the supposed "deficit" by such means as eliminating grace periods, eliminating flat fees after 6 p.m. and leasing or selling some structures to private oper-

ators. The only outcome from Tuesday's discussion was the designation of Councilmembers Julian Gold, M.D. and John Mirisch to act as liaisons with Director of Parking Operations Chad Lynn to consider implementation and options. They will meet during the next two weeks and discuss the item at the April 21 Council meeting.

doesn't seem to exist," Brucker said. "I don't believe we've ever had any bylaws, any registration of the organization. They didn't seem to come out in numbers or even send one person other than their attorney to represent them. It leads me to believe that probably this was a competitor asking Mr. Elliot to represent them."

Elliot denied working with the competing gym Sports Club L.A. or having any knowledge of their opinions regarding competition and Equinox.

The conditional use permit

must be renewed annually. The Planning Commission also placed a cap of 4,500 on the number of members the facility may have.

"I think it improves the corner and... I think it's a good project," Vice Mayor Willie Brien said.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theatre 40 Presents One Man Nazi-Hunter-Simon Wiesenthal

Despite his death in 2006, the intrepid "Nazi Hunter" Simon Wiesenthal, continues to inspire audiences across the country, thanks to a new one-man show.

Commemorating the centennial of Wiesenthal's birth last year, critically acclaimed playwright and actor Tom Dugan recently premiered his newest one-man play *Nazi Hunter-Simon Wiesenthal* in Los Angeles

Dugan portrays the aging concentration camp survivor as he recounts his life's work of pursuing Nazi war crimi-

nals Adolf Eichmann, Franz Stangl, Dr. Josef Mengele and Karl Silberbauer, the SS officer who imprisoned Anne Frank.

Dugan, who played Agatha Christie's Detective Hercule Poirot in Theatre 40's production of *Black Coffee*, is bringing his play to Theatre 40 at the Reuben Cordova Theatre, 241 Moreno Dr. on the BHHS campus for five performances at 7:30 p.m., Sunday-Tuesday, April 10-12, 17, 24-26.

Tickets are \$25. For reservations and information, call 310-364-3606 or visit www.theatre40.org.

Beth Shir Shalom To Screen Rivers Documentary

Hosted by comedienne, actress, and temple member, Wendy Hammers, Beth Shir Shalom Synagogue will present, "Can We Talk...to a Temple Member?"—highlighted by a showing of the recent hit documentary, *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work*—at 7 p.m., tomorrow at the temple, 1827 California Ave. Hammers has appeared in films and on stage, as well as on TV programs *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Oprah* and *The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson*.

Donations for the evening are \$15. Free childcare is available with reservations, which can be made by calling 310-453-3361 or emailing roselee@bethshirshalom.org.

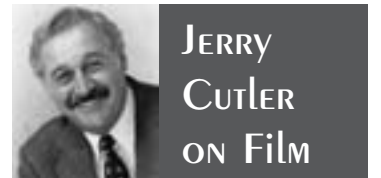
Performances, Direction Help Hanna Rise Above Its Genre

Taught the skills of survival and ruthless defense by her mysterious and reclusive father, Hanna (Saoirse Ronan), a beautiful, fearless teenager is a threat to anyone who has the courage to stand in her way. She and her father Erik (Eric Bana), live in a dilapidated cabin. I have no idea how they managed to survive within the accepted parameters of a hygienic day-to-day existence.

Her training is rigorous and she must use her cunning and ruthlessness to survive and eventually combat her nemesis, CIA agent, Marissa (Cate Blanchett) who wants to kill Erik and Hanna.

The question as to "why" is a bit unclear. It has something to do with a security breach and Erik's wife who, we come to learn, was permanently eliminated by Marissa.

Like other movies of this



JERRY CUTLER ON FILM

genre, our sense of believability must be suspended with no questions asked. However, what takes this presentation above the rest is Ronan's performance and Joe Wright's direction.

Having directed Ronan in *Atonement* which earned her a supporting actress nomination, Wright knows very well the wide range of the young beauty and uses it brilliantly.

Writers Seth Lochhead and David Farr keep the seamless action going.

This weekend, *Hanna* opens against the carefree and fun-loving *Arthur*. My money is on *Hanna*.

3 bagels out of 4

UCLA Bringing Celebration Of World Music To Walt Disney Hall

The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music and the Latino Museum of History, Art and Culture in Los Angeles will present the UCLA Philharmonia's first-ever appearance at Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., under the direction of music professor Neal Stulberg at 8 p.m., Saturday, April 16 (pre-concert lecture by UCLA associate professor of musicology Elisabeth Le Guin).

Part of the L.A. Philharmonic's "Sound About Town" series, the event will feature Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano, a UCLA student jazz

trio, performers on Chinese traditional instruments and works, arrangements and performances by UCLA faculty members—including professors of ethnomusicology A. J. Racy, Lebanese American performer and composer, and James Newton, renowned jazz and chamber music composer—as well as alumni like flutist Danilo Loana, students and others.

Discounted tickets at \$36, \$31, \$27 and \$15 may be purchased at the UCLA Central Ticket Office (open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.) or by calling 310-825-2101.

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AIRLINE

(Continued from page 5)

tinations from LAX. American Eagle is introducing new two-class service to Denver and four of the new routes – Houston, Oklahoma City, Phoenix and Albuquerque, N.M.

The service features a First Class cabin, with premium food and beverage service, and nine newly designed seats that offer adjustable headrests and ergonomically contoured back and seat cushions on the CRJ-700 aircraft.

EARTHQUAKE

(Continued from page 4)

prepare themselves as well. The community needs to store enough food, water and supplies without assistance anywhere from three to seven days. The City, as a whole, needs to be prepared to be on its own anywhere from seven to 14 days in case of a large disaster. Water is the most important resource, Mottice Muller said.

The City is holding the third annual “Rock and Roll Pledge Drive.” This pledge drive provides residents with ways to prepare for an earthquake. This year’s focus is on financial planning. In order to enter the pledge drive raffle, participants must pledge to complete a variety of basic emergency financial preparations including installing smoke detectors, conducting a household inventory, having cash on hand and storing documents in a safe place such as an evacuation box or safe deposit box. To be eligible for the raffle, residents will need to submit their pledges by May 31. Prizes include a flashlight and car backpack.

Last year’s “Rock and Roll Pledge

American also will add seven additional daily flights from LAX, including two additional flights each to Dallas/Fort Worth and Miami and one additional flight each to Chicago, Las Vegas and Orlando, Fla.

The American Eagle flights will depart from American Eagle’s new terminal at LAX, which opened last year and will be expanded by up to four additional gates by the end of 2011 at an investment of approximately \$20 million.

Drive” encouraged residents to create an emergency car kit. Car kits are important, Mottice Muller said, if someone is stuck on the freeway and can’t get home or if someone has to leave their car and walk home. Included in a car kit should be flashlights with extra batteries, a portable radio with extra batteries, nonperishable food, water, a first aid kit and comfortable shoes.

The first year of the “Rock and Roll Pledge Drive” was a way for residents to create a home preparedness kit. If residents keep enough food and water in their home and don’t require help from the City, they are allowing the government to help those who are truly in need, Mottice Muller said. Included in a home kit should be enough non-perishable food for at least 72 hours, enough water for each person and pet to have a gallon of water for 72 hours, a first aid kit, fire extinguisher flashlight with extra batteries and a portable radio with extra batteries.

People will be able to buy earthquake kits and get more information at the Beverly Hills Farmers Market on Earth Day, Sunday April 10.

[-mschevker@bhcourier.com](mailto:mschevker@bhcourier.com)

POLICE BLOTTER

BURGLARY

Occurred at 2:58 a.m. on 4/3 in 300 block of S. Robertson Blvd. Male Suspect—used tool to break glass, entered store and stole property.

Loss \$250

Occurred between 5 p.m. on 4/1 and 4 p.m. on 4/3 in 200 block of S. Robertson Blvd. Unknown suspect forced entry into business with pry tool, broke into cash register and stole cash.

Loss \$300

Occurred about 9:20 p.m. on 4/1 in 400 block of S. Oakhurst Dr. Suspect Male Black: 6’00”, 230—entered victim’s residence through open window and attempted to steal property.

Occurred between 3 a.m. and 9 p.m. on 4/1 in 200 block of S. Camden Dr. Unknown suspect entered yard through unsecured gate, got into home via slider window, opened basement door and cut wires.

GRAND THEFT

Occurred between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. on 3/31 in 300 block of N. Rodeo Dr. Unknown suspect entered store and stole items from rack.

Loss \$37,500

Occurred about 1:46 p.m. on 3/31 in 400 block of N. Rodeo Dr. Suspect: Male Black, 37, 6’00”, 190, brown hair and eyes—entered store, removed items from rack, placed them inside bag.

Loss \$1,396

Occurred at 6:30 p.m. on 3/24 in 8600 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect stole victim’s watch.

Loss \$4,000

Occurred between 6:30 p.m. on 3/30 and 1 p.m. on 3/31 in 9300 block of Civic Center Dr. Unknown suspect stole credit card from victim’s purse and used it at several locations.

ASSAULT

Occurred between 9:30 and 11 p.m. on 3/21 in 8900 block of Dayton Way. Suspect: Male Black, 33, 6’00”, 175,

black hair and brown eyes—tackled victim to ground, twisted her wrist, tore sweatshirt as he grabbed phone and car keys.

Occurred around noon on 3/30 in 200 block of S. Reeves Dr. Suspect: Male White, 30, 6’05”, 210, black hair and brown eyes—gained access to victim’s apartment, then altercation occurred causing visible injury to the latter.

Occurred about 4:40 a.m. on 4/2 in 100 block of S. Palm Dr.

Suspect: Male White, 30, 6’00”, black hair—used closed fist, open hands and knee to strike victim seated in driver’s seat of vehicle.

IDENTITY THEFT

Occurred at 5 p.m. on 11/17 in 9700 block of Wilshire Blvd. Suspect: Female White, 40, 5’09”, 140, black hair and brown eyes—opened an account in victim’s name, deposited stolen third party check into account, withdrew cash and then closed account.

Occurred at noon on 3/24 in 200 block of S. El Camino Dr. Suspect #1: Male White, 20, blonde/strawberry hair. Suspect #2: Female White—opened a line of credit in victim’s name, ordered electronic items and attempted to receive delivery in front of the latter’s residence.

Occurred at 9:14 p.m. on 3/28 in 9300 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspects withdrew funds from victim’s account.

Occurred on 3/29 in 9400 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect posed as victim and had money transferred to another account.

Occurred on 3/25 in 200 block of S. Palm Dr. Unknown suspect used victim’s personal information and attempted to withdraw funds from account.

Occurred between 1/1 and 2/1 in 8700 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect used victim’s personal information to open a credit account.

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The first thing to know about Scarpetta in Montage Beverly Hills is that it is NOT an Italian restaurant. Though advertised as an Italian restaurant, but it's really not at all Italian. It's a high-end hotel restaurant, with contemporary food at high prices. Yes, you can get a small plate of spaghetti with tomato sauce (for \$24), or ravioli stuffed with foie gras, but that doesn't make it an Italian restaurant.

The somewhat unusual setting includes high ceilings and an overhanging balcony, and all diners sit within view of the hotel's adjacent green space. One looks out toward Bouchon, sometimes with longing. While the tables are large and well spaced apart (that's the good news) the chairs are hard and need cushions.

The restaurant was pretty busy on a Saturday night. The sound level while moderately loud, is about average for Beverly Hills, but the music was quite offensive—I heard a woman screaming about lost love. With that voice it was clear to me why her man left her.

On our last visit we arrived at 7:35 for our 7:30 reservation for four. "Is your entire party here?" asked the greeter. "No, but I would like to be seated and order a glass of wine" I replied. "Your table will be ready in a few moments" she replied, while I stared at a table for four nearby that was set up and ready to be occupied. I continued to stare at the table until the captain got the message, at which time he seated us at the empty table. A few minutes later our friends arrived.

Within seconds the waitress appeared and asked "sparkling or flat?" My wife said sparkling and I said "plain water with no ice please." Thirty seconds later she appeared with a bottle of San Pellegrino and poured some into all four glasses and disappeared before I could object. When she reappeared I mentioned to her that I preferred flat water. She grabbed my full glass (with \$2 worth of water in it), and reappeared a few moments later with a glass of tap water, no ice, and a fresh bottle of Pellegrino. So there went \$18 (\$15 plus tip). And that put me on notice as to what kind of restaurant it is.

I began to look around for the wine steward, since I needed a drink. Instead, the bread arrived. This was the best part of the meal—in fact, maybe it's the best bread in Beverly Hills. One piece with sausage flavor prompted me to look for a second piece and so we ordered a second basket that once again arrived along with small dishes of butter with mascarpone cheese, caponata and the traditional olive oil.

To start I had the creamy polenta with mushrooms. This was delicious, but in a true Italian restaurant they would have used porcini mushrooms and reduced the sauce so that it was thick enough not to penetrate the polenta. My wife had the tuna Susci, served as a roll but instead of the usual rice it came with raw vegetables – she

SCARPETTA AT THE MONTAGE HOTEL

The Courier's Restaurant Review by MERV HECHT

declared it fresh but bland.

By now I was pretty desperate for a glass of wine, so I asked the captain to send over the wine steward. Sean Jemai appeared, and upon hearing that we were speaking French at the table, joined in the conversation and introduced himself. I mentioned that his name wasn't very Italian—more Irish—and he explained that one parent was Italian but he was raised in Marseilles and studied wine in Bordeaux. He seemed likeable, so I asked him to recommend a light red wine—maybe something from the Loire Valley, or Alsace. He was sorry, but nothing like that was on the list. Apparently thinking that my desired choice was based on price, he pointed out the Spanish wines on the list, which of course are not light. At the suggestion of our dining companion, we ended up with a bottle of New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc, as I so often do, at \$44. The wholesale price should be about \$10.

Three of us each ordered one of the three fish dishes on the menu, and each was excellent. Although we noticed that each of the three fish entrees arrived with a different accompaniment than is listed on the menu. My branzino was cooked with crisp skin, and tasted fresh. It came with caramelized fennel, which I loved, instead of the vinaigrette advertised on the menu. I might have put a touch of fish stock in it, to make it a bit more moist, but I have no complaints about any of the three plates. I saw lots of meat going by to other tables, and those dishes also looked good. I would say that the main courses are grade A. As well they should be for about \$30 each.

To finish the meal, three of us shared a chocolate cake with burnt orange ice cream, not very Italian but very tasty. My wife's pecorino fresco cheese plate contained such a small piece of cheese that we got a chuckle out of it, and it too was bland. In a failed attempt to counter the tasteless cheese, a very hot spicy apple moutarde sat alongside the cheese. A better offering would be aged pecorino served with honey as is so readily available in Italy.

And so it went for about \$65 a person. It's not an Italian restaurant, and it's not well managed, and the staff needs a lot of training. But the food is really quite good, and the space very pleasant. For those staying at the hotel it's a pretty place to eat, especially if it's raining out. For those driving into Beverly Hills in search of a great dinner there are lots of places that serve authentic Italian food, at the same or lesser prices.

The Courier's restaurant critic, Mervyn Hecht, has been a consultant to several national food and wine importing companies for the past 22 years.

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Noha Radwan



Uri Cohen

Professor Noha Radwan was on the streets of Tahrir Square in Cairo during the dramatic moments of the successful Egyptian uprising against the government of Hosni Mubarak. A professor of comparative literature at UC Davis, Professor Radwan was in touch with students and faculty at Pacific Hills just before and just after her direct engagement with world history in Egypt, and has been looking forward to joining us to tell her story and share her insights about the past, present and future of the cultural and political life of the Middle East.

Professor Radwan will be joined by Pacific Hills School Faculty Fellow and Columbia University Professor of Middle Eastern Languages and Culture Uri Cohen for an evening of discussion and debate.

**Noha Radwan
 Uri Cohen
 Wed., April 13th
 6:30 pm**

GREAT SCHOOLS, GREAT UNIVERSITIES & GREAT LEARNING: What Matters Most



Uri Cohen



Dr. Peter Temes

Columbia University Professor of Middle Eastern Languages and Culture Uri Cohen will share his experiences as a faculty member teaching in the undergraduate core curriculum at Columbia, at the Great Books summer program for middle-school and high-school students at Amherst College, and as a Faculty Fellow at Pacific Hills School. Joined by Head of School Dr. Peter Temes, Professor Cohen will explore and debate the ideas and practices that make for a great education.

**Uri Cohen
 Peter Temes
 Public Lunch
 Thurs., April 14th
 12:00 noon**



Elizabeth Cohen

ELIZABETH COHEN POETRY READING

Acclaimed poet and memoirist Elizabeth Cohen, Professor of Creative Writing at the State University of New York/Plattsburgh and author of the New York Times Notable Book *The House on Beartown Road*, will be reading her recent poetry and short stories at Pacific Hills School. With a frank and lyrical voice, Elizabeth Cohen's writings are moving, honest and powerful guides to finding love and meaning in our complicated age.

**Elizabeth Cohen
 Poetry Reading
 Wed., April 20th
 6:30 pm**

CARING FOR OLDER PARENTS: Stories and Strategies for Supporting Parents as They Age

Elizabeth Cohen's book *The House of Beartown Road* tells her story of caring for her father toward the end of his life, as he was struggling with Alzheimer's disease. Called by the New York Times Book Review "frank, funny and courageous," *The House on Beartown Road* is already a classic. Elizabeth Cohen's reading from and discussion of the book will give audience members an opportunity to share their stories as well.

**Elizabeth Cohen
 Thurs., April 21st
 6:30 pm**

DOCUMENTARY THINKING AND DOCUMENTARY TEACHING



Bill Siegel

Academy-Award nominated documentary filmmaker (The Weather Underground) and Head of School Programs for the Great Books Foundation Bill Siegel returns to Pacific Hills School to discuss the connections between great social documentaries, great teaching and great learning. He will share news and sneak-previews of his new and upcoming film projects, and share stories of some of the extraordinary schools and teachers he works with through the foundation.

**Bill Siegel
 Public Lunch
 Thurs., April 21st
 12:30 pm**

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PAGE SCHOOL'S FLOWER SCIENCE PROJECT—Back row: (from left) pre-kindergarten teacher Alexandra Morris, Matthew Ranaei, Hudson MacDonell, Jonathan Cornelio, Cameron Davis, JoAnn Ferro, Sharon Morphey and Tricia Morphey. Front Row (from left): Dior Goodjohn, Sinai Cunningham, Gabriella Frost, Yacob Eyob, Maxwell Morphey, Sadie Wray, Isabelle Cates and Nathan Pena.

Page Parents Get Involved, Contribute To Classroom Learning With Flower Science Project

By Dupé Aleru

How can parental involvement in schools make a difference in the academic success of its students?

Quite frankly, it can make a huge difference. Last month a couple of Page School parents decided to be a contributing force to academic achievement and the learning experience by bringing in hands-on educational activities to one of its Pre-K classrooms.

Page parent Tricia Morphey—mother of Maxwell Morphey, and Page grandma Sharon Morphey,

volunteered to come to teacher Alexandra Morris' pre-kindergarten classroom for a hands-on engaging flower science project for its students.

To add a creative twist to the educational science project, each student was given a cardboard flower box to decorate, and also given three test tubes, three white daisy flowers, a choice of food coloring for two test tubes, squishy gel orbeez balls (which grow in water), and water.

The purpose was to inform and teach children about a flower's absorbency in relation

to water and how the color in water could affect the color of the flower petals. The test tube with the orbeez balls allowed students to observe science on a different level due to how the orbeez balls absorb water and expand 100 times its original volume in just a few hours. This quick process is a demonstration for children on how a flower would normally grow in days, weeks and months.

This goes to show that parental involvement is a huge driving force for student success and the learning experience.



Above: Nathan Pena smiles for the camera during his science experiment.



Left: JoAnn Ferro places her daisy in its test tubes.

Beverly Hills Third Grader Wins State Gymnastic Titles, Moves On To Regional 1 Competition

By Dupé Aleru

Isaiah Drake, known as "Lord of the rings" due to his talent in the Still-Rings category, is a third grade student at Good Shepherd Catholic School who will continue on to the Regional 1 competition in Northern California. He qualified for this competition due to his victory at the state championship in March.

Drake was named Still-Rings State Champion in the Level 5, age 7-8 years category at the Southern California State Gymnastics Championship last month in Aliso Viejo.

This completion is under the aegis of USA Gymnastics, the national governing body for the sport of gymnastics in the United States as designated by the U.S. Olympic Committee.



Drake also placed third on Parallel Bars and third in the All-Around Competition.

Drake, who has been a gymnastic student for three years, is being coached and trained by Henry Vanetsyan at Broadway Gymnastics School near Playa Vista.

Vanetsyan is a former Olympic coach who for 15 years trained the U.S.S.R.'s Men's Gymnastics team.

Drake will represent Southern California at the Region 1 Championships in Oakland on Sunday, competing against gymnasts from Northern California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii.

For further information contact Annie Goepel at 323-463-9700.

Good Shepherd Students Get Behind The Scenes Look On Field Trip To Gelson's

Good Shepherd Catholic School's pre-k classroom enjoyed a behind-the-scenes field trip to Gelson's Market in Century City, last week.

The idea was to visit a market to learn about food and see how food is packaged and stored.

The trip began with a visit to the produce section where students observed the vast assortment of fruits and vegeta-

bles and had the opportunity to sample fresh strawberries, blueberries and cantaloupe.

Next, they were taken on the warehouse tour—the area where boxes of food are stored, and observed how these are moved on a conveyor belt. They then went to the meat and fish area.

Each student was given a chance to scan a food item to see how it appears on the regis-

ter after being scanned.

One can imagine the smell of fresh bread baking in an oven; at least the students did as they visited the last stops of the tour, the bakery and deli.

As a last treat, the children concluded the trip by sitting down at tables to enjoy a nice treat of breaded chicken and cookies—not together of course.

Yum! Yum!

Charlene Liebau Talks: 'College Admissions'

By Charlene Liebau
College Admissions Editor

College admission decisions are out. Given the reports of the record breaking number of applications received by colleges this year, the admission decisions cannot be all that good for many, many well-qualified students. Consider Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Stanford reporting admit-rates in the single digits: 6.2, 7.4, 8.4, and 7.1 percentages, respectively. True, not all colleges are reporting such statistics but enough are which only serves to underscore the ever increasing anxiety surrounding the college admission process.

What to do? Let's begin with current seniors. What does one do if "deny" is the word from first choice college? To share the news that this year, for a variety of reasons, was the most competitive ever is of little comfort. The numbers are staggering: UCLA received 61,000 applications for a freshman class of 5,250; Stanford received 34,348 applications for an incoming class of 1,725; and Harvard received 34,950 for a class of 2,158. Columbia University announced it received 32 percent more applications this year than it did last year. Colleges and universities across the country, public and private, are

(see 'COLLEGE,' page 21)



LOS AND FOUND—Eliya Cogan, Annie Asch, and Eric Lunzer in "Lost and Found," Shalhevet's festival of original one-act plays. *Photo by Janet Fishman*

Shalhevet's Theater Department Offers Student-Directed Plays Lost And Found

By Dupé Aleru

Shalhevet School's Theater Department started the showing of its original one-act plays written and directed by its students. The evening, which began yesterday, was called "Lost And Found."

Under the guidance of Shalhevet's drama teacher Emily Chase and award-winning playwright Laurel Ollstein, this year's spring production explores the meaning of life, space pirates and everything in between.

The show opens with *Hold Your Horses* by senior Rebecca Asch. This is about a high-powered businesswoman who gets stranded on a ranch, coaxed onto a horse...and goes on the ride of her life.

The second play, *Divine Case*, written by tenth grader Rose Bern, is about a lawyer who sues God for allowing humans to suffer—but is he actually prepared for God to show up in court?

The third play written by junior Leona Fallas is called *The Tale Of The Magical Wallet*. The story depicts a girl

who writes a storybook romance in which the prince and princess come to life and the fairy tale is turned upside down.

Jenny Newman wrote the fourth play, *Blindness* about what a teenager with his head in a book and a cell-phone addicted CFO have in common? They have to figure it out when they're plunged into the fourth dimension.

The fifth and final one-act is called *Tomorrow's Opportunity*. Written by senior Rachel Lesel, this takes place 50 years in the future, where a space pirate's son tries to live an honest life and find true love, but he can only evade the pirate life for so long.

Future performances are Apr. 11 and Apr. 13 at 7 p.m., Apr. 10 at 2 and 7 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for students, \$15 for adults and \$25 for patron front row seats.

Tickets for "Lost And Found" can be purchased by emailing Emily Chase at e.chase@shalhevet.org. All funds raised will benefit Shalhevet's Drama Department.

Legal And Parenting Expert Robin Sax To Speak At Team Tutor Workshop

By Dupé Aleru

Legal and parenting expert Robin Sax (www.robinsax.com) hosts "From the Online World to the Real World: Tips to Keep Your Kids Safe and Parents Sane" on Thursday, Apr. 14 at 7 p.m. to at Team Tutors, 806 N. Camden Dr.

Sax, a former felony prosecutor for L.A. County, is a lecturer at UCLA's paralegal program, and an adjunct professor at CalState Los Angeles. She frequently appears as a legal commentator on *Larry King Live*, *Swift Justice*

With *Nancy Grace*, *The Today Show*, *Dr. Phil*, Fox News and many others.

Through her "Kid Scene" Investigation programs, Sax teaches parents how to get tech savvy, recognize the symptoms of Internet danger, identify cyber crimes and cyber bullying, and develop a personalized internet protocol for their family. She will answer all questions about online safety for families.

To RSVP, email info@teamtutors.com or call 323-356-6160.

COLLEGE (Continued from page 20)

reporting increases in application numbers—all of which adds to the competitive, anxiety producing nature of the admission process.

For the high school senior who did not receive a "fat envelope" from first choice college there are several things to do. First, recognize what really matters, is what you do—wherever you go. Keeping that thought in mind, what are your options? You applied to several other colleges and you applied to them for a reason.

If, however, you find you are on the Wait List of a favored college—now is the time to be proactive. Inform that college you not only choose to accept a position on the Wait List but also make a full-court press: bring the

admission office up to date on your achievements and activities since you submitted your application.

Now, my message for high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and their families: All the reports on admission rates and the increasing competitive nature of the process serve as a call to do your homework. The college planning process first requires thoughtful consideration in determining one's priorities in a college—what are you "looking for"?

My advice is to broaden your horizons as you develop your college list. Come to think of it, broadening one's horizons is what a college education is all about.

Charlene Liebau is former director of admissions for CalTech and Occidental

St. Timothy Teacher Nicole Adkins Wins A National Playwriting Workshop Award

By Dupé Aleru

St. Timothy Catholic School's librarian, Nicole Adkins, was named one of four winners of the 2011 National Waldo M. and Grace C. Bonderman Playwriting Workshop award.

Her play, *The Lost Princess*, will be featured in a rehearsed reading at the Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis. The work is geared towards students in grades fifth through eighth.

The story takes place in the Vienna of 1888, tells about an orphan, who after being sent to live at the Schoenbrunn Palace with her aunt and her Royal Guard uncle, finds herself entangled in palace politics.

It is loosely based on the true story of Adkins great-great-grandmother. The playwright was flown to Indianapolis last Friday to embark in a week's worth of development, with a team consisting of a director, dramaturge, graduate assistant, and student respondents—all the age of her target audience.



St. Timothy Librarian, Nicole Adkins

At the end of her six days of concentrated work and rehearsal, there was a public reading at the 4-day bi-annual Bonderman Symposium, which many children's theater professionals from around the country attended.

For additional information, visit www.irtlive.com/artists_information/playwrights/bonderman_history/.

Stories And Songs With Uncle Ruthie Saturday At Children's Book World

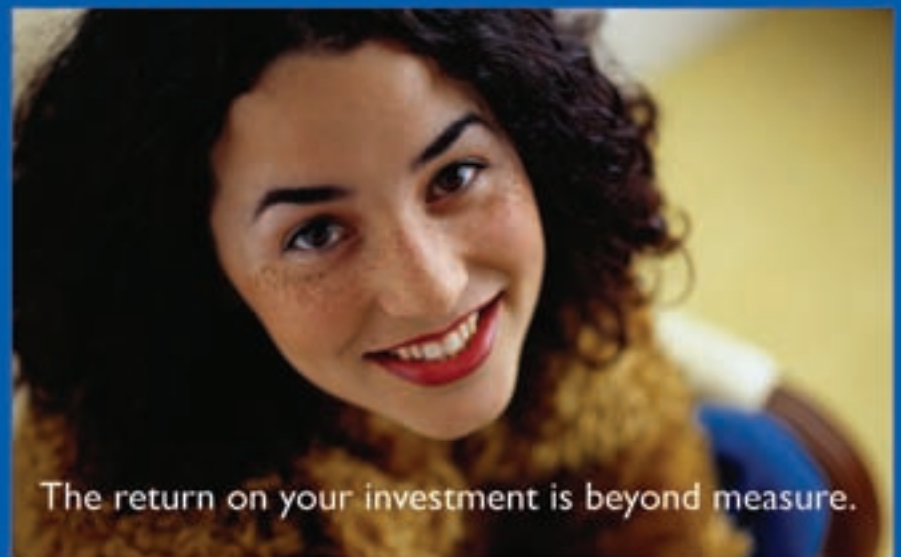
Children's Book World, 10580 W. Pico Blvd., hosts "Stories and Songs with Uncle Ruthie," tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. Youngsters (ages 3 to 8) can join Uncle Ruthie for fun, stories and original songs.

Her weekly radio show, *Halfway Down The Stairs*, can be heard Saturday mornings from 8-9 a.m., on KPFK, 90.7

FM. This is a multicultural and fun program for the whole family. Uncle Ruthie was awarded the 2010 Magic Penny award by the Children's Music Network for her lifelong dedication to empowering children through music.

For more information, visit www.childrensbookworld.com.

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BIRTHDAY GREETINGS—Celebrating birthdays are Jane Wooster Scott, Franco Corelli, Betty Ford, Shecky Greene, Skye Pingul, and John Schneider (Apr. 8); *The Courier's* founder March Schwartz, Sy Sussman, Jean Paul Belmondo, Kay Goldman, Hugh Hefner, Michael Learned, Fiorenza Lucas, Keshia Knight-Pullam and Dennis Stevens (Apr. 9); John Madden, Steven Seagal, and Omar Sharif (Apr. 10); Eileen Goodman, Joel Grey, Louise Lasser, and Peter Riegert (Apr. 11); Helene An, Montserrat Caballé, David Cassidy, Andy Garcia, Herbie Hancock and David Letterman (Apr. 12); Tom Blumenthal, Al Green, Joanna Garris, Jane Leeves, Julie York Farb, Ron Perlman and Natan Reches (Apr. 13); Julie Christie, Bradford Dillman, Loretta Lynn and John Shea (Apr. 14).



CONNIE MARTINSON Talks Books

Stanley Wolpert has written 14 books, many of them relating to India, but this small, brief, 150 page *India And Pakistan: Continued Conflict Or Cooperation?*

is precise and informative regarding the ongoing situation. Wolpert writes that Britain's last viceroy Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten rushed the timetable allotted to

him by Prime Minister Clement Attlee's cabinet to try and resolve the conflicts and to get the opposing leaders to form a single federal dominion of independent India, which along with Pakistan, was born by the partition of British India in August 1947. Gandhi and Nehru supported the position of one federal India. Mohammed Ali Jinnah and his Muslim League demanded an independent Pakistan where the Muslims would have their own government and not be subordinate to India's Hindu majority.

In less than 10 weeks, a British lawyer, Cyril Radcliffe, who had never set foot in India, presided over the partition of British India's two largest multi-cultural provinces. In rushing the division through, Mountbatten set up a cataclysmic confrontation of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs – who had wanted their own state–Parsis, Christians and Jews. It is interesting to keep in mind that Prof. Wolpert told me as the Muslim religion expanded it appealed to the lower cast Hindus who were the Untouchables. They were happy to convert and lose that identification.

The history of Kashmir includes Lalitraditya, the most powerful Hindu monarch who

(see 'MARTINSON,' page 24)



ASTROLOGY By Holiday MATHIS

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Apr. 8). Your intuitive inklings, especially about people, will be correct. This month presents the opportunity to bet on a hunch and win. May brings change and travel. In June, a person in need brings out divine levels of compassion in you. There's a professional gain in July that allows you to assist your family. Aquarius and Pisces people adore you.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19). Someone will copy what you do. This should be flattering to you—imitation is the most sincere kind of compliment. Still, it is important that you take control of what is yours, especially in regard to intellectual property.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20). You want a person to want you. You can't force it to happen, but will make it happen through the art of persuasion. It starts with believing in yourself and feeling whole and complete on your own.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Contribute the best of your talent, and another person will do the same. You will fast become partners, and an easy collaboration ensues. Both parties will feel heard, understood and valued.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You keep your promises to people. This comes easily to you because it's the right thing to do. Because others know what they can consistently expect from you, they keep coming back.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll get what you desire for one reason only: someone else wants to help you and sees great reward in doing so. Your enthusiasm makes it a pleasure for others to assist you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a right way to do things and a wrong way. Playing by the rules, you'll rise through the professional or social ranks quickly enough. Therefore, don't even bother looking for shortcuts today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Find a quiet place where you can concentrate. You will take your work and studies to a new level in this environment. As an added bonus, a relationship improves because of what you learn today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll make a meaningful, powerful connection when you communicate face to face. Send your intention through your eyes right into the eyes and heart of the one you want to influence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You feel pulled toward community-building deeds and do your best work in a diverse group. Ask someone from another department, generation or culture to join in a project.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Still puzzled over an event in your family history? Did it really happen as others said it did, or is the memory tainted by the hopes and beliefs of those who remember it? Investigate further.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Knowledge that has been handed down cannot be verified as of yet. Still, you feel the truth in your bones. Act on what you know. You'll bond with others who share your beliefs.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20). Who is better qualified than you to enhance your reputation? You'll find a not so obvious way to get the story started about who you are and what you've accomplished.

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Vina Zaco Rioja Wine **\$8⁹⁹**
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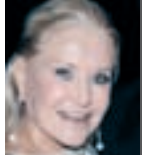
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FRANCES ALLEN DESERT ROUNDUP

When T.S. Eliot opined in the *Wasteland* that April is the cruelest month, he sure wasn't thinking about the Coachella Valley and the swathes of desert wildflowers surrounded by snow-capped peaks, or the mild temperatures heralding the beginning of barbecue season and al fresco dining under a nightly canvas of stars.

For the local chapter of the American Cancer Society, however, April means the continuation of the more the two-decades-old tradition of presenting Desert Spirit, the Valley's premier food fundraising event.



Paul Bruggemans (below), owner of fashionable Le Vallauris in Palm Springs and dean of

Desert restaurateurs reprises his role of host, while Dr. Megan Foster and her husband, Dr. Scott Gering, co-chair the event for the second year.

Diane Neiderman, the beautiful, and more important, cancer-survivor wife of best-selling author Andrew Neiderman, will be receive the 2011 Celebration of Life award in recognition of her personal fight with the disease.

The white-tablecloth Desert restaurants participating in this year's event are Bellatrix, El Mirasol, Kaiser Restaurant Group, Le Vallauris, Pacifica Seafood Restaurant, Spencer's Restaurant, Sullivan's Steakhouse and Wally's Desert Turtle.

This April 17 event at the Palm Springs Convention Center is more than a "taste of," it is the pinnacle of gourmet dining in the Desert. For tickets and more information, call 760-340-1597.

April is also a busy month for world-renowned photographer and Palm Springs resident, Michael Childers, whose work is the subject of a special exhibition at the Rancho Mirage Public Library on April 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Childers (right) is known for his fine art photographs of legendary movie stars, artists and other luminaries, many of which were first seen on the cover of *Interview*, a magazine for which he was the founding photographer.

Titled "Author, Author," the show will feature more than 40 intimate and original portraits taken by Childers from the 1960's through to the present.

Can't make the opening of "Author, Author"? Childers will also host a question and answer session about his work at the library on May 6 from 4 to 6 p.m.

But, April is a busier month than that for Childers who has shouldered the cloak of theatrical producer to his multi-talented wardrobe. Once again this tornado of talent is producing the live stage show, "One Night Only," at the McCallum Theatre April 28 at 6:30 p.m. to aid Jewish Family Service of the Desert.

Childers-produced "One Night Only" has sold out the past three years, delighting audiences with spectacular performances by nearly 20 top entertainers who come together at the McCallum to perform for just one night. This year's show-theme is Palm Springs Legends, which will celebrate the Desert's greatest composers, lyricists and performers—no shortage to choose from.



Past year's performers include Lily Tomlin, Rita Moreno, Michele Lee, Polly Bergen, Sally Kellerman, Loretta Devine, Lorenzo Lamas, Susan Anton, Kaye Ballard, Sam Harris, Elaine Page and Carol Lawrence.

Tickets for seating for the stage performance of One Night Only range from \$75 to \$150, and available at the McCallum box office at 760-340-2787.

Also, there are 125 special VIP theater and dinner packages available at \$375 a ticket. These provide premier seating and admission to the after-theater party with the cast at Acqua Pazza California Bistro at the River in Rancho Mirage. However, VIP packages are only available through Jewish Family Service at 760-325-4088. Proceeds from the evening benefit Jewish Family Service of the Desert, a non-sectarian, non-profit providing counseling and social services

MARTINSON

(Continued from page 22)

was tolerant of Buddhists and supported scholars of both faiths and funded both monasteries and temples. In 1846 the British turned over to Gulab Singh and his male heirs in perpetuity the Jamnu and Kashmir. In 1947 the fate of Kashmir's 4 million subjects were in Maharaja Hari Singh's hands. After the British left, two months later the Muslim peasants refused to pay their land taxes to the Hindu landlords, as that their Hindu guards opened fire. The Muslims fled to Pakistan where they were given assurances of help in liberating Kashmir from Hindu control. The India government responded to defend Prime Minister Pandit Nehru who considered Kashmir his home. On Jan 3, 1948 India brought charges of Pakistan's aggression to the UN Security Council. The debate that ensued is still being debated in some form.

to those in need regardless of age, ethnicity or lifestyle.

There is more life in the Desert than those of us who walk upright through it. Just ask the supporters of The Living Desert who held a fundraising gala Sunday at The Renaissance Esmeralda in Indian Wells.

Titled "Zoobilee!," the gala featuring live and silent auctions in addition to cocktails and dinner, presented the 300 guests in attendance with the opportunity to "feed your inner animal" by supporting The Living Desert's efforts to save wildlife in our own backyard and across the globe.

All proceeds from Zoobilee! go to benefit The Living Desert's animals, many of whom are endangered or can't live on their own in the wild. The event also supports the protection of more than 1,200 acres of desert wilderness and The Living Desert continues to be a major educational resource for teachers and students throughout the Valley and beyond. To find out more about how you can satisfy your "inner animal," call 760-346-5694.

The cruelest thing about April is it's the last full month, this season, you will be able to enjoy *The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies*. Now finishing its 20th season, the *Follies* has been seen by nearly 3 million theater-goers who leave the historic Plaza Theater in Palm Springs awe-struck at the music, dance and costumes of a cast ranging from 56 to 81 years young.

From now through the mid-May end-of-season close, the *Follies* is headlined by The Four Preps whose harmonies and humor still stir vivid memories of the 60s. You can have The Four Preps transport you back in time by calling the *Follies* box office at 760-327-0225.

One reads this history that is still inflammable and is reminded that both India and Pakistan have nuclear bombs. The UN secretary-general has recently stated the Kashmir question has existed nearly six decades and will not go away, it must be resolved. In the last chapter Wolpert advances some suggestions for a solution. Of course, as long as terrorists come into India and blow up trains and hotels, one wonders what solution will satisfy both sides.

Dr. Gary Small and Gigi Vorgan have co-authored *The Naked Lady Who Stood On Her Head: A Psychiatrist's Stories Of His Most Bizarre Cases* (William Morrow \$25.95). Along with the bizarre cases, it is also a semi-autobiographical history of Dr. Small and his family.

He begins his history at age 27, having completed medical school and a year of internal-

International Beverly Hills Film Festival Now Underway



OPENING NIGHT—The International B.H. Film Festival brought out (above, from left): Steven Paul, honoree Jon Voight, Nino Simone; Bal Ling (right); and (below, from left): Phillip Baker Hall, Hector Elizando; and Jennifer Finnigan with Jonathan Silverman. *Photos by Giovanni Maslin/EliteScene.com*



On Wednesday, the 11th annual International Beverly Hills Film Festival (www.beverlyhillsfilmfestival.com), founded by independent filmmaker Nino Simone, kicked-off with the West Coast premiere of the feature film *Conception* starring David Arquette and Julie Bowen. The screening was followed by the West Coast premiere of *The Chicago 8* starring Danny Masterson, Gary Cole and Orlando Jones and the world premiere of *Bad Penny* starring Tom Arnold and Bai Ling.

For five days, the BHFF hosts red carpet premieres, networking events, panel discussions and after-parties, culminating in the closing night Gala Awards Ceremony held at the Four Seasons on Sunday. Legendary actor Jon Voight is the recipient of the Legends award to be presented at the Gala. That night, the 2011 Parajanov-Vartanov Institute award honoring icon of French cinema, Jean Vigo (1905-1934), will be presented to Paris-based film critic and his daughter Luce Vigo, who will speak at a rare 35mm projection of her father's masterpieces—*Zero For Conduct* (1933) and *L'Atalante* (1934)—at UCLA James Bridges Theater.

Tickets are available on the fest site or by calling the BHFF office at 310-779-1206. Prices range from \$12 per screening to \$275 for the awards gala.

medicine internship. He left his home town of Los Angeles to move to Boston to do his first year residency in psychiatry at Harvard. His first supervisor was the team psychiatrist for the Boston Celtics, and his first patient was a middle class married woman who was feeling depressed because she couldn't have children or so she said. Actually she was bar-hopping and picking up men, something she tried to do with Gary.

Chapter two is the title of the book, which is how he saw the patient through the window in the door. He told her the nurse would bring a gown for her to put on. Turns out the patient, Katie, was diabetic and had missed eating breakfast before her insulin shot. But there was more to her story, including her relationship with her mother, whom she claimed never approved of what she did. Katie wanted to be an actress and Gary notes that she actually did get a part on Broadway.

There is a case with the man who wanted surgery so much he kept injuring his hand. Along with the stories, Gary talks about his supervisors, the eminent and the Boston Beacon Hill types. By his last year at Harvard's Mass General he was chief resident of the consultation service.

By 1984 he was back in California at UCLA in geriatric psychiatry which is where he has made his reputation. Here he writes of how he met and married Gigi and how a psychiatrist is still a father when it comes to teaching his teenage daughter to drive. At turns, the book is funny, charming and respectful of human emotional problems.

www.conniemartinson.com on youtube and aired and streamed by www.lacityview.org at 3 and 11:30 p.m. E-mail: talks-books@lycos.com

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GET READY TO ROLL By Kevin G. Der / Edited by Will Shortz

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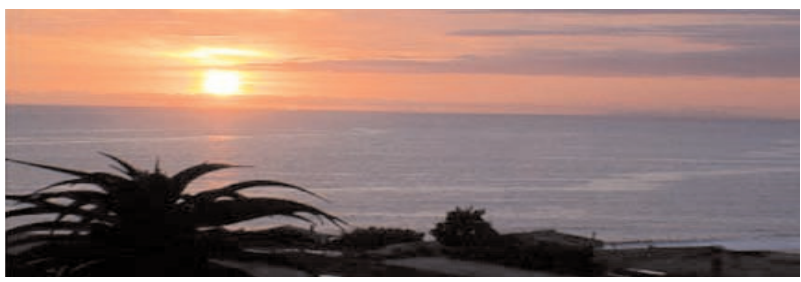
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Guest Editorial:



A Look At The Sacramento Scene
FRANKLY SPEAKING

By Stephen Frank

Great news for California families and businesses. Bad news for government and government unions, for now..

The Republicans in Sacramento held together and Gov. Jerry Brown has almost given up on a June special election to transfer \$70 billion from families and businesses to the government over a five year period.

The "back up" plan seems to be the unions creating three initiatives for a November special election. These would increase sales and income tax and about double the vehicle registration fee. This campaign is being organized and paid for by the unions.

At the same time there will be an almost one billion tax increase on the ballot on tobacco. There might also be a \$10-11 billion bond measure to water. Of course we passed a similar bond in 2006, and have yet to get a single drop of NEW water. We did get motel rooms at Lake Tahoe and an aquarium in Fresno, but no new water.

The governor does have a back up budget plan. He has a June 15 deadline to announce it, but the outline has already been discussed.

Brown will cut the number of days mandated by the state for k-12 government education from 185 days to 170—a cut of three weeks. Note that this saves almost no dollars. Teachers will still get paid, based on union contracts. The facilities will still use energy, landscapers, etc.

According to former Assemblyman Chuck Devore, Jerry will start the early release of 40,000 criminals from prison. It should be noted that Arnold had planned to do this, so Jerry is just following up on the original plan. But, the governor is going to release the prisoners to county sheriffs, and pay them 40 cents on the dollar for the cost of these new prisoners. That means the bankrupt counties, unable to absorb the costs, will release the criminals to the street.

Jack Scott, chancellor of the State Community College system, announced that because of the budget, he expects community colleges to cut enrollment in September by up to 400,000 students.

Brown has major cutbacks planned for health care and reimbursements for hospitals and doctors under Medi-Cal. This will accelerate doctors and hospitals leaving that program

You get the point, Brown wants you to feel the state is collapsing, schools are closing, that every day is Oct. 31, with only tricks and no treats.

Already school districts like Simi Valley in Ventura County have passed resolutions demanding the voters pass \$70 billion in tax increases.

Of course this money will come from the parents of the students in the district. That means the parents, at a minimum, will be poorer, some will lose their homes and jobs and all will pay more for food, gas, water and energy.

While the private sector has cut back, government wants to continue to live high on the hog.

Brown has not requested changes in the union created pension crisis. In New York, Democrat Gov. Andrew Cuomo is firing 11,500 government employees, while Brown fires zero.

The Brown/union game plan is to scare Californians into believing the state will close down. It will always be about the state, not the family or business.

But billions in sales of state assets are not on the table, from stadiums, to parking lots to fair grounds. Ending sweetheart deals with unions can not even be discussed. Pension reform is off the table because the Unions told Jerry they are off the table.

Wait for the beginning of June and you will see the Brown machine giving you tissues to cry into for the state, begging for just \$70 billion to keep the mismanagement and corruption of Sacramento running as always.

Stephen Frank, a political and public policy activist since 1960, is the publisher of the California Political News and Views (www.capoliticalnews.com).

OPINION



Rabbi Jacob Pressman

YOUR CALL IS IMPORTANT TO US

The newest advance in the realm of communication is... "What we have here is a failure to communicate!" Never before have we had so many advanced ways to make a call. We have the telephone on our desk at home or away. We have a cell phone in our pocket, or concealed somewhere in our automobile, yacht or plane. We have phones in our computers. Phones everywhere. What we don't always have is the party to whom we wish to speak, especially at some corporate body.

I am telling you nothing new when I say that placing such a call is usually maddening. You tap or activate by voice the number you are trying to reach. After an encouraging ring a disembodied voice answers: "Hello. Thank you for calling the X Company. Your call is important to us. All our lines to your party are now busy, so stay on the line and our Dr., Mr., Mrs., or Ms. will be with you shortly," and a popular symphony begins and ends. Your arm aches. Your hand is stiff, but you have too much time invested in this call to give up. The voice returns with: "There are still some calls ahead of yours. You might try our web site: xxx@yyy.com. Otherwise, please stay on the line. Your call is important to us."

Perhaps you wait; or perhaps you scream invectives into the impersonal phone; or perhaps you heave the phone out the window. Besides, by now you may have forgotten what made you make the call in the first place. You doze off for a moment and dream. And what do you hear in your busy brain? "Please stay on the line. (Mr., Mrs., Ms.) will

be with you shortly. Please know your call is important to us." There then begins a musical concert not of your choosing. After a few minutes the voice is back with: "All our lines are still busy," or "There are 11 people waiting for your party and they will be answered in the order in which they were received. Do not hang up. Your call is important to us." or, "There is still a 10-minute wait for your party. You might try our Web site at 111-222-3456 where I am certain you can be helped, or else stay on the line. Your call is important to us"

Time passes. You abruptly wake up. The symphony ends and a commercial for something comes on for a while only to be interrupted by that voice: "Thank you for waiting. We are so sorry for your having to wait. Your party's line is still tied up, but please stay on the line, your call..." In a fit of frustration and exasperation you have flung the phone across the room. When you cool down, you realize you still need the service you were seeking. You find another company doing the same work. You dial that number hopefully. A cheerful voice answers: "Thank you for calling the XXY company. All our lines are occupied at this time, but please don't hang up. Your call is important to us." You hang up half out of your mind and decide to leave town and take a slow boat to China. You dial and call the company, and a musical foreign voice answers "Thank you for calling the Cathay Cruise Lines. All our lines are busy at the moment, but if you stay..."

LETTERS

I am writing to personally acknowledge and commend our Beverly Hills Fire Department's generous and kind consideration for the substantial gesture of temporarily passing on its scheduled wage increase in difficult budget times and instead allowing the city manager and City Council to use the funds to cancel three planned City furlough days for all City employees. The spirit of this gesture on the part of our BHFD is both heroic and compassionate.

We already know our safety professionals for their hard work and concern for the well-being of the inhabitants of Beverly Hills day and night, so such a further contribution should not come as a surprise and more so should not go unnoticed. I understand that our fire safety professionals were actually not going to be directly impacted by the planned (now cancelled) furloughs, and thus, doubly so, through their membership's unanimous actions helped lessen the blow that the troubled economy has brought to our community by supporting other employees in other departments within the City. In this selfless way, many will be better able to make ends meet while residents and businesses can avail themselves and benefit from the services kept intact. This certainly is indeed the finest small City in America, no question about it.

Jake Manaster

Metro's meetings have become increasingly frustrating for all of us. Each prior meeting saw 300-400 residents (an unbelievable turnout) show up. They came prepared to ask questions and offer alternatives, had done their research and came to protest tunneling under Beverly High.

Not once have we gotten even the most cursory response from Metro. We've pointed out at least four major subway construction accidents in the last few years throughout the world (Germany, Brazil, China, Korea), each resulting in property damage and death. Recently, I also found this: "And at the end of Feb. 2003, a school building collapsed in the 13th arrondissement as a result of work on the extension of line 14 of the Paris Metro. Fortunately, the incident happened during the school holidays."

Which is more important to Metro? Safety for 2,500 students and teachers or the influence of big-time Century City landowners and developers who contribute untold thousands to political campaigns? No one can prevent accidents and construction defects. Put the station on Santa Monica and have a moving sidewalk to Constellation like we find in every major airport and subway station throughout the world. And Metro would save \$50-60 million. Metro has known this win-win alternative and others for over eight months and never ever responded. **Ken Goldman**

After reading the article about the subway tunnel under BHHS, I asked myself why we allow bureaucrats in our society to run our lives. This ludicrous idea has taken on a life of its own complete with "talking heads" doing a "fast shuffle."

I was a no show at the meeting at the meeting. Our residents have witnessed this song and dance by Metro staff and fellow travelers for far too long.

I believe the recent tragedy in Japan emphasized that the best minds and good intentions cannot stop the fury of Mother Nature and that mitigations—from the simplest to the most complex—are not failsafe, but only as worthy as their weakest link. A subway under BHHS defies all rational thinking.

These are our children—just say "no." **Gloria Seiff**

Instead of the red light traffic cameras (supposedly great income producing gimmicks for the City), why not have flashing red light signs throughout the City which say: "Hang up your phone while driving." **Herb Wallerstein**

The Courier welcomes letters. To be considered for publication, remember: (1) shorter is better; (2) refrain from personal attacks or insults—we wish to share rational points of view, not invective; (3) keep to one topic; (4) and please do not send us letters which have appeared in any other publication.



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