

Beverly Hills Weekly

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SERVING BEVERLY HILLS • BEVERLYWOOD • LOS ANGELES

Issue 359 • August 17 - August 23, 2006

These Streets Are Paved With -- Granite

A meeting informs business owners of proposed plans for a granite sidewalk program in the business triangle area.



people & profiles • Beverly around town • Matched For Life • Rudy Cole • Does The City High Principal Joseph Guidetti Page 3

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Beverly Hills Weekly

ISSUE 358 • August 10 - August 16, 2006

SETTING BEVERLY HILLS • BEVERLYWOOD • LOS ANGELES

What's The Fuss On North Beverly?

Businesses adjacent to the Montage Hotel construction site on North Beverly say the city has not adequately responded to their concerns.

Getting Down To Business On South Beverly

All the 50 Bev merchants meeting last Thursday, South Beverly Drive business owners discuss parking and loitering.

cover stories • page 12-13

Coming next week...

where are they now?

with former Beverly High Assistant Principal **Stu Silver**

Advertise in the

Beverly Hills Weekly

140 South Beverly Drive #201
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 fax: 310.887.0789
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WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

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

You can fax us at:
 310.887.0789

email us at:
editor@bhweekly.com



SNAPSHOT



**"GO NORMANS!"
 CALABASAS**

Pictured (L to R) is former Beverly High Principal Dan Stepenosky, Steven Fenton and former Beverly High Principal Ben Bushman.



NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY

CITY CLERK
 BYRON POPE, CMC
 455 N. Rexford Drive
 City Clerk

Beverly Hills, CA 90210-4817
 (310) 285-2400
 FAX: (310) 385-0862

NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY: FINE ART COMMISSION

The Beverly Hills City Council is seeking qualified residents to fill two vacancies on the Fine Art Commission. The initial term of office is for two years. At the discretion of the City Council, the Commissioner may be reappointed to a second term of four years. Each appointee will be required to file an initial and an annual "Statement of Economic Interests" financial disclosure.

In order that we may preserve the integrity of the application and interview process, please direct all inquiries to the City Clerk, City Manager or the Director of Community Services. Please DO NOT contact the City Councilmembers or the members of the Fine Art Commission regarding the Fine Art Commission vacancies.

Application forms for the Fine Art Commission, along with a description of the duties of a Commissioner, and filing details are available for pickup in the City Clerk's Office, Room 190, 455 N. Rexford Drive, or call 310.285.2400 to receive an application and information by mail or by email.

The deadline for filing applications has been extended to Friday, September 15, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

BYRON POPE, CMC
 City Clerk

Beverly Hills Weekly

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Publisher & CEO
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140 South Beverly Drive #201
 Beverly Hills, CA 90212
 310.887.0788 phone
 310.887.0789 fax
 CNPA Member

editor@bhweekly.com
 All staff can be reached at:
 first name @bhweekly.com
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Adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles. Case # BS065841 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, on November 30, 2000.



Time Warner Assumes Majority Control Of L.A. Cable TV Market

Former Adelphia customers in Beverly Hills will see little changes to their billing statements or service since Time Warner's purchase of Adelphia.

By Kari Hamanaka

With the advertisements introducing customers to Time Warner Cable on billboards and TV screens throughout Los Angeles County, the effects of Time Warner and Comcast Corporation's purchase of Adelphia are being seen and heard.

because it will give more opportunities to offer our services in the new expanded service area," said Time Warner Vice President of Communications Patti Rockenwagner.

Sales of Adelphia's assets with the two companies were completed July 31 after years of increasing service rates for Adelphia customers amidst complaints of poor service. Adelphia, formerly the fifth largest service provider of cable in the United States as a result of the deal.

"New Time Warner customers have been informed that their service rates will not increase as a result of the purchase," Rockenwagner said, "and should see only improvements to their services such as enhanced programming and faster high-speed Internet."

According Rockenwagner, any changes in prices or packaging would be favorable to new customers and she said letters informing customers of the purchase were mailed to homes.



Time Warner Cable President & CEO Glenn A. Britt

"The transaction is great news for residents in Southern California primarily

city & schools cont. on page 7



NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY

CITY CLERK
BYRON POPE, CMC
455 N. Rexford Drive
City Clerk

Beverly Hills, CA 90210-4817
(310) 285-2400
FAX: (310) 385-0862

NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY: SOLICITATIONS ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Beverly Hills City Council is seeking qualified residents to fill two vacancies on the Solicitations Advisory Commission. The initial term of office for the position is two years. At the discretion of the City Council, the Commissioner may be reappointed to a second term of four years. The appointees will be required to file an initial and an annual "Statement of Economic Interests" financial disclosure.

In order that we may preserve the integrity of the application and interview process, please direct all inquiries to the City Clerk, City Manager or the Chief of Police. Please DO NOT contact the City Councilmembers or the members of the Solicitations Advisory Commission regarding the vacancy.

Application forms for the Solicitations Advisory Commission, along with a description of the duties of a Commissioner, and filing details are available for pickup in the City Clerk's Office, Room 190, 455 N. Rexford Drive, or call 310.285.2400 to receive an application and information by mail or by email.

The deadline for filing applications has been extended to Friday, September 15, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

BYRON POPE, CMC
City Clerk



NOTICE OF INTENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210-4817

Beverly Hills, CA 90210-4817
(310) 285-1123
FAX: (310) 858-5966

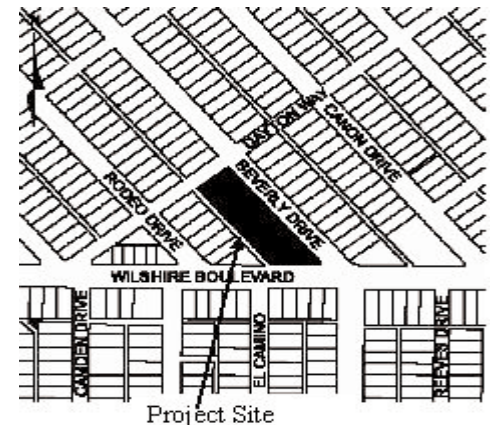
NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, August 23, 2006

LOCATION: City Council Chambers
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PROJECT: Proposed Office/Retail
Development
231-265 North Beverly Drive
/ 9451-9465 Wilshire
Boulevard



The City of Beverly Hills is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposal described below. The public is invited to attend a preliminary "scoping" meeting to comment on environmental issues that they believe should be addressed in the EIR.

The project is located at 9451-9465 Wilshire Boulevard "known as Bank of America Building" and 231-265 North Beverly Drive, consisting of an area bounded on the south by Wilshire Boulevard, on the east by Beverly Drive, on the north by Dayton Way, and on the west by the alley between Wilshire Boulevard and Rodeo Drive. No substantive changes are proposed to be made to the Bank of America building, although it will be re-zoned as part of the Project. The demolition and construction will take place on 231 and 265 North Beverly Drive.

The site is currently zoned commercial (C-3) which allows 2:1 Floor Area Ratio (FAR), three stories, and a height of 45 feet.

The project proposes changes to the existing zoning and General Plan, which are subject to approval by the Planning Commission and the City Council. The proposed development is also subject to Planning Commission approval through the detailed Planned Development Review process and Architectural Commission approval through the architectural review process.

Project Description:

A new six-story, 917-foot high office building is proposed to be constructed on a 48,091 square-foot (1.1 acre) portion of the site. The proposed building will be 203,400 gross square feet in size, including approximately 30,000 square feet of retail space (up to 7,500 square feet of which would be restaurant space) on the ground floor, 145,800 square feet office space on floors two through six, and a four-level subterranean parking structure with 640 total spaces. A minimum of 262 of these parking spaces will be provided to exclusively serve the parking requirements of the presently underparked Bank of America building. The parking requirements for up to 83 parking spaces are proposed to be satisfied through the City's In-Lieu Parking program. There will be a separate parking entrance and exit to the Project on Beverly Drive and on the alley between Beverly Drive and Rodeo Drive, which will be combined with the entrance and exit of the existing parking for the Bank of America building. There will be an opening in the subterranean garage on the third level so that there is mutual access between the third level parking from the Bank America garage and the Project's third level parking. A 100 seat screening room will be constructed as part of the tenant improvements for the new office building. The screening room will be for the primary use of one or more tenants and the tenants' guests. The parking design would necessitate a permanent subsurface encroachment under the sidewalk and street of Beverly Drive which requires an encroachment permit. A Lot Line Adjustment and Lot Tie Covenant will also be considered to consolidate the existing lots on the site of the proposed building.

The project may have potentially significant impacts on the following topical areas, which will be studied in the EIR: Aesthetics, Air Quality; Geology; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Noise; Population and Housing; Public Services (Police, Fire, Schools, Parks and Libraries); Transportation including Traffic and Parking; and Utilities (Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste). However, the initial study on the project concludes that the project will not have any impacts on the following topical areas; therefore, no further discussion of these topics will be included in the EIR: Biological Resources, Mineral Resources, Agricultural Resources, Cultural Resources and Recreation. In addition, the project is not listed on the Cortese List.

The purpose of the meeting is to present the project in a public setting and provide an opportunity for a full airing of the potential environmental issues that are important to the community. The meeting will include a presentation of the proposal and the basic elements to be analyzed in the EIR will be described. Following the presentation, interested agencies, organizations, and members of the public will be encouraged to present views concerning what environmental issues should be included in the EIR. The oral and written comments made during the scoping meeting will provide an inventory of potential environmental effects of the project to be addressed by the EIR, such as noise, traffic, parking, air quality, and land use.

The City also invites written comments. These should be addressed to:

City of Beverly Hills
Department of Community Development
455 North Rexford Drive, Room G-40
Beverly Hills, California 90210
ATTN: Rita Naziri, Senior Planner

To ensure that the Environmental Impact Report addresses any specific concerns that the public may have, comments should be submitted as early as possible, but no later than September 10, 2006.

After the Draft Environmental Impact Report has been prepared, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the EIR and on the project. Notices of the availability of the Draft EIR and of the hearings on the project will be released at later dates. The case file on this project, which includes the plans and applications, is available for public review at the Planning Division, 455 North Rexford Drive, Room G40, and Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Copies of the checklist of initial environmental issues (initial study) to be addressed by the EIR are also available in the Planning Division at City Hall. If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact us at 310.285.1123.

Dated: August 11, 2006
RITA NAZIRI
Senior Planner



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY CLERK
BYRON POPE, CMC
455 N. Rexford Drive
City Clerk

Beverly Hills, CA 90210-4817
(310) 285-2400
FAX: (310) 385-0862

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on Monday, August 21, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, will hold a public hearing to consider:

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS FINDING THE CITY TO BE IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CMP) AND ADOPTING THE CMP LOCAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA CODE SECTION 65089.

The City of Beverly Hills is required to comply with the CMP, which is a state-mandated program implemented by a designated CMP agency, which is the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The City Council will consider adoption of a Resolution acknowledging the City's conformance with the CMP requirements.

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 hearing.

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, CA 90210. The comments should be received prior to the hearing date.

Byron Pope, CMC

City Clerk



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, August 24, 2006

TIME: At 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

LOCATION: Commission Meeting Room A
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its meeting on Thursday, August 24, will hold a public hearing beginning at 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider an ordinance amending various provisions of Chapter 3 of Title 10 of the City's Municipal Code with respect to the procedures of the City's Architectural Commission and Design Review Commission. The Amendments include, but may not be limited to, Section 10-3-3005, 10-3-3007, 10-3-3008, 10-3-3009, 10-3-3010, 10-3-3011, 10-3-4406, 10-3-4407, 10-3-4414, 10-3-4416, and 10-3-4417 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code. The public is invited to attend the public hearing at the above date to comment on the proposed Code changes.

Staff has determined that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the contemplated ordinance amendments may have a significant effect on the environment, and is therefore exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3).

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Michele McGrath, Senior Planner, at 310.285.1123.

If you challenge the City's action on the project, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised as part of the public hearing process for the project.

MICHELE MCGRATH,
Senior Planner

STREETScape ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM



A Proposal to establish a program to replace existing concrete sidewalks with granite will be discussed at the City Council Informal Meeting on:

Monday, August 21, 3:00pm
City Council Chamber
Free parking in Civic Center Structure

Comments on this proposal are very important. Please plan to attend or send a representative on your behalf. For additional information, contact Project Manager Daniel Cartagena at 310-285-1189. Written comments can be emailed to dcartagena@beverlyhills.org or mailed to City of Beverly Hills, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Room 170, Beverly Hills, CA 90210



PROPOSED PROJECT AREA

Beverly Hills Symphony

Bogidar Avramov, Music Director

Debbie Grossman, President

2006 SUMMER SEASON AT THE GREYSTONE COURTYARD
905 Loma Vista Drive, Beverly Hills

BEVERLY HILLS SYMPHONY GOES EUROPEAN!

Concert II- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2006, 4:00 P.M.

"Baroque Blast"

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Directions to Greystone:

TAKE SUNSET BLVD TO FOOTHILL ROAD. TURN NORTH ON FOOTHILL, WHICH CURVES RIGHT AND BECOMES DOHENY ROAD. CONTINUE EAST ON DOHENY ROAD TO LOMA VISTA. PARK IN THE LOT OF THE TOP OF THE HILL.

Ticket Prices: General \$25 – Senior \$20 – Student \$15 – Parking Free

For Additional Information (310) 276-8385

Please make checks payable to the Beverly Hills Symphony Mail to
P.O. Box 5429, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Reception after concert

Tickets will be held at the door. Box office at concert location will be open 1 hour prior to concerts



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING and INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

DATE: THURSDAY,
AUGUST 24, 2006

TIME: At 7:00 P.M., or as soon
thereafter as the matter may
be heard

LOCATION: Commission Meeting Room A
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210



Project Site

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2006, will hold a continued public hearing beginning at 7:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider:

A request for a Variance for a new single-family residence of 6,405 square feet plus subterranean garage and basement located at **1145 Maytor Avenue** in the Trousdale area of Beverly Hills. The Variance is requested to allow grading and a retaining wall off the level pad, and reduced side yard setbacks.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City, and no significant environmental impacts are anticipated; therefore, a Negative Declaration has been prepared.

Any interested person may attend the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the Commission. Comments on the proposed Negative Declaration may be submitted in writing to the Planning Department within 20 days from the date of this notice and written or oral comments will be accepted at the Planning Commission meeting at the date and time noted above.

If you challenge the Commission's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact the Planning Department at 310.285.1123. Copies of the applications, plans, Negative Declaration, and all documents referenced in the Negative Declaration are on file in the Planning Department, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Room G-40, Beverly Hills, CA. 90210.

For updates regarding the meeting, an information line provides a recorded message at 310.285.1165.

Georgana Millican
Assistant Planner



NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY

CITY CLERK
BYRON POPE, CMC
455 N. Rexford Drive
City Clerk

Beverly Hills, CA 90210-4817
(310) 285-2400
FAX: (310) 385-0862

NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY: PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

The Beverly Hills City Council is seeking qualified residents to fill one vacancy on the Public Works Commission. The initial term of office is for two years. At the discretion of the City Council, the Commissioner may be reappointed to a second term of four years. The appointee will be required to file an initial and an annual "Statement of Economic Interests" financial disclosure.

In order that we may preserve the integrity of the application and interview process, please direct all inquiries to the City Clerk, City Manager or the Director of Public Works. Please DO NOT contact the City Councilmembers or the members of the Public Works Commission regarding the Public Works Commission vacancy.

Application forms for the Public Works Commission, along with a description of the duties of a Commissioner, and filing details are available for pickup in the City Clerk's Office, Room 190, 455 N. Rexford Drive, or call 310.285.2400 to receive an application and information by mail or by email.

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BYRON POPE, CMC
City Clerk

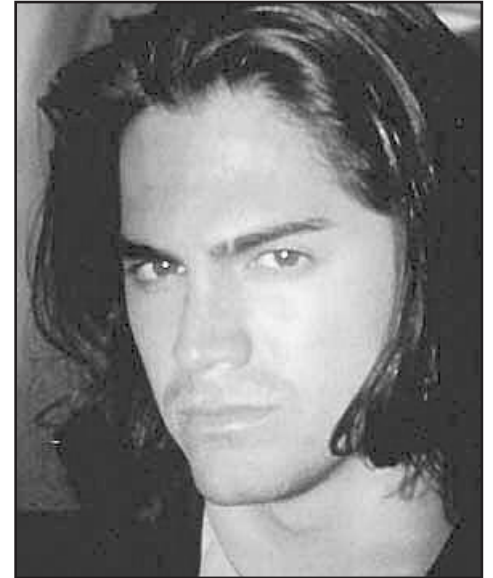
aroundtown Taking On The Restaurant Business

Local graduate Michael Sutton is part actor, part restaurateur
By Adrianna Weingold

Sutton's restaurants, The Hollywood Canteen, The Lodge and Memphis have become Los Angeles hotspots attracting celebrities and high profile clients. The Lodge Steakhouse, Sutton's second restaurant concept opened last July on La Cienega in Beverly Hills.

Sutton is a model, actor, producer, promoter and most recently, restaurateur. His success in multiple facets of entertainment is a result of hard work, drive and of course networking. Growing up in Beverly Hills exposed Sutton to entertainment very early in life and allowed him to develop the skills and know how to survive in Hollywood.

"In Beverly Hills I was so sheltered and isolated from even knowing what other professions were. All I knew was that either you're an actor, an agent, a producer or manager," Sutton said. "I don't think I was even aware that there were entrepreneurs or venture capitalists. You just knew about entertainment, and everyone seemed to be part of it so it kind



Michael Sutton

of led me in that direction."

Sutton was fresh out of college when he began to seriously pursue a career in acting.

around town cont. on page 7

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briefs

Former Planning Director Passes Away

Max W. Strauss died in Los Angeles on Aug 10. Strauss was the Director of Building and Planning for the City of Beverly Hills from 1958-1973. He was then appointed to the Los Angeles Board of Public Works where he served as a commissioner from 1973-1980.

Strauss was the last person in city government to be director of both planning and building safety before the department was later merged again a few years ago. He was a local resident and long time employee of the City of Beverly Hills.

While in office, Strauss pushed for building codes that accommodated people with disabilities. He also re-wrote building codes to ensure safety in an earthquake.

Strauss will also be remembered for having saved the Greystone mansion from demolition by having the file containing paperwork key to the council's approval of the demolition misplaced. The misplaced file postponed the council meeting and allowed ample time for alternative arrangements to be made for the preservation of the mansion.

Strauss is survived by his wife of 55 years, Martha, his sons Howard and Larry, his sister Robin Herdan, brother-in-law F. Earle Herdan, nephews Paul and Eric (Valeria) Herdan and Theodore (Ellen) Strauss, daughter-in-law Betty Rome, niece Sharon (Harvey) Cohen and cousin Milton Mazursky,

M.D.

2006 STAR Test Results Released

The results of the California Standardized Testing and Reporting for the BHUSD were virtually unchanged from last year.

According to the report, the percentage of second graders who tested advanced or proficient in English-Language Arts is 71% compared to last year's 66%. Second graders who tested advanced or proficient in mathematics decreased from 74% to 69% this year.

The percentage of third graders who tested advanced or proficient in English-Language Arts is 63% compared to 59% last year.

No substantive change was seen in the scores of fourth graders from last year to this year.

However, the scores of fifth graders in both English language and mathematics markedly increased from last year. The percent of fifth graders who tested advanced or proficient in English-Language Arts is 72% compared to 66% last year. Last year 63% of fifth graders tested advanced or proficient in mathematics compared to 77% this year.

The percentage of sixth graders who tested advanced or proficient in mathematics dropped from 67% last year to 64% this year.

No substantive changes were seen in the English language or mathematics scores of seventh graders.

Eighth graders testing proficient or advanced in English-Language Arts remained similar to last year.

The percentage of ninth graders who scored advanced or proficient in English language arts declined from 80% last year to 76% this year.

Tenth graders testing proficient or advanced in English-Language Arts increased significantly from 68% last year to 73% this year.

No substantive change was seen in the English-Language Arts scores of eleventh graders

The mathematics test administered to eighth and ninth graders is based on sixth and seventh grade standards. The percentage of eighth graders who tested advanced or proficient in mathematics is 56% compared to 57% last year. The percentage of ninth graders who tested advanced or proficient in mathematics decreased from 61% last year to 52% this year.

The percentage of tenth graders who received advanced or proficient scores in Algebra I increased from 54% to 65% this year. The percentage of eleventh graders who tested advanced or proficient in Algebra I also increased from 34% last year to 39% this year.

For complete test results go to www.cde.ca.gov.

Equipment Blamed For Mail Delays

Spokesperson for the Los Angeles Postal Service Larry Dozier, responded to the *Weekly's* report [issue #358] on Congressman Henry Waxman's (D-Los Angeles) inquiry into delayed mail.

Waxman's letter was addressed to United States Postal Service General Inspector David Williams. The letter referred to a postal service internal report from May citing first class mail being delayed as many as six days.

"We have already addressed that [prob-

lem]," Dozier said. "Those reports that you received are rather dated. The situation had been addressed at the time that it was referred to us. Several things can affect the mail at any given time. We were installing new equipment. We were processing many pieces of mail a day and we were still able to get the mail out [during the installation period]."

To answer concerns about mail delivery time delays that persist for some Beverly Hills businesses and residents, Dozier said he could not offer answers for a specific route. He did note that if a carrier goes on vacation, another carrier must pick up the route and may not know it that well, which could cause delays.

As an example, mail deliveries to the *Weekly's* office, arrive at 4 p.m. when they used to arrive around noon.

The *Weekly* originally sought comment from Beverly Hills Postmaster Koula Fuller for the initial report who did not return calls. Fuller hosted a meet and greet with guests at an open house at the Beverly Hills Post Office on Maple Drive this past Tuesday.

Exit Exam Tops State Superintendent's Support For Numerous Education Bills

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell's office recently announced several statements where O'Connell supported legislation aimed at students who do not pass the High School Exit Exam.

Many of the bills provide alternatives for students who failed the exam and did not pass it before their high school graduation date.

briefs cont. on page 10

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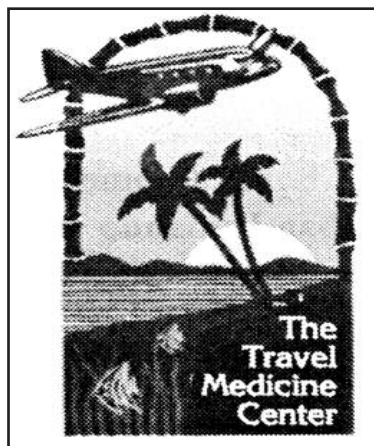
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around town cont. from page 5

After having gone on only two or three auditions he landed a role on *General Hospital*. From 1993 to 1995 Sutton played Stone Cates on the daytime soap opera, a role that earned him an Emmy Nomination for best supporting actor.

"I had never been forced to do a story line like I did [on *General Hospital*] for as long as I did. I did an AIDS story line for nine months," Sutton said. "It was all about death and the meaning of life and it was very emotional. Having the pressure of delivering such emotional material day in and day out for so long took its toll on me."

Coincidentally, John Ingle, drama teacher at Beverly High from 1964 to 1984 also appeared on *General Hospital* playing Edward Quartermaine. While Sutton and Ingle never worked together at Beverly High, the two ended up on *General Hospital* at the same time.

When his two-year run on *General Hospital* was complete, Sutton found it difficult to break away from his character and establish himself as an actor outside of daytime television. Having no desire to be on television again, Sutton landed a small role in the film *Inventing the Abbotts*. But what started out as a small role turned into a brief cameo after most of Sutton's scenes were left on the cutting room floor.

"I would go into the rooms and everyone would be so consumed with the role that I had played on *General Hospital* because it was such a high profile story line, that inevitably they didn't want to be the movie that broke me out of that," Sutton said. "They [casting directors and producers] wanted to talk about *General Hospital*, and for some reason at that time there wasn't a big easy cross-over between television and film, let alone daytime television and film."

Sutton focused on maximizing the contacts he had made in the business. A few years earlier while on *General Hospital*, he began club promoting as a side job. When his father was

hired to do PR for Bar One, a nightclub in Hollywood, Sutton saw an opportunity to help him while turning the club into the next big thing.

"I had basically said that I would take a night at that spot and throw a party and invite all of my friends and celebrities down," Sutton said. "I thought it would make the club potentially hot and thus make my dad's job of doing PR easy and so on. It turned into this pretty big phenomenon."

This phenomenon led other clubs, restaurants, bars and lounges to Sutton, recruiting him to promote their businesses and create a buzz.

"He is great with people, he's got a great personality, he's well liked and I can see how that would translate into acting and also translate into being a successful entrepreneur," longtime friend and fellow '88 Beverly graduate, Adam Nathanson said. "I think those are some important attributes."

The transition from being an actor to a club promoter came easily for Sutton, who had a huge database of high-profile contacts from his work in television and upbringing in Beverly Hills.

"My whole approach was to do things more diligently and respect the people and the process," Sutton said. "By not treating them like cattle I gained the respect of throwing a good party, treating people right and having a fun time doing it. That inevitably kept them wanting to come back to what I was hosting."

Through his work promoting clubs and bars around Los Angeles, Sutton learned the intricacies of operations.

"I knew that if I had a great concept, food, aesthetics, everything; I knew that I had the people," Sutton said. "That to me was the most valuable piece because it insured like a safety net that if we did the restaurant right, I had the people that would embrace it and make it a success."

After years building his promotional skills and learning the intricacies of nightclub pro-

motions, Sutton stumbled across his next project, The Hollywood Canteen. As fate would have it, Sutton's neighbor had started an internet company called Model In A Bottle, 6 girls living in the penthouse of the apartment building being filmed 24/7. Sutton was asked to throw the launch party for Model In A Bottle and arranged to meet with the owner at his restaurant, The Hollywood Canteen.

"I went in and met with the guy and told him after looking at the restaurant for two minutes that I was not interested in throwing him a Model In A Bottle party," Sutton said, "but how would he feel about taking on a new partner in his restaurant and creating a new supper club style hotspot?"

The Hollywood Canteen opened in May 2001, on Seward Street in Hollywood. It was a supper club style venue meaning that people who dined there in the evening usually stayed and spent the rest of the night there as well.

"I think that I am pretty lucky in that sense that I come to the table with both an operating background and a PR/Marketing background and I have the clientele to plug into the concept."

After The Hollywood Canteen was sold, Sutton was eager to develop his next restaurant concept. Interior designer Dodd Mitchell, introduced Sutton to Adolfo Suaya the property owner at the location of the new restaurant.

"We partnered up and then I had to raise the money. I went after family friends and everybody who had come to my parties who I thought would like to get involved and we raised some money," Sutton said. "We opened up the Lodge about a year and a half after committing to the process."

The Lodge Steakhouse, a log cabin inspired fine dining restaurant opened last July in Beverly Hills. The opening was delayed by 8 months after city approvals took longer than anticipated. Sutton opened Memphis, a New Orleans style restaurant in Hollywood in January 2006.

"He has really evolved into an entrepreneur

and now more so with opening up these restaurants," Nathanson said, "and somewhat being a visionary on the taste maker and trend scene in Los Angeles."

Sutton is already planning his next two restaurant concepts. Charcoal, an Americana style casual dining restaurant is opening in October on Sunset and Ivar at the Arclight Theatre. In December Sutton will open Goa, a supper club named for the island off the coast of India

"It's something that in LA hasn't been done in a very long time," Sutton said. "In LA people don't like driving from place to place having alcohol in their system, they don't mind going to one spot for dinner, and if it's fun and is going to get even better later, will stick around and have it be their spot for the night."

Goa will be an Indian and Moroccan themed concept with Asian fusion style food. There will be Moroccan, Indian and Asian influences throughout the supper club while incorporating the general party theme of the island.

"Before Ibiza and before all these hotspots around the world, Goa was a very hip cool bohemian place to go and party," Sutton said. "The Beatles and the Rolling Stones are famous for smoking pot and running on the beaches of Goa."

Even with so many new projects in the works, Sutton continues to take an interest in Beverly Hills, donating to the fire and police charities and to the Beverly High sports facility program.

"I think that Beverly Hills is probably the best place in the world to live and grow up and even with all of the stigma and stereotypes people throw at it, if they only knew how great it was here in actuality," Sutton said. "It's not a bunch of rich, snobby over privileged people. There are a lot of well-deserved hard working people who have become very successful from determination. It's those people that I am really appreciative of and really respect in the community."

city & schools cont. from page 3

Mayor Steve Webb said he had not heard anything from either the city's Cable TV Office or Time Warner Cable about possible effects the purchase would have on customers.

Cable TV Office Manager Mark Geddes could not be reached for comment in time for the *Weekly's* deadline.

"Customers can expect to see changes gradually over time," Rockenwagner said, "and we have an extensive customer communication program to ensure them that they will get notification and information

prior to those changes."

According to the agreement approved by the Federal Communications Commission, Time Warner and Comcast split Adelphia customers among themselves. Time Warner received the larger share of Adelphia's Southern California customers with 1.2 million additional customers. In contrast, Comcast received 500,000 former Southern California Adelphia customers.

The \$17.6 billion purchase deal was originally made in 2005, but was slow in coming after problems with Adelphia's creditors and a recent antitrust lawsuit for

Adelphia by American Channel.

The Time Warner and Comcast purchase stemmed from Adelphia's filing of Chapter 11 bankruptcy which ultimately meant changes in the company's business model. Services to Adelphia customers were repackaged and price adjustments were made after bankruptcy was declared.

To meet the large amounts of inquiries into the company's changes, Adelphia had posted on its web site in June that the price increases were due to package changes.

As reported in the *Weekly* [issue #349], Beverly Hills residents experienced rate

increases in August. The expanded basic service rates which includes broadcast and some cable channels, increased \$2 from the former \$39.25 price.

West Hollywood residents also found rates for their Adelphia expanded basic cable service, increased by \$2 in July.

Time Warner Cable representatives continue to assert customers will experience few changes in their service rates.

"Time Warner Cable is looking to provide some of the excellent customer service to customers that it's been known for," Rockenwagner said.

police blotter & arrestsummary

City of Beverly Hills

The Beverly Hills Weekly receives the information that appears below from the Beverly Hills Police Department. This information is released each week to the public.

We assume no responsibility for any errors or omission in the police blotter.

Week of: August 15, 2006

Robbery/Battery:

Occurred between 1308 and 1309 in the

9600 block of Wilshire Blvd. Suspect: Male Black, 25-30, 6'0", 150 lbs., black hair and brown eyes. Suspect approached the victim while she was locking her vehicle. Suspect pushed the victim to the ground and pointed a gun. Suspect demanded property and victim complied with the suspect. Suspect fled the location with the victim's property. Loss: \$120,000

Robbery:

Occurred between 1610 and 1643 on 08/11/06 in the 200 block of North Beverly

Drive. Suspect: Male Black, 35-40, 6'3", 160 lbs., black hair and brown eyes. Suspect asked to see merchandise and said that he will pay for it in cash. Suspect removed the merchandise and fled the location without paying for the merchandise. Loss: \$108,000

Occurred between 1925 and 1930 on 08/10/06 on Foothill Road North of Burton Way. Suspect #1: Male Hispanic, 20-25, 5'9"-5'11", 160 lbs. - 170 lbs., brown hair. No further description. Suspect #2: Male
police blotter cont. on page 9

from the hills of beverly



An American In Paris

Throw out the guide books
By Rudy Cole

Sixty-Million, one-hundred forty-four thousand French people, as the old saw claims, cannot be wrong! Well, yes they can and so are guide books, advice from friends and assorted travel experts.

I just returned from my first visit to our oldest ally in 15 years and every impression previously embedded had to be reexamined – mostly, I am pleased to report, for the good. But not all.

The wife is French, I mean really French. Her family (and they are of sufficient number to form their own nation) live on an island called Oleron off the Atlantic coast. This was my second visit to her native soil, and the purpose was mostly to conclude a family business matter. But there was time for some never ending dinner parties, side trips through the Loire Valley and, of course, to Paris.

Some impressions:

The French seem determined to overtake

China as a world population leader. I have never, ever seen so many children or pregnant women, including the uncontrolled demons on our flight. Procreation has taken over soccer as the national sport.

The French have no sense of direction. On Oleron, in an apparent effort to facilitate the annual late summer arrival of tourists, which swells the population ten fold, city leaders decided to install a system of one-way streets. Amazingly, the visitors quickly learned how to get from point A to B, but the natives became so befuddled that going from the market to their homes was an overnight journey.

As for cab drivers in Paris knowing anything about their city, forget about it.

One of these worthies never even heard of the Inter-Continental, now a Westin, and others had no clue on the locations of restaurants even when given the street address.

Some advice to forget:

The “family” insisted that driving during August was almost impossible and should not be attempted. Every major and minor road would be gridlocked. We managed hundreds of miles from her island to cities to the north without once experiencing any significant traffic.

You must always make advance reservations for the magnificent trains that service France, including the TGV? Without any pre-purchase we made every connection we wanted by buying seats at the stations.

Hotel rooms will be hard to find, Paris is loaded with visitors in August. Again completely wrong. Because there are no major trade shows and the natives head for the shores, there are ample rooms available.

The best hotels are the older, charming and quaint out-of-the-way venues in Paris and other cities. Those descriptions usually mean closet size rooms without air conditioning in hotels that never heard of bell hops. One hotel we found in Angers, had no loading zone in front, no parking on the premises – they provided a key to a parking structure three blocks distant, and luggage had to be carted back and forth.

Advice from guide books and friends? We tried a restaurant recommended by Fodor and, amazingly, almost every guest was an American. The natives knew better. At an

adjoining table, two women told us about a “wonderful,” small hotel in the Latin Quarter. There was only one tiny problem. The hotel elevator was broken and our room was on the fourth floor.

Don’t expect to use your dollars anywhere. You have to have Euros, travelers checks or credit cards for any payment. It is impossible to find a bank that will even accept one hundred dollar bills. However, there are countless “change” stores that will, but at horrendous rates of exchange.

France as a trendsetter? Wearing a sports coat and shirt to dinner on Josette’s island caused looks of amusement. T-shirts, shorts and sandals were the acceptable apparel all hours of the day and night. Even in most of Paris, the “relaxed” look dominated. I never spotted one tie until we retreated to the Westin.

But there was good news. Let’s begin with costs. Despite dire warnings from some “experts” in Beverly Hills, neither hotels nor restaurants were that over priced. On the contrary, there were bargains at many fine hotels and dinner for about 12 people at a good restaurant on the island was under \$300, including some excellent wines.

On the other hand, popular, for tourists, shows such as Moulin Rouge and Lido are priced by people who hate intruders, or so it seems. Smaller brasseries often are marvelous providers of very inexpensive and delightful meals with exceptional service.

Now, for the really good news – honestly. The French national attitude seems to have undergone a major mood change. The old

rudy cont. next page

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rudy from previous page

story of the polite American inquiring at a tourist office for directions "Could you please tell me how to find Le Louvre, or should I just go screw myself?" is, or so it seemed to us, a thing of history. It's as if the service people of France had all graduated from charm school. Universally, at every hotel, restaurant, ticket counter or even people on the street, there was a genuine desire to help and make you feel welcome. I was sure we had entered a parallel universe.

As for French grocery stores, they have selections of canned goods superior to what we can find at any supermarket. Ready-made casseroles are available in all kinds of forms and are more interesting than the frozen food sections of our stores.

But old habits aren't totally changed. The French honor their lunch "hour" as a religious experience. When we arrived at La Rochelle to pick up our rental car, the Hertz office was closed at one minute past noon. That was the one time the train from Paris arrived on time. The dozen or so customers had to retreat to a small café while the whole staff adjourned for their extended hour (12 to 2) of lunch. No staggering of lunch time to accommodate customers, not here and not anywhere.

Side note: If you rent a car outside Paris, be prepared to operate a stick shift –no automatic types are available. Also, never ever return a car without filling the gas tank. We had about two-thirds of a tank left, and the local agency added one hundred bucks to our bill – for gas and service time.

As for the changed courtesy mode, I found

absolutely no hostility to Americans anywhere in France and although it must exist, even in the larger Moslem communities, we never felt anything but secure.

Finally, an end to the trip that was marvelous. Weary of the no service, ancient hotels we visited – one recommended by a letter in the travel section of the Los Angeles Times we incredibly trusted, we decided to really splurge on our last day in Paris. My old favorite in Paris was the Inter-Continental and I had one of their frequent user cards that always gave me an upgrade. The Inter-Continental is no more. Now a Westin, when the room clerk heard my story about my previous entitlements, he immediately said they would be pleased to provide the same service, and they did beyond any expectations. We had a magnificent suite for about \$300 and, if anything, the hotel was even better than the Inter-Continental days. The food, the friendly and totally helpful staff and the tastefully designed, air conditioned suite made our last day really incredible.

The next day at the airport was a jolt of the reality of our times. It was the day after the London terrorist arrests, and the process of clearance was hours long. As for planes, coach class seats are not designed for anyone over six feet. Twelve hours of cramped slouching with screeching tots taking over the aisles has led me to believe we need laws protecting the tall traveler, an apparent handicap for the industry.

Historical note: The French may have good reason for their former attitude toward Americans. I can honestly report the first

words I heard from a couple from the mid-west at Orly forty years ago: "Have you ever seen so many foreigners?"

###

Speaking of hotels: That was some nasty letter we received while I was gone about the Montage Hotel in Laguna from an obviously disgruntled local. First, we don't need to import dissenters, we have our own. Second, the writer failed to mention that Laguna city officials and other locals actually came to Beverly Hills to laud the virtues of the hotel in their community.

A point by point look at the writer's charges need to be made, but I can testify from our own experiences and it did impact my reasons for supporting the Montage project in Beverly Hills. The Laguna Montage is incredibly marvelous, no other ocean front hotel, including the great Biltmore in Santa Barbara or my other favorite, the Del in San Diego, can even compare. If they can build something even close to what they have done in Laguna, we should be pleased. However, don't expect me to desert the Peninsula's Belvedere and server Michael.

Rudy Cole served for eight years as a member and chair of the city's Recreation and Parks Commission. He also was President of Greystone Foundation and served on three other city committees. Rudy can be reached at: Rudy@bhweekly.com.

blotter cont. from page 7

White, 20-25, 5'9"-5'11", 160 lbs. to 170 lbs., brown hair. No further description. As victim was walking, suspect #1 and #2 ran towards her. Suspect #1 grabbed her property and both suspects fled the location. Loss: \$3,645

Burglary:

Occurred between 1330 and 1418 on 08/12/06 in the 200 block of North Almont Drive. Suspect: Male Black, 35-40, 6'0", 200 lbs., black hair. No further description. Suspect gained access to the locked location and removed property. Suspect fled the location. Loss: \$3,900

Occurred between 1900 and 2000 on 08/12/06 in the 300 block of North Palm Drive. Unknown suspect(s) entered the location and removed property. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected. Loss: \$99.98

Occurred between 2015 on 08/10/06 and 0749 on 08/11/06 in the 9000 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect(s), possibly entered the unlocked location and removed property. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected. Loss: \$12,850

Occurred between 1630 and 2200 on 08/10/06 in the 200 block of North Maple Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) removed property and fled the location undetected. Loss: Unknown

blotter cont. on page 13



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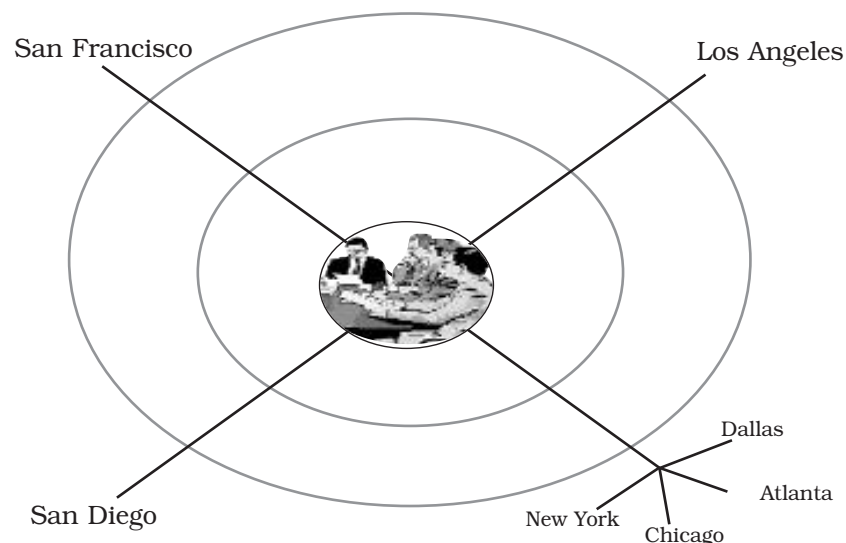
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briefs cont. from page 6

Among the bills, O'Connell supports, is AB 2532 by Assemblymember Betty Karnette (D-Long Beach). The bill guarantees enroll-



Police Chief David Snowden with recently inducted Beverly Hills Police Foundation Hall of Famer Jaclyn B. Rosenberg.

ment at adult schools for any student who does not pass the exam. Another bill O'Connell supports is AB 2040, which offers the possibility of taking the exam on a Saturday or during the summer.

Exit Exam results for the 2005-2006 school year are expected to be released later this month.

Beverly Hills Police Officer Volunteers In Israel

Sergeant Walt Jordan of the Beverly Hills Police Department went to volunteer in Kiryat Shmona, a town in northern Israel. He is expected to continue volunteering for the

next week.

As a volunteer, Jordan distributes food to Israeli soldiers and civilians. He decided to volunteer after asking an Israeli officer he was training with, if there was anything he could do to help. According to Lt. Mitch McCann, BHPD officers regularly train using Israeli defensive techniques and sometimes train with Israeli police officers.

Jordan recently celebrated his 26th anniversary with the BHPD.

Koretz Leads Discussion On Death Penalty

Forty-second District Assemblymember Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) will lead a discussion on the death penalty Sept. 7 at the Los Angeles Auditorium. The effectiveness and fairness of the death penalty are among some of the issues Koretz will raise at the forum.

The two-hour event begins at 6 p.m. Admission and parking are free, but reservations are required. To reserve a space, call (310)285-5490. The auditorium is located at 543 N. Fairfax Avenue in Los Angeles.

Playboy Mansion Event Raises Money For Jewish Home For The Aging

The Guardians of the Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging is hosting a party at the Playboy Mansion in Bel Air Aug. 26 for its annual fundraiser for the Home.

"This is a great cause," said event planner Jennifer Chadorch. "It's helping a lot of elderly Jews, and we hope a lot of people will come out to support this group."

This is the second year the fundraiser is at the Mansion. Last year, approximately 500

people participated in the event.

Guests will have access to the mansion. Drinks and dinner will be served. Entertainment for the evening includes swimming, music and a poker tournament.

The party begins at 7 p.m. and lasts until midnight. Tickets cost \$425 for men under the age of 40 and \$475 for men over 40. For women under 40, tickets cost \$200 and \$250 for women 40 or over. For more information call (310)288-0090 or visit www.laguardians.org.

Networking After Dark

Business owners have the opportunity to network with other business owners at the Chamber of Commerce event "Business After Dark." The event takes place Aug. 23 at the Dawson Cole Fine Art Gallery and includes cocktails and a chance to view gallery artwork.

The cost to attend is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. The two-hour networking event begins at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (310)248-1000, x114.

Museum of Television and Radio Previews Fall TV Line-up

ABC, NBC, The CW, FOX and CBS will show the pilot episode from five of their most anticipated shows premiering this fall at the Museum of Television and Radio. Each night will feature one network's shows exclusively.

In The Prime, begins Aug. 18 with five new shows from the FOX network. After a three week break, the program starts up again on Sep. 12 with ABC, Sep. 13 with NBC, Sep.

14 with CBS and The CW on Sep.15.

Before each of the screenings, food and beverages provided by Tres LA, Aquafina and Hypnotiq will be served at The Fall Preview Party.

The Museum of Television and Radio is located at 465 North Beverly Drive. The Fall Preview Party begins at 6:30 pm with the screening to follow at 7:00 pm. Admission is free, but reservations are required. For reservations, call (310) 786-1099 or e-mail specialevents@mtr.org. For more information go to www.mtr.org.



Shelley Berkely

Berkely Guest Speaker At Beth Jacob

briefs cont. on page 11

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- Walnut — August 28
- Santa Rosa — August 29
- Escondido — August 29
- Simi Valley — August 31
- San Leandro — August 31

Display info: ☎ 1-800-874-3597, ext. 308 abeka.org/308

briefs cont. from page 10

Temple

The Beth Jacob Temple invited Congressman Shelley Berkely (D-Nevada) to speak at its Shabbat service Aug. 12. Berkely spoke to the congregation about a number of topics including how she got into politics, security in the United States and her support of Israel.

Following the Temple service, Berkely had lunch with the Women's Seudah Shlishit at the home of a Los Angeles resident.

Concert Series Continues Saturday With Hollywood Klezmer

The seventh annual Plaza Sweets summer concert series continues this Saturday with a performance from Hollywood Klezmer. Audiences will have the chance to hear a performance combining Yiddish elements with jazz, swing and classical styles.

Past entertainers for this summer's concert season included Lorna Luft and the Los Angeles Opera.

The concert will be at the Civic Center Plaza on Rexford Drive. Free parking is available in the Civic Center parking structure. Guests can begin seating themselves at 7 p.m. For more information, call (310)550-4796.

Roxbury Community Center Offering Farm Excursion

Another senior excursion through the Roxbury Community Center is scheduled for Sept. 15. Participants will visit the Weiser Family Farm located in the Tehachapi Mountains.

The trip includes a windmill tour.

Following this, visitors will see the Weiser Farm and have the chance to pick some of the crops. The trip is for all ages, but participants must be able to walk on uneven terrain. Close-toed shoes are required and windbreakers are suggested.

Participants will be picked up at the La Cienega Tennis Center at 8 a.m. and are expected to return between 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. The cost of the trip is \$34 for residents and \$43 for non-residents. Call (310)550-4753 or go in person to the Roxbury Park Club House to make a reservation.

BHHS Football Team Opens Fall Practice

The Beverly High football team began fall practice Tuesday at Rancho Park, facing what coach Carter Paysinger called a "tremendous challenge."

Installation of the artificial turf at Nickoll Field forced the Normans to practice at Rancho Park and El Rodeo School.

As a result of the time required to take buses to the practice sites, practices will be shorter. Neither location has football's traditional yard markings, meaning "our spacing won't be tested until we play in our first game," Paysinger said.

Additionally, the team is not allowed to take heavy equipment, like blocking sleds, to the practice sites, Paysinger said.

Paysinger has experience conducting pre-season practice off campus before, and the end result was a disappointing season.

Installation of a new track in 1999 forced the team to conduct its preseason practice at La Cienega Park, which Paysinger said was a

contributing factor to Beverly Hills missing the Southern Section playoffs.

"We're hoping what we learned the last time will help us this time," said Paysinger, the team's coach since 1990. "It's definitely a possibility that it will wear us out. We definitely have our work cut out for us, just staying focused."

One lesson learned was not to practice at La Cienega Park, which Paysinger said was too far from the campus.

The team will not be able to practice at Nickoll Field until Oct. 15, Paysinger said.

Another difference is that the Normans will be opening their season earlier than usual, playing a "Week 0" game at Long Beach Cabrillo Sept. 1.

Less practice time before the first game will mean the Beverly Hills offense and defense will be more basic than usual in its opener, Paysinger said.

BHHS Golfer Finishes Second In Tournament

William Byun, a Beverly High sophomore, tied for second in the boys' 14-15 division of the San Dimas Canyon Junior Championship Aug. 3 at San Dimas Canyon Golf Course.

Byun birdied the 15th and 17th holes to move into the tie with Arnold Hur of Fullerton and James Furst of Palmdale with a three-over-par 75.

Byun also had birdies on the 11th and 12th holes and an eagle on the par-5, 442-yard ninth hole.

John Spaun of San Dimas won with a three-under-par 69.

Byun tied for first in the Yucaipa Valley Junior Championship July 25.

BHHS Graduate On Roster Of NCAA Division I Team

George Medrano, a June Beverly High graduate, is on Bucknell University's men's basketball roster for the 2006-2007 season, an athletic department official said.

The Bison have qualified for the NCAA tournament each of the past two seasons, defeating Kansas, the third-seeded team in its region, in the 2005 tournament, and Arkansas, seeded eighth in its region, in the 2006 tournament.

BHHS Graduate Records Save In Minor League Baseball Game

Jeff Bruksch, a 1998 Beverly High graduate, was credited with his second save in three games, pitching a perfect ninth inning in the Sarasota Reds' 2-0 victory over the Brevard County Manatees in a Florida State League game Aug. 9 at Sarasota, Fla.

Bruksch struck out Brendan Katin for the second out, between retiring Adam Heether and Hernan Iribarren on fly outs.

Bruksch is 1-1 with a 4.15 earned run average in 21 appearances, all in relief, entering Tuesday's play for Sarasota, a Class-A affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds.

Briefs compiled by Kari Hamanaka, Adrianna Weingold and Steven Herbert

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coverstory

THESE STREETS ARE PAVED WITH -- GRANITE

A meeting informs business owners of proposed plans for a granite sidewalk program in the business triangle area.

By Kari Hamanaka

Rodeo Drive Committee member Karl Schurz III spent half a day walking up and down the 300 and 400 blocks of Rodeo Drive asking store managers for their opinions on the streetscape enhancement program.

"I said 'Here's the granite sample. Here's the legislation,'" Schurz said, "and asked 'Do you think this is something that will benefit Rodeo Drive or harm Rodeo Drive?' All of them stated they did not want to have anything to do with [the program]."

According to Schurz, this is one reason the Rodeo Drive Committee has taken a stance against the proposed granite sidewalk plan.

A similar disinterest for the program, which has been discussed for the past two years, was apparent at the informational meeting held yesterday in City Hall.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about the proposed plan, which would require business owners to install the granite after \$250,000 worth of improvements are made to their

respective buildings. To meet the concerns of smaller business owners, such as restaurants, who would not be making such large improvements, the city would pay for the granite sidewalks with the annual encroachment license. Restaurants that provide outdoor seating for customers must pay this fee because part of their business extends onto the sidewalk.

"What we're trying to do," said City Manager Rod Wood, "is address concerns that we've heard from the business community itself as well as visitors to the community and our residents, which is Beverly Hills needs to reinvest in itself and continue to upgrade itself to maintain its status as a world class community."

Among some of the concerns raised at the meeting, were why maintenance could not be done to the existing concrete and how installation of the granite could help to increase traffic into stores. Some property owners of office spaces argued that granite would have little impact on whether more tenants would want to rent office spaces in their buildings.

City staff will make a presentation to the city council at the study session Aug. 21 in which staff will recommend councilmem-

bers accept the kenoran sage color of granite and the rectilinear stacked pattern of the granite in addition to an actual ordinance.

According to project manager Daniel

there," Webb said.

Those in the city, who would like to see the proposed granite sidewalk project passed by the city council, argue the luxury

analysis of the city, the idea that it is no longer enough for the city to be the "best of the best," but instead should strive to be the "elite of the elite," has been a common theme throughout city press releases for anything having to do with economic development.

"We understand that [city officials] want to make the city the best of the best," Schurz said. "[City officials'] problem right now is that they are unable to properly maintain it. We're very irritated about the city pushing this granite sidewalk instead of just taking care of what they have right now and making sure that the plants are watered properly and making sure that the lights are clean and the trash cans are appropriate for the situation making it a beautifully maintained area for what we've already spent money on."

The issue of maintaining the streetscape is not a new one. As reported in the *Weekly* [issue #323], the Urban Design Program of 2002 only recently reached completion last year and left businesses with newly paved concrete sidewalks.

Under the original Urban Design plan, granite was one of the proposed materials to be used for the sidewalks. The city council concluded it did not have sufficient funds to cover the cost of the granite and when put to a vote, property owners voted against an assessment district.

The district would have forced property owners to pay the money for the granite at one time so that installation of the granite only occurred once.

The outcome of three years worth of construction under the Urban Design construction was something many retailers were not pleased with and why some do not support further construction with the granite program.

"[The Rodeo Drive Committee] is 100% against [granite sidewalks] because of the past construction requirements that [the city has] done a horrible job of," Schurz said, "because of the horrible beautification process they did before disturbing the roads [with the Urban Design Project construction] and because the anticipated patchwork that it would look like over the next 20 years."

Since the release in May of an economic



An example of the existing concrete sidewalks the City Manager would like to see replaced with granite.

Cartagena, the kenoran sage color has been the favored granite color among those in attendance at past meetings for the granite.

Those at yesterday's meeting were informed city staff made attempts to keep the colors of the granite neutral so as not to conflict with the existing concrete. Should an ordinance pass, a patchwork effect of concrete and granite would occur since store owners would install the granite at different periods of time based on individual construction work.

The estimated cost for the granite is expected to be \$72 per square foot based upon what it would take to remove the existing sidewalk, preparation for the granite, cost of materials and cost of installation. However, final costs will vary because each store's frontages differ in size.

According to Wood and Mayor Steve Webb, installation of the granite would maintain the upscale image the city is known for worldwide.

"The purpose of the granite sidewalks is to enhance the overall look of Rodeo Drive which in turn makes it more attractive to both shoppers as well as to possible other tenants who would want to open stores

Occurred between 1000 and 1200 on 08/09/06 in the 9700 block of South Santa Monica blvd. Unknown suspect(s) entered the location and removed property. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected. Loss: \$5,267

Grand Theft:

Occurred between 1000 and 2300 on 08/10/06 in the 200 block of South Gale Drive. Suspect: Male Juvenile. Suspect entered victim's location and removed property. Suspect(s) fled the location. Loss: \$1,000

Occurred between 1730 and 1955 on 08/09/06 in the 300 block of North Beverly Drive. Unknown suspect(s) removed victim's property which was left unattended at the location. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected. Loss: \$2,330

Occurred between 1300 and 1315 on 08/09/06 in the 300 block of North Camden Drive. Suspect #1: Male Hispanic, 45-50. No further description. Suspect #2: Male Hispanic, 45-50. No further description. Suspect #3: Male Hispanic, 45-50. No further description. Suspects' vehicle approached a delivery truck in the alley. Suspects removed property from the delivery truck and fled the location in their vehicle. Loss: \$36,000

Occurred between 1615 and 1745 in the

1100 block of San Ysidro Drive. Unknown suspect(s) removed victim's property from an unsecured location. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected. Loss: \$2,000

Battery:

Occurred between 2300 and 2323 on 08/11/06 in the 100 block of North La Cienega Blvd. Suspect: Male White, 36, 5'11", 180 lbs., brown hair and brown eyes. Suspect approached the victim and punched him in the face.

Forgery:

Occurred between 0000 on 08/05/06 and 0000 on 08/07/06 in the 100 block of South Maple Drive. Suspect: Female, 20, 5'4", 145 lbs., brown hair and brown eyes. Suspect removed blank checks from the victim's checkbook and made one check out to herself and cashed it at a bank. Loss: \$516

Identity Theft:

Occurred at an unknown time on 08/07/06 in the 300 block of South La Peer Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used victim's personal information to open a cellular telephone account.

Occurred at an unknown times between 07/24/06 and 08/07/06 in the 400 block of North Crescent Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used victim's bank account to make telephonic payments.

Arrests:

COHEN, SETH DANIEL, 18, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 08/15/06 for driving under

the influence of alcohol.

BENAVIDES, DAGOBERTO, 22, of Highland Park, arrested on 08/14/06 for driving without a license.

MARTINEZ, SEBERINA, 25, of Los Angeles, arrested on 08/14/06 for driving without a license.

HASAK, BRIAN EDWARD, 26, of Los Angeles, arrested on 08/13/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

BLAINE, TONY, 47, of Los Angeles, arrested on 08/13/06 for giving false information to a peace officer.

HERNANDEZ, TERESA ALEJANDRA, 33, of Hollywood, arrested on 08/13/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

SHAPIRO, SHANA COABI, 20, of Los Angeles, arrested on 08/13/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

CASTILLO, MARVIN ALEXANDER, 20, of North Hollywood, arrested on 08/12/06 for driving without a license.

WILLIAMS, CHRISTOPHER JOHN, 26, of Inglewood, arrested on 08/12/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

GOODMAN, ALEXANDER GREGORY, 22, of Los Angeles, arrested on

08/12/06 for a felony warrant.

PRUDHOLME, STEVEN ANTHONY, 38, of Malibu, arrested on 08/12/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

AGUILAR, RICARDO ALBERTO, 41, of North Hills, arrested on 08/12/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

ASGHEDOM, SAMIEL GHEBREHET, 24, of Los Angeles, arrested on 08/11/06 for failure to disclose origin of recording or audiovisual work and sound recordings transferred without owner's consent.

PONY, ERIC, 24, of Tarzana, arrested on 08/11/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

PORTER, CEDRIC EARL, 25, of Pennsylvania, arrested on 08/10/06 for transfer/sell of a controlled substance.

MACHAT, MARGAUX LORRAINE, 23, of Los Angeles, arrested on 08/10/06 for grand theft.

DEMITRO, TINA MARY, 34, transient, arrested on 08/10/06 for driving without a license.

ORDONEZ, DORELIA RUTILIA, 42, of Los Angeles, arrested on 08/10/06 for driving without a license.

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