

# BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

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AND MORE

## District Denied Summary Judgment, Trial Moved

By Amanda Peabody

The Los Angeles Superior Court heard Beverly Hills Unified School District's motion for summary judgment against Strategic Concepts, LLC and Karen Christiansen, Monday.

The district is seeking to recover millions of dollars of alleged damages it claims it suf-

fered as a result of Christiansen's actions related to district construction and bond projects.

After two hours of oral argument, the court took the matter under submission and ruled against the summary motion.

The district was represented

(see 'TRIAL,' page 26)

## City Council Votes For Employee Furlough Days

By Adam Popescu

In a move that signals the fiscal woes plaguing the City, a special City Council meeting Tuesday decided to furlough the City's Municipal Employees Association (MEA), as well as the Safety Support Association (SS), rather than tap into City reserves.

Members of the MEA and SS are non-sworn, non-management employees that provide municipal and safety services to the City. Tuesday's audience was heavy on uniformed City workers, whose faces grew long at their misfortune.

City documents indicated

(see 'FURLOUGH,' page 7)

## City Manager Reflects On Beverly Hills' Budget Woes

By Adam Popescu

City Manager Jeff Kolin has received high marks from staff in his year on the job, working hard after taking over from Rod Wood's very controversial tenure.

Kolin, spoke with *The Courier* about the direction of the City's finances, and steps being take to remedy problems.

*The Beverly Hills Courier:* Next year police and fire contracts are up. What is the City's direction towards salary increases in lieu of crossover deficits? Any other salary or benefit raises coming up?

Jeff Kolin: The City Council will meet after the first of the year to review the status of the fiscal year



Jeff Kolin

(see 'KOLIN,' page 26)

## BHHS Library Gets Upgrade Thanks To Bosse Donation

By Amanda Peabody

Beverly Hills High School unveiled its newly revamped library Monday at a ribbon cutting ceremony.

"We want to get our kids back in the library and it was great to see they want to be a part of it,"

said Lili Bosse, who performed the ribbon cutting ceremony with husband Jon.

The library received "a little lipo, a little botox" over the past few months, thanks to a generous donation from the Bosses and efforts from the



Jon and Lili Bosse cut the ribbon.

(see 'LIBRARY,' page 26)



A HAPPY COUPLE—*Secretariat's* Diane Lane and husband Josh Brolin greeted the premiere crowd during Disney's screening at the El Capitan Theater in Hollywood. Photo by Scott Downey/Celebrity Photo

## The Courier Welcomes Peter Kazanjian, Dupé Aleru

*The Beverly Hills Courier* announced today that Peter H. Kazanjian and Dupé Aleru have joined its staff in two newly-created positions.

Kazanjian was named director of Internet and digital marketing and sales; Aleru was named director of education services.

Kazanjian will be responsible for handling the marketing and sales effort for *The Courier's* rapidly growing internet, digital and web publishing products. In September, [www.bhcourier.com](http://www.bhcourier.com) passed the 4.3 million hits mark,

with over 215,000 visits and over 1,000,000 page views.

Prior to joining *The Courier*, he was a national account executive with Zoom Media, JC De-caux and the James G. Elliott Company. Kazanjian served as general manager of USC's student-run radio station KSCR. He graduated from USC with a degree in Business Administration.

Aleru will focus on establishing close working relationships with local private and public pre-K, K-8 and high schools to estab-

(see 'JOBS,' page 27)

**KOLIN**

(Continued from page 1)

budget and to provide direction to staff regarding parameters for negotiations with the Police and Fire Association contracts. Most of the existing MOU's with City employee bargaining units have clauses for determining future salary adjustments based on total compensation surveys of comparable cities and positions. Fire and Police are set at 1 percent above the highest agency and miscellaneous employees are set at 75 percent of comparable cities and positions.

BHC: In regards to City contributions to CalPERS and pensions, can you comment on crossover deficits and future outlook?

JK: Pension costs are a major concern to the City. Current pension programs and agreements with bargaining units have been negotiated with employees that require the City to pay both employee and employer pension costs. The City Council has expressed interest in developing options that would lead to a more sustainable pension program that shares the risk with employees and employer more equally.

BHC: Are you concerned about the City's future fiscal security? What direction have you given council?

JK: Beverly Hills has weathered the fiscal challenges of the recession better than most communities in the state. We have retained our Triple-A bond ratings and maintained

our reserves. We are currently forecasting an additional \$2 million shortfall next fiscal year. We are taking proactive steps to save money this year and reduce our ongoing expenses through an early retirement incentive program that will provide substantial savings. We have also made tremendous strides toward reducing our post employment benefit costs and liabilities. Early returns from the beginning of the fiscal year are showing some encouraging signs of increased TOT and sales tax revenues. I continue to encourage the City Council to practice a conservative approach to spending and predict a long and very gradual recovery.

BHC: Would you be will-

ing to defer your salary or reduce your salary to achieve a balanced budget?

JK: I am participating in the current furlough program at the same level that we have asked all employees to participate: 40 hours of unpaid furlough this calendar year and the possibility of another 40 hours next calendar year if revenues deteriorate. If furloughs are needed in the future I would anticipate participating at the same level that is requested of all employees.

BHC: What are your views on the recent Assembly bills Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoed limiting automatic pay increases and Bell-esque pensions.

JK: The Bell pay and pension abuses were unconscionable. Increased trans-

parency and disclosure of pay practices and policies should be required of all levels of government in the state, not just cities. The City of Beverly Hills has listed its compensation plan on its website for many years and has included information on city manager compensation and a copy of the employment contract...I have joined with city managers in the state in an effort to advocate for pension reform and restructuring to create a more sustainable pension system and formulas for the future. This includes recommendations for two-tier pension programs and changes to current pension formulas. I do not believe placing artificial caps on compensation or pensions is an effective long term approach to reform.

The library renovation was long overdue.

"The library should be a place that is lively and buzzing with activity, not languishing on life support," said PTSA Co-President Ronit Stone.

Stone, along with the executive council of the PTSA, spearheaded the project with Boyarsky. The hope is that further upgrades will continue to truly refresh the libraries, not only at BHHS, but other school sites as well.

"We are hopeful that with Measure E bond funding, the library will get its deserved facelift, if not a full-body reconstruction," said Stone. "In the meantime, we did a little nip and tuck."

A fund was also established for ongoing library needs. Residents are invited to visit [www.bhhs.bhusd.org](http://www.bhhs.bhusd.org) to make a donation.

**TRIAL**

(Continued from page 1)

by its new trial counsel, Steve Madison of Quinn, Emanuel, Urquhart and Sullivan.

Judge Lavin questioned the litigants on the following issues:

- whether Christiansen was a "de facto employee" at the time of the 2008 agreement challenged by the district;
- whether a one-year statute of limitations applied to 2006 agreement;
- whether summary judgment could be granted without any alter ego allegations related to Strategic Concepts;
- whether the contracts required compliance with competitive bidding requirements; and
- whether summary judgment could be granted given the disagreement to be repaid by Christiansen, if any.

Wednesday, the district presented an ex parte motion to continue the trial date, which was granted. The trial will begin Dec. 7.

Look to *The Courier* for breaking developments in the case.

**LIBRARY**

(Continued from page 1)

district's PTSA.

Part of a campaign by Beverly Hills Unified School District parents, teachers and Board of Education members, the library's mini-renovation included new furnishings, the creation of a fully-equipped student reserve study room to encourage collaborative work, 12 new computers, a new printer and a ceiling mounted LCD projector for the library classroom. The library infused its collection with 100 new books and an annual subscrip-

tion to an online research database. Additionally, 22,000 records were migrated to a new online database designed specifically for the district.

"The manner in which students seek information, and the volume of information available on the Web, requires us to teach literacy and research skills in a whole new way," said BHHS Head Librarian Karen Boyarsky. "Our recent improvements address these issues, providing students with immediate links to academic books and (allows students to) connect with each other in a safe arena."

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# Metro Briefs

WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

**Join In Rideshare Week October 4-8**  
Make a pledge and carpool, vanpool or use public transit to get to work at least one day during Rideshare Week, October 4-8, and be eligible to win valuable prizes. The program is open to employers and employees alike. Visit [metro.net/rideshareweek](http://metro.net/rideshareweek) for details.

**Metro To Decide On Two Important Rail Projects**  
The future direction of both the Westside Subway Extension and the Regional Connector rail projects will be decided at the Metro Board of Directors meeting October 28. Five alternative routes for extending the Metro Red or Purple lines are proposed, while three are considered for the downtown LA transit link between the Metro Gold, Blue and Expo lines. Visit [metro.net](http://metro.net) for meeting details.

**Metro Releases "Go Metro-Los Angeles" iPhone Application**  
Getting around LA just got easier. Now you can plan your trip on Metro with "Go Metro-Los Angeles," mobile transit application for iPhone and iPod Touch / OS 4.0. The Go Metro app is available on the iTunes store for free. To get it search for 'Go Metro Los Angeles' in the Apple App Store. Find out more at [metro.net](http://metro.net).

**Bridge Reconstruction Continuing In Sepulveda Pass**  
Expect delays and detours on the I-405 Freeway in the Sepulveda Pass while work is underway to reconstruct the Skirball Center Bridge, part of the freeway improvements project. For the latest on road closures and construction delays, as well as project updates, go to [metro.net/405](http://metro.net/405).

**Farmdale Station Added To Expo Line**  
Work on an additional station at Farmdale Avenue adjacent to Dorsey High School is underway as construction continues on the Exposition Light Rail line. The Expo Line is the newest extension of the 70-station Metro Rail system, running between downtown LA and Culver City. For more information, visit [buildexpo.org](http://buildexpo.org).



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