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SNAPSHOT

letters & email

“Board of Education race begins”

It was shocking to read the comments of former Mayor Steve Webb regarding who should run for the School Board in Beverly Hills. According to Webb, “...one earns the right to become an elected official through a lot of hard work and effort in the community.”

Really? According to whom? Over the years we have had numerous School Board and City Council members who did not bring a lot of prior governmental experience to the job. However, they did bring earnest interest, honesty and intellect to the table of politics and to their community service and ended up being outstanding public officials.

I have never met Brian Goldberg, candidate for the School Board but it is quite possible that he too may have the same qualities as Webb’s chosen candidate, namely, “...bright, personable, articulate and drive and energy.” But the voters of Beverly Hills will never know this if we limit elected office to those who have been on Team Beverly Hills, a commission or the boards of local groups.

Let’s give the students in our school dis-

trict a real lesson in civics and affirm that any resident can and should run who is willing to work hard and bring their expertise and talents to elected office.

*Susan Mishler
Beverly Hills*

“Surprise in Board Race”

In Rudy Cole’s column last week he wrote, “Obviously, there were more internal problems and disagreements inside the board than we knew, and this may have led to Millan’s decision [to withdraw from the election.]”

I would like everyone in the community to know this: all of us on the board have the highest regard for each other and I know of no problems or significant disagreements

between us. We don’t agree on every issue, but these expected differences of opinion are always handled respectfully, professionally and cordially. Rudy’s comment came as a surprise to all of us and I am puzzled as to its source. Someone can make this into a campaign issue if they want, but it is unfounded speculation at best and misrepresentation of the truth at worst (“obviously!”)

Speaking for myself, I can say that I have thoroughly enjoyed working with my board colleagues Myra Demeter, Myra Lurie, Nooshin Meshkaty, Alissa Roston and, up until two years ago, Barry Brucker.

*John Millan
President
Beverly Hills Board of Education*



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VAHAGN'S 18th BIRTHDAY PINE DRIVE

(L to R) Michelle Partelli, Alexa Okyle, Kevin Setian, Bianca Khalili and Ida Setian

Friends and family of Vahagn Setian, the Beverly High student killed last year in a car accident, gathered at a party celebrating his life on what would have been his 18th birthday. For more coverage on the case see page 4.

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Council Says Farsi Ballot Issue Misunderstood

System to be changed for the 2009 elections

By Elisa Osegueda



Jimmy Delshad

In an effort ease community concerns about voter ballot options members of the Beverly Hills City Council revisited the subject of multicultural ballots at its meeting on Tuesday. With a large Iranian population in Beverly Hills the City is requesting for ballots to be translated into Farsi while also providing ballots in Spanish.

Beverly Hills residents were "confused and angered originally

when our ballots came out trilingual, said Vice Mayor Barry Brucker.

During the March council election community members received a voting ballot printed in English, Farsi and Spanish.

People were "very much disturbed by it, which was very unfortunate because the goal of the City Clerk, who is in charge of elections, was to be as inclusive as possible. So the City's intentions were very honorable and admirable but people brought up all the negatives," said Brucker.

Mayor Jimmy Delshad, believes he received a "major setback as a result of this. I think I would have gotten at least several hundred more votes."

There were about 124 phone calls that Delshad is aware of in which residents said they wouldn't vote for him due to the trilingual ballot. "They looked at me as the Persian American incumbent, he must have done this [trilingual ballot] so I lost

probably 400 votes."

"It was a miracle to win," said Delshad. "It was extremely damaging to me."

As a result Delshad, along with the rest of the City Council, decided to modify the process and will mail out ballots only in English but "have available translated, upon request, ballots in Farsi and Spanish. Now the State requires [the city] to have it in Spanish but we are voluntarily also going to print [the ballots] in Farsi, given the fact that we have a very large Iranian population," said Brucker.

"I want the community to know that we are one community as far as I am concerned and one community means we don't want to create ways that will divide us," said Delshad.

The Voting Rights Act required counties

to have available ballots in languages other than English, but does not require for counties to send out full ballot translations to voter. Each county has different translated voting material contingent upon the county's demographic.

The Council's point of view is, "we would rather have someone vote and vote informed than not vote at all," said Brucker.

Although, the ballots being mailed out

will be in English, residents will have the opportunity to request an absentee ballot or ballot statement booklets in Farsi or Spanish.

The decision by the Council "takes affect immediately but it is for our March 2009 City Council Election," said Beverly Hills City Clerk Byron Pope

According to Pope the 2009 election will have three council seats up for reelection and one treasurer seat.

"These options will also be available at the polls. The community has nothing to worry about," said Brucker.

"Anyone who needs the foreign language translation makes them a stronger citizen because they are taking the time to read it [in the] best language for them to [understand] the details of the candidates or bond measure.

It's a good thing," said Brucker.

Pope assures residents not to be worried about the new changes.

"The Council and City staff are working together to achieve common goals through team work in order to further demonstrate the excellence and quality of service to the community and to each other," said Pope.

"I want the community to know that we are one community as far as I am concerned and one community means we don't want to create ways that will divide us."
- Beverly Hills Mayor Jimmy Delshad



Barry Brucker



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NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCIES:

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

The Beverly Hills City Council is seeking qualified residents to fill three upcoming vacancies on the Human Relations Commission. The initial term of office for each 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 Director of Human Services. Please DO NOT contact the City Councilmembers or the members of the Human Relations Commission regarding the vacancies.

Application forms for the Human Relations 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 for this Commission has been extended to Monday, September 10, 2007 at 5:30p.m.

BYRON POPE, CMC
City Clerk

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briefs

Local students use "Facebook" to circulate petition to extend Lane Garrison's prison sentence

Eight months after causing a deadly car accident, pleading guilty to vehicular manslaughter and driving under the influence, Lane Garrison, ex-"Prison Break" actor, will be sentenced in October. With only two months left to complete his 90 day psychological evaluation, friends of Vahagn Setian, the Beverly High student killed in the crash, created the 'Lane's Sentencing Petition' group on "Facebook," the social networking website.

The Facebook group currently has 900 members and was created to persuade the court to give Garrison the maximum sentence. "It's incredible to see how many people have gotten involved and how many people care," said Beverly High senior Alexa Okyle.

Originally, students created a Vahagn Setian Facebook tribute group "so that people could post pictures and write comments about him or to him as a way to express their feelings. [But then] the petition group was a way to show the judge how many people care about Vahagn and how much this incident has affected everyone," said Okyle.

The online petition is "one final attempt at making a guilty man serve the most serious possible sentence that he can be given," according to the group's Facebook description.

"We hope the petition will have some sort of

influence, but that is ultimately up to the judge. We started the petition one or two days before the last hearing [August 2]," said Beverly High senior and close friend of Vahagn, Jake Lefkowitz.

Garrison, who was driving his white Land Rover with an alcohol level of 0.20, double the legal alcohol driving limit, and under the influence of cocaine, crashed into a tree on December 2, 2006, killing Setian and injuring two other passengers.

Garrison is due back in court on Wednesday, October 31 to appear before Superior Court Judge Elden S. Fox.

While the court weighs on Garrison's sentence, Lefkowitz believes the Facebook group will continue to unite a community, "I think its great how everyone, regardless of how close they were to Vahagn, is grouping together with one goal in mind. We know we can't bring Vahagn back, but together something can be done about it."

Harland Braun, Garrison's attorney did not return calls for comment in time for the deadline.

Beverly Hills Judge Andrew Weisz Passes at 81

Retired Beverly Hills Judge Andrew Weisz was laid to rest at the Mt. Sinai Cemetery on Monday, August 20. He was 81.

Judge Weisz, born in Los Angeles on November 25, 1925, completed his undergraduate studies at the College of the City of New York, and was admitted to the State Bar of California after graduating from USC Law School in 1952. Serving the community for 40 years, Judge Weisz litigated criminal matters



Beverly High Barricade Artwork Unveiling
Students from Beverly High unveiled the barricade artwork they designed last week at the Montage Hotel and City Public Gardens construction project. The 36 colorful panels are on display just north of Wilshire along Beverly Drive. The panels depict various Beverly Hills landmarks.

for such notables as Johnny Carson, Dean Martin, and Richard Dreyfuss; performed numerous celebrity weddings; and acted as the presiding judge during the Sunset Strip riots and the Iranian student riots.

Judge Weisz also served his community by helping to create and open the Beverly Hills Courthouse, and pioneered new innovations, including a new calendaring system and the utilization of Pro Tem Judges to hear Small Claims matters, a system that was the first of its kind in California.

Judge Weisz is survived by his daughter, Donna, a retired Los Angeles City attorney who lives in Templeton, CA with her husband, James Jones, a retired LAPD commander; and his son, Barry, Chair of the Business & Tax Department of Silver & Freedman, APLC, his wife Candace, and their two children, Alison, who is finishing a Masters of Mathematical Finance at USC and Zachary, a junior at the University of Michigan, and one brother, Alex Weisz of Santa Cruz, CA.

Rudy Cole discusses Judge Weisz in his col-

umn on page 6.

Beverly Hills Boy Scout Troop 33's Return Home

After attending advanced workshops and witnessing a meteor shower the Boy Scouts from Beverly Hills' Troop 33 return home. Eighteen of the 30 registered Boy Scouts attended the summer camp program at the Schoepe Scout Reservation. A record-breaking 118 merit badges were earned, 35 of those meeting Eagle requirements.

Boys aged 11 to 18 are welcome to join Beverly Hills Troop 33 award-winning scouting program. For more information on Beverly Hills' oldest troop, contact Scoutmaster: Stephen Schwartz at (310) 275-5001 or Committee Chairman: Adam Fast at (310) 277-5960.

Fifth Preschool to Open at La Cienega Park

The City of Beverly Hills Community Services Department is opening a fifth preschool program at La Cienega Community

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Center. The La Cienega Pre-school Program joins the other four pre-schools currently provided by the City and offered at Roxbury Park, Coldwater Canyon Park and Hawthorne and Beverly Vista Schools. All programs are state-licensed. The new pre-school program is located at La Cienega Community Center at 8400 Gregory Way.

"The reason why we are expanding is because we had so many families on the waiting list that we were not able to accommodate. I think we had over 85 families on the waiting list of children who were age appropriate. A fifth pre-school will allow us to accommodate many of those families," said Deputy Director of Recreation & Parks Department Pat Agnitch. Approximately 98 percent of the families are Beverly Hills residents, Agnitch said.

Pre-school programs are the "foundation of the beginnings of education experience and even though we are recreationally based it's kind of a good foundation for children to be able to work with one another, socialize effectively with each other and it's a good preparation for getting into more of an academic type of environment," said Agnitch.

La Cienega Pre-school will operate Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Parents can select from a five, three or two day schedule. Participants must reside in Beverly Hills, be three to five years in age and potty-trained. To receive a registration application for the limited number of spaces available, please call the City of Beverly Hills Community Services Department at (310) 550-4765.

BH Residents and Business Teams Sought for Adult Flag Football League

The City of Beverly Hills Community Services Department's Adult Sports Program is registering teams for the Fall Season on September 5-7, 2007. Priority registration is given to Beverly Hills residents or Beverly Hills business teams. All games are played at La Cienega Park at 8400 Gregory Way in Beverly Hills on Sundays beginning September 16. To receive a registration packet, please call the City of Beverly Hills Community Services Department at (310) 550-4765.

"Modern Orthodox" Extends its Run

Theatre 40's production of "Modern Orthodox" will be extended through Sunday, September 9.

The extended performance dates and times are: Wednesday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 Wednesday through Friday and \$22 Sat and Sun.

Theatre 40 is located in the Reuben Cordova Theatre on the Beverly High campus at 241 Moreno Drive adjacent to Century City. Theatre is air-conditioned, disabled access; credit cards are accepted and ample free indoor parking is available. For reservations please call: (310) 364-0535.

Beverly High Class of '77 Reunion

Aphrodisiac Restaurant will host the 30 year reunion for the Beverly High Class of 1977. The event will take place on Saturday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m. Invitations have been sent out and alumni must RSVP and pay through their class website. For more information visit, www.ReunionCelebrations.com or call Diane Tishkoff at (310) 550-8435

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from the hills of beverly



Is It Smart Growth?

City debates changes, and death of a court house legend

By Rudy Cole

Much of our economy depends on a thriving entertainment industry. We are identified throughout the world with "Hollywood" and many of our residents work in the film and television industry or represent people who do.

So, why any hesitancy in approving a new home for our oldest talent agency, William Morris? There are reasons.

First, **William Morris** is important to our economy. When was the last time your doctor or dentist invited you to lunch? Or even took a lunch hour? Well, agents, when you can actually get them on the phone, do dine out and do bring visitors to our hotels. As for direct taxes, not nearly as significant as the revenues the city derives from hotels, car dealers or retailers, but they do contribute, mostly through the business license tax.

William Morris is not a bad corporate citizen. They do support some local char-

ities, but possibly not to the level that might be expected of them.

They have not often provided leadership for community organizations, but compared to some of their competitors, they are involved.

Now, we have been told that the agency was within days of moving to Westwood and that the only reason they have considered staying is because they have a possible new home on North Beverly that would enable them to bring under one roof their whole organization. Apparently this isn't possible in their other properties, even though much of that space is rented to others.

True, they made some of these same arguments some years back when the city approved two additional buildings, one on El Camino and the other on South Rodeo Drive.

We lost ICM, but guess what? They are

now actively pursuing the land that was supposed to be set aside for a community/sports center in the former Industrial Area. Clearly, they want back in Beverly Hills.

The grass isn't as green in other areas. There is no comparison to working in Century City or Westwood to Beverly Hills – easier access, far more security, attractive walking areas without the depressing street scenes and far less internal traffic.

There are, however, some problems with the project. To me, the most important are iron clad guarantees that if they receive the exceptions they need on several issues, including parking, they will actually remain and not lease the offices to other, less beneficial renters.

This is an enormous project and although it includes retailing, it brings offices to an area the city has always felt should be for stores, shops and restaurants. Some years back, to discourage more financial institutions in the triangle, including brokerage firms, the city adopted tough frontage size rules that made anything but retailing impossible. We wanted our limited land inside the business triangle to be saved – to encourage diverse retailing, including stores that

provide conveniences for residents. The city used the same planning process even earlier to discourage medical uses by requiring more parking than any other tenancy.

Some form of bond or rigid performance guarantee must be part of the entitlement. If not, this project should not be approved.

What are the other issues: Design is not an absolute art, but this structure will occupy a key gateway to the triangle and, more important, will be across the street from the Montage Hotel and Gardens and we know how much angst went into assuring that project met critical city standards on everything, including design.

Frankly, although I agree design needs to reflect important needs such as parking, the artistic look and feel, at least the rendering I saw, is not esthetically exciting – I know that is highly subjective.

Next is parking. Agencies have considerable in and out traffic, more than most other uses: not as much as a department store – but those bring sales tax money with the traffic. The numbers in the Draft Environmental Report raise the issues very well, including availability of employee and not just visitor parking. If our codes have any meaning, they need to be followed here.

Yes, some allowances could be made, including the height of the building, but within reason and with protections that assure the city that one day this won't just be another mammoth home for corporate

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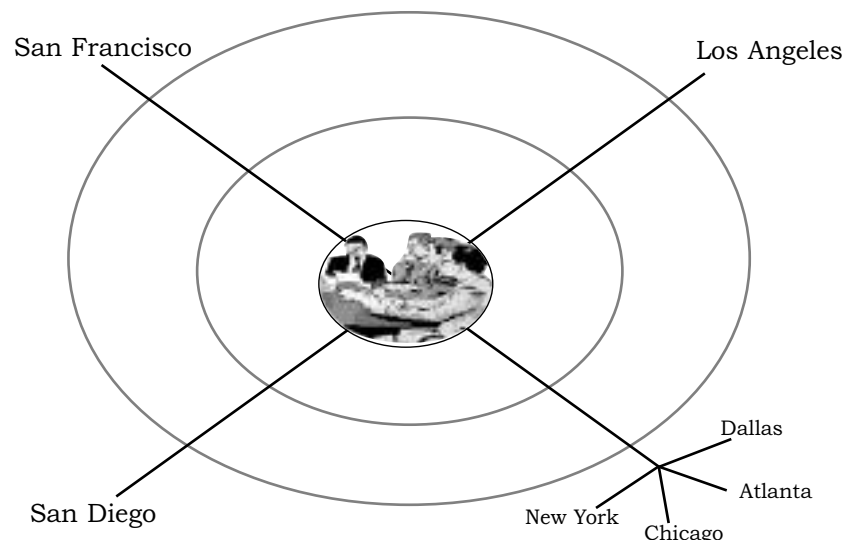
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offices whose main business is in New York. The key question is: Would this size building, these allowances for parking ever be made if it were not William Morris? Remember, the city refused to approve a major motion picture complex just across the street because it would produce too much traffic and what could be more entertainment industry oriented than theatres?

Again, this is a big departure from the concept of uses we attach to the triangle. The Planning Commission and the council should approach with caution.

This weekend we lost one of the most upbeat, fun people I have ever known: Judge **Andrew Weisz** (see page 4). That contagious smile, that perpetual joy in living and his consistent optimism were truly a gift he shared with his world – family and friends.

Mostly, Judge Weisz, and he was always Judge, helped define our court. Few people who ever served on the bench were as respected as Judge Weisz, he was an outstanding legal scholar. He also made his court human and less frightening than a court experience can be.

Some notes on his life that you may not find in the obits:

It helped, even if you were a senior partner at O'Melveny, to have some familiarity with Yiddish if you came to Beverly Hills Municipal Court. This USC – Law Review educated jurist loved inter-

jecting Yiddish folklore and homilies into his repartee with lawyers, and, even if it was alien to them, they understood his intent to humanize his court.

Judge Andrew Weisz was the Beverly Hills Court. Others served, went on to higher courts or returned to private practice but for 21 years the court was known as Judge Weisz's.

Although he never won advancement, and probably never sought it sufficiently to make it happen, his legal talents brought him a most rare distinction:

The state's chief justice frequently assigned him to work with the court of appeals, two levels higher than his office.

I knew Judge Andy because I had the pleasure, and it really was a joy, to manage his first campaign. His late wife Estelle was the force behind the campaign – cajoling both of us and demanding more effort including a reaction to his opponent's use of robes in a campaign piece – the guy was not a judge.

Despite my work, Judge Weisz won a tough election. On election night, and this was long before electronic reporting, with a possible close race, the only way we had of knowing the results was to visit each polling place. The district included both Beverly Hills and the City of West Hollywood. Since the election was in November, there were countless other offices on the ballot.

Polling places were required to post the results and so we visited almost 50 precincts which took all night and into the

dawn hours. Exhausted, disheveled and unshaved, when it was clear Judge Weisz had won, and done so very convincingly, he decided he had to see his soon to be chambers or private office.

I wasn't at all sure we would be allowed in, but Judge Weisz insisted and off to city hall we charged. The Beverly Hills court was then housed in the south wing of city hall – the actual court room was a duplicate of the council chamber and now houses the city gallery. The judge's chambers were underneath in very modest spaces.

Adjacent to city hall was a narrow parking alley for the judges and city officials. Judge Weisz, driving his very ancient and battered Cadillac, pulled into a space marked "Judges Only."

At that exact moment, an elderly lady stormed to the Judge's car, surveyed our appearances, and shouted: "Can't you two read? This is for Judge's only." Too tired and unable to control our laughter, we departed quickly.

Every Judge who ever served with Judge Weisz will credit him with his mentoring skills and his love of the law and his community, and we've had some outstanding jurists.

Although he doesn't lace his findings with Yiddish, and is probably more formal, the son of a long time Weisz' friend, Richard and the late **Lona Stone** now serves as a Beverly Hills Judge and **Richard Stone Jr.** too makes his court people friendly.

Richard Stone Jr. was the last judge to be elected from the district. It was during his campaign that the legislature merged Municipal and Superior into one court in 2000 and now judges run in the whole county, not community districts. They are assigned by the presiding judge to superior court districts, including Beverly Hills.

For those of you who were fortunate enough to have known him or to break bread with him at the Friar's or the Magic Castle or appear in his court, you know what a treasure we have lost.

Quick notes: At least three Beverly Hills Board of Education members said we had it wrong when we gave "dissension" on the board as a possible reason for **John Millan's** decision not to seek reelection – we did not give that as a primary reason. In fact, veteran board member **Alissa Roston** said this board works in greater harmony than any other board with which she served. This column too has complimented the board for avoiding some of the often meaningless in-fighting that divided and distracted past boards, but our sources – not a board member, insist there have been problems that remained controlled. However, three is a majority and I am pleased to accept their response.

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce will present a Lifetime

Achievement Award to **Warren Ackerman** on October 11, part of an annual recognition luncheon.

Few people have served the Chamber or his community with such dedication as Warren. This is an honor he deserves from an organization he has kept alive and relevant.

Sooner than expected **Ali Kasikci**, the highly regarded managing director of the Peninsula Hotel, has left and been replaced by **Paul Chen** who had previously worked at the Hong Kong Peninsula. The hotel has a management contract with the same organization that operates the first Peninsula.

Kasikci had announced earlier that he would be leaving the hotel to "pursue other interests," but he was expected to continue until the end of this year. As reported here, there has been considerable speculation that Kasikci would join the Montage Hotel and Gardens, to open here late next year. Neither Kasikci or the hotel confirmed the story.

Chen, according to hotel sources, brings considerable management and sales skills to Beverly Hills. However, as of this writing, Probity, the hotel owners, have made no formal announcement of the change of management and the surprise early departure of Kasikci.

Ali and his wife Donelle made an important mark in community life and will be missed by their many friends. Although changing managing directors, the same team and the Zraegin family will remain and continue their commitment to excellence.

Not an auspicious beginning: The BH League of Women Voters has or will soon merge with the Los Angeles League, depending on which of their communications you accept.

On the same day, in the same envelope, members received two letters from the LA League – one from the district and the other from the University/Westside unit. The LA League advises members that the "official transfer" of BH to Los Angeles requires both state and national League approval, which is expected by the end of the month. The unit mail informs us that "now that the merger of the Beverly Hills League of Women Voters into Los Angeles League of Women Voters is complete..." Understandable, they can't wait to absorb our League, long known for its gentle, passive approach to issues – at least that's my story until we are accepted legally.

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

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BHHS Football Team Opens Fall Practice

Norman girls' volleyball team to play in Hawaii.

By Steven Herbert

The Beverly High football team began fall practice last Thursday, free of its disadvantages of a year ago.

When artificial turf was being installed at Nickoll Field last summer, the Normans were forced to practice at El Rodeo School, Rancho Park and on the school's front lawn. This year, the team is back practicing at Nickoll Field.

"It's like night and day," Beverly Hills coach Carter Paysinger said. "You're practicing on a real football field with goal posts and you're able to work on your kicking game. The kids can get their bearings and their spacing and how they should run their routes and how they should align."

The Normans were at an "obvious disadvantage" last season when they were unable to practice on a football field during the pre-season, Paysinger said.

"You could never get a space big enough at any of those facilities," said Paysinger, who is starting his 18th season as the team's

coach, what is believed to be the longest tenure in the school's 81-year history. "At El Rodeo, the field is not as wide as [a regulation] field. You get in your first game and 40 percent of your plays are going to start from a hash mark, so making that adjustment was a little different."

The disadvantages didn't seem to have an effect on Beverly Hills' record, as it won its first three games and six of its first seven during a 7-3-1 season where it shared the Ocean League championship with Culver City.

One change Paysinger is making with fall practice is spending more time with classroom instruction.

"In the short and long run, it's going to benefit us tremendously, being able to answer questions and going out on the field all on the same page," Paysinger said. "It eliminates a lot of wasted effort."

Because the Normans are scheduled to open their season with a "Week Zero" game Aug. 31, a week earlier than most Southern

Section schools, they were able to begin practice four days earlier than most other schools.

"We have a shorter period of time to prepare for our first game than the schools that start on the 20th and play in Week One," said Paysinger, whose team will open its season by playing host to Long Beach Cabrillo. "Once we get through the first three games, it will become a benefit for us because we have a bye week and we'll have a chance to get over minor injuries and give our kids a chance to catch up academically."

Girls' Volleyball

Beverly High is scheduled to play in the Maui Classic Girls' Volleyball Tournament Friday and Saturday in Makawao, Hawaii.

Coach Marla Weiss said she began researching the possibility of playing in Hawaii in December, then contacted tournament organizers and received an invitation.

"Going to Hawaii to play when there are no other mainland teams in the tournament is really a big question mark," Weiss said. "All of Hawaii has very strong and solid volleyball. They still have different levels of ability, but it's all going to be pretty solid. We're just hoping to be competitive and jump start the season with an exciting opportunity to meet people from Hawaii."

The team's goal for the tournament is "to get to playoffs and to win it," Weiss said.

The matches will not count on the team's record because they come before the start of the season.

This will be the team's third trip to Hawaii, following trips to Oahu in 2002 and Hilo in

2004

No district funds are being used to pay for the trip, Weiss said.

"We've done some fund-raising," Weiss said.

Funds from the players and their families will pay for the remainder of the cost, Weiss said.

Cross Country

Luis Turcios has been named as Beverly High's coach, athletic director Carter Paysinger announced last Thursday.

Heather Cruz-Smith, who became the coach midway through last season, remains on maternity leave, Paysinger said.

Turcios, a 1995 Beverly Hills graduate, will remain as the school's boys' basketball coach.

Professional Football

For the second consecutive game, Sonny Shackelford, a 2003 Beverly High graduate, played in an National Football League exhibition game for the San Diego Chargers, but did not record any statistics, in a 30-13 victory over the St. Louis Rams Saturday in St. Louis.

All NFL teams must reduce their rosters to 75 players by Tuesday.

Steven Herbert also covers sports for the Los Angeles Times and The Associated Press. He welcomes feedback and suggestions. He can be reached by e-mail at StvHerbert@aol.com, by telephone at (310) 275-7943 or by fax at (310) 273-4519.

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coverstory

STAR TEST RESULTS RELEASED

BHUSD scores improve slightly

By Elisa Osegueda

With over 300 certificated teachers in the Beverly Hills Unified School District, one teacher in particular is rejoicing the achievement of her students. Beverly Vista 8th grade English instructor Merle Bauer was surprised to see the results of the California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) released on Wednesday, August 15.

"I was so surprised when I saw the test scores for the 8th grade class. I wasn't expecting them to score so high," said Bauer.

91 percent of the 8th grade students from Beverly Vista who took the STAR were proficient and above in the English-Language Arts section, meaning their scores are above average and in the advanced percentile. Based on last year's scores the 8th grade class improved by three percent; this grade level is the most high ranked in the district in comparison to Hawthorne scoring 82 percent, El Rodeo 79 percent, and Horace Mann 65 percent.

"I work extremely hard and it is just sheer hard work because I am doing what I love and what I believe in," said Bauer.

Among the elementary schools, Beverly Vista had the overall highest scores in the English-Language Arts section. Horace Mann had the highest math scores in their 5th grade general mathematics section and 8th grade Algebra I section.

According to Bauer, "it is very important that we cover all the California State Standards. Every teacher in all subject areas is given the Standards so we all know what the standards are."

In comparison to other comparable school districts such as, Las Virgenes, Palos Verdes Peninsula, and San Marino, BHUSD has the highest Algebra II test score in the 11th grade class section. Based on the 11th grade section, out of 152 BHUSD students tested 39 percent scored proficient and above; Palos Verdes on the other hand scored the lowest, testing 265 students and only seven percent scores proficient and above. Las Virgenes scored

a 19 percent and San Marino 32 percent.

Beverly Vista 8th grade math teacher Mark Frenn, says the test scores for the STAR section vary based on grade level. "For grades 2 through 7, the State Framework distinguishes the math standard to be taught at each level. After grade 7, the math standards become subject based, with the first standard being Algebra," said Frenn.

The deviation helps explain why there are lower and higher scores within the same 8th grade math section. According to Frenn, "the curriculum for the algebra class is based on the state standards and, consequently, the STAR scores for Algebra in 8th grade are generally very strong."

In regards to the curriculum for the algebra readiness class, "the class is designed to prepare students for success in high school algebra and is not specifically aligned with the standards for the General Mathematics test...as a result of this disconnect, the STAR scored for this test generally

tend to be lower," said Frenn.

Overall San Marino Unified scored the highest in its 5th, 8th and 11th grade English-Language Art sections, as well as in its 8th grade Algebra I section with 99 percent of the students scoring proficient and above.

Director of Curriculum Brian Tash says the BHUSD has been focusing since last year in two assessments to help STAR test scores and the overall learning experience for student. In grades Kindergarten through 5th grade "we focus on formative assessment in which teachers are constantly seeking were kids are so they can adjust their teaching the next day."

The second type of assessment is called assessment of learning or summative assessment. After each assessment "we want to learn what our kids have learned as a result so what we did was train out specialist which each grade level is assigned one and they taught the general staff," said Tash.

San Marino's 5th grade class scored 90 percent in its English-Language Art sec-

tion, while the BHUSD 5th grade class scored 74 percent. Although the percentage is lower than San Marino's 5th grade class, BHUSD improved by two percent from last years 72 percent.

California Standards Tests (CSTs) are standards-based tests that measure the achievement of state content standards in English-language arts, mathematics, science, and history-social science. Grades 2-11 are required to go through standardized testing.

"You have got to work hard to try to make the printed word come alive," said Bauer.

According to Tash it is important for teachers to be "purposeful in their teaching. It's not about just teaching from a text book but to use a text book as a tool and that is determined the needs of the stu-

dents."

Bauer believes students can improve their English standardized testing scores by reading more.

"I am a great believer that kids today are spending too much time watching television, playing with the computer on 'Myspace,' and they are not reading as much as they should," said Bauer.

Teachers in the kindergarten through 8th grade worked on differentiated instruction, "and what that means is that not all students in a class room are at the same place. So the emphasize last year was, 'how do we take what ever we are doing and gear it to the need of specific student,'" said Tash.

The STAR test results will be presented to the School Board on Tuesday, September 11 by the BHUSD Educational Services.

"I am a great believer that kids today are spending too much time watching television, playing with the computer on 'Myspace,' and they are not reading as much as they should,"

- Merle Bauer

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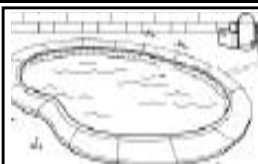
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282-TV/VCR/DVD Repair
284-Video Systems
286-Windows
288-Word Processing
289-Lessons
290-Trainer

300-399 Rentals
300-House Furnished
302-House Unfurnished

304-Apartments Furnished
306-For Rent
308-Condominiums
309-Recreational For Rent
310-Rooms
312-Rentals to Share
314-Hotels/Motels
316-Garages Storage
318-Office Space
320-Commercial
322-Resort Property
325-For Lease

400-499 Real Estate
400-Homes For Sale
401-Real Estate
402-Condominiums
404-Commercial/Industrial
406-Mobile Homes
408-Income Property
410-Lots For Sale
412-Farms/Ranches
414-Resort Property

416-Lakeshore Property
418-Oceanfront Property
420-Out-of-State Property
422-Real Estate Exchange
424-Real Estate Wanted

500-599 Employment
500-Employment Opportunities
501-Help Wanted
505-Work at Home
510-Employment Agencies
515-Business Services
516-Business Opportunities
520-Jobs Wanted
521-Personal Shopper
522-Drivers

600-799 Merchandise
600-Garage Sales
610-For Sale
615-Business For Sale
700-Antiques
705-Appliances
710-Medical Supplies
715-Coins & Stamps
720-Computers
725-Furniture

726-Miscellaneous
730-Musical Instruments
735-Office Furniture
740-Television/Radio

800-899 Financial
800-Real Estate Loans
801-Financial Services
802-Money to Loan
804-Money Wanted
806-Mortgage & Trust
808-Escrows

900-999 Transportation
900-Autos For Sale
905-Trucks & Vans
910-Motorhomes/Campers
915-Motorcycles
920-Trailers
925-Classics
930-Auto Leasing
935-Aircraft
940-Boats
945-Personal Watercraft
950-Marine Supplies
955-Autos Wanted

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