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THIS ISSUE

Broad Will Not Build Art Museum In Beverly Hills

By Abbey Hood

It appears Beverly Hills will not be home to the much talked about and highly anticipated Eli Broad Contemporary Art Museum that was slated for the intersection of Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevards.

The Beverly Hills City Council confirmed Thursday afternoon that it has concluded discussions with The Broad Art Foundation regarding the potential site of a museum that was supposed to house the Foundation's collection of more than 2,000 works by more than 140 artists including Andy

Warhol, Jeff Koons, Damien Hirst, Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns and Roy Lichtenstein.

As previously reported by *The Courier*, in January the Council was considering purchasing part of the site at the busy intersection for \$15 million and leasing it to Broad for \$1 a year.

However, the Council states as part of upcoming discussions on the adoption of the City's fiscal year 2010-2011 budget, they will be reallocating to other project priorities the funds it had set aside for the potential acquisition of the property.

In a letter to Eli Broad, Beverly Hills City Manager Jeff Kolin said, "While our City Council remains convinced that Beverly Hills offers an attractive location for your renowned art collection, we understand that The Broad Art Foundation is now considering other locations."

Kolin went on to say that should alternate sites not come to fruition, the City remained open to further partnership discussions.

Karen Denne, spokeswoman for Broad, confirmed in January Broad was considering three loca-

(see 'BROAD,' page 21)

BHUSD Names New Principals For Two Schools

By Amanda Peabody

Exciting news came out of the BHUSD Board of Education meeting Wednesday evening—two new principals have been appointed.

Steve Kessler, current district mathematics and physical education teacher, will tackle the role of principal at Horace Mann School.

Dave Hoffman, current principal of Madison Elementary in Redondo Beach, will become the principal of El Rodeo.

Both were approved unanimously by the Board of Education.

Kessler comes from a long history within the Beverly Hills Unified School District. As a graduate of both El Rodeo and Beverly Hills High School, Kessler is long versed on the ins and outs of life within the district. He has served as a teacher at Horace Mann for 34 years, teaching at every grade level.

"Steve Kessler, pound for pound, is one of the greatest teachers in the history of the school district," said Board President Steven Fenton. "He's a born leader who has made a real differ-

(see 'PRINCIPALS,' page 21)



Horace Mann Principal Steve Kessler, Steven Fenton and El Rodeo Principal Dave Hoffman.



El Rodeo plants green, edible garden. 4



Horace Mann hosts kids and families for literacy night. 5



BH Alumna to be first female announcer of the draft pick. 5



Hundreds turn out for Greystone Concourse. 20



Mayor Jimmy Delshad heads out to the soccer field. 21

No Furloughs For Teachers... Yet

By Amanda Peabody

District teachers and staff packed Beverly High's Salter Theater Wednesday as a resolution calling for the reduction of employee workdays came before the Board of Education.

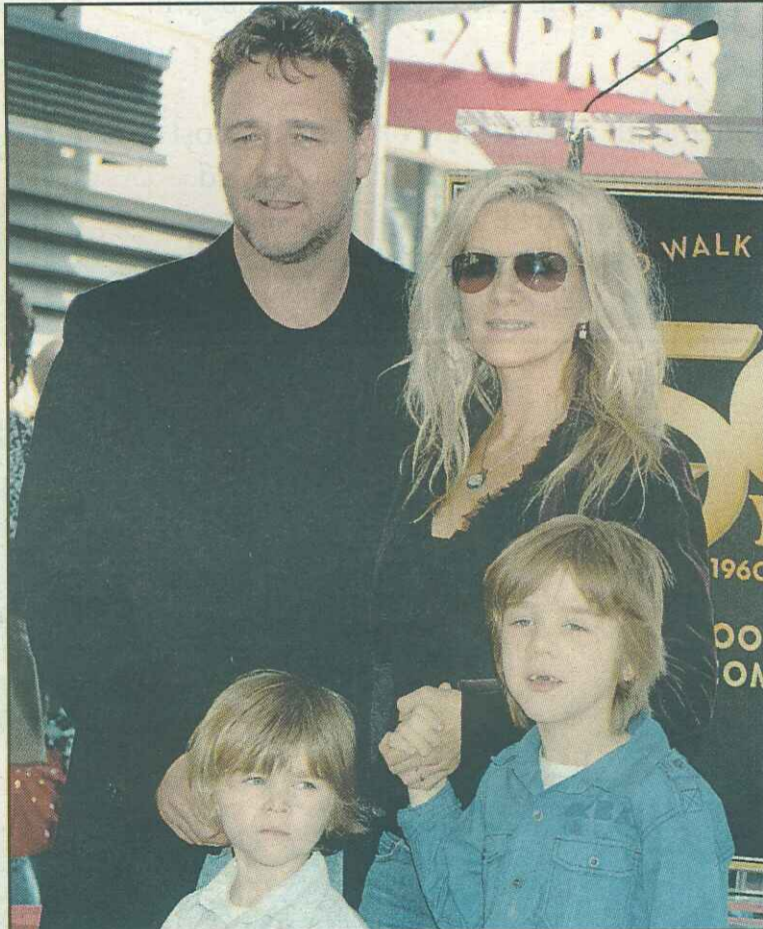
Beverly Hills Unified School District administration proposed to reduce the school year by three professional development days. The state allows for a total reduction of five in light of current shortfalls plaguing the state.

The resolution would not decrease student instructional time.

Said administration: "Passing this resolution will assure the district the flexibility to negotiate furlough days with all collective bargaining units..."

A furlough of three days would save the district a projected \$330,000 in funds,

(see 'FURLOUGHS,' page 21)



A FAMILY OUTING – Russell Crowe with wife Danielle Spencer and sons Charlie and Tension during Russell's Hollywood Walk of Fame ceremony this week. For a video of Russell's Walk of Fame ceremony, see bhcourier.com. Celebrity Photo/Roger Karnbad

CLASSIFIEDS 25

- Announcements
- Auctions
- Business & Financial
- Real Estate
- Sales
- Transportation



George Christy, Page 6
The Passion of Anne Bass; Harvey and Georgina's News.

Editorial from Rabbi Pressman

AND MORE

Mike Feuer Leads Assembly Democrats Against Boy Scouts 100th Anniversary Congrats

SACRAMENTO—Democrats of the Assembly Judiciary Committee Tuesday in a strict party-line 7-3 vote blocked a resolution to honor the Boy Scouts of America for their nearly 100 years of service to the country. Committee Chairman, local Assemblyman Mike Feuer said that he opposed the resolution because "gays are not allowed to serve as troop leaders."

Feuer has been a leader in

the constant war against Scouting, citing the "gay" issue to support legislative sanctions against the organization. "I cannot support any organization with such a history of discrimination." The Boy Scouts won a 5-4 U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2000 supporting their position, but have been attacked ever since in state and local venues.

L.A. County Supervisor

(see 'SCOUTS,' page 9)

Look Out: Parking Garage Fees To Jump In May

By Abbey Hood

Parking rates will rise the first week of May after a decision by the City Council to go forward with the City's Parking department's recommendations.

"Revenues generated by the City's parking garages and meters go into the Parking Enterprise Fund for the construction, operations, maintenance, repairs, and improvements of the City's parking infrastructure," said Director of Parking Operations Chad Lynn. "The parking rates that were adopted are intended to im-

prove parking operations and facilities, and ensure a stable Parking Enterprise Fund that can meet the long-term parking needs of the community."

After all expenses and principal payments on debt, the parking enterprise fund is currently running a deficit of \$1.5 million, according to Lynn.

After series of public hearings, the City Council ultimately voted to amend the parking rates throughout Beverly Hills.

(see 'PARKING,' page 9)

Beverly High Alum First Woman To Announce NFL Draft

By Abbey Hood

When the NFL Draft descends on Radio City Music Hall in New York City later this month, it will mark a year of firsts. It is the first time the draft will air live in primetime, and it is the first time a woman will be the voice of ESPN's coverage.

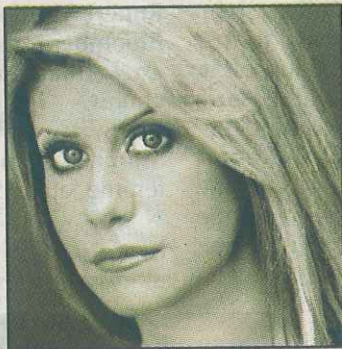
This year, voice-over talent and Beverly High graduate Kat Cressida will

not only announce the ins and outs of the draft between commercials, but will also be the voice of billboards and sponsorships for ESPN's *Sportscenter* pre-NFL Draft special.

"With the NFL's move of

the Draft being televised in primetime on Thursday and Friday nights, we wanted to create more of an entertainment-

type feel, and thought it appropriate, especially with the venue being Radio City Music Hall, to have a 'house announcer.' I have always admired the style and grace of Kat's voice, especially through her work on *Pardon*



BHHS Alum Kat Cressida

the Interruption. We are excited to work with her, and integrate her into our coverage," says ESPN Producer Jay Rothman.

(see 'NFL,' page 9)

NFL

(Continued from page 5)

As Cressida prepares to take on ESPN's primetime coverage as the voice heard 'round the sports world, this won't be the first time she has lent her voice to a major production.

Her vast body of voiceover work includes the "Black Widow Bride" at Disney Park's legendary Haunted Mansion attraction, as well as the character "Dee Dee" on Cartoon Network's hit animated series *Dexter's Laboratory*.

"Something as significant

and important as the NFL Draft show, and its new primetime placement, makes both the technical challenges and creative angle exciting to be a part of. Getting to be a part of this huge event at Radio City Music Hall is an incredible adventure. I truly can't wait to work with this production team and dive into it," says Cressida.

She is no stranger to ESPN, which is also what made her the ideal choice. For the past nine years, you've heard her as the official voice of ESPN's highest rated show, *Pardon The Interruption*.

It's her distinct, unmistakable sound which made her the

logical choice for this year's NFL draft.

Cressida, who was very involved with Beverly High's theatre and music programs, said her career in voice over was launched by teacher John Ingle.

Ingle taught acting at Beverly Hills High School before leaving for a role on General Hospital.

Cressida said it was his summer Shakespeare class that started her love for the English language that she would continue to pursue at UC Berkeley.

"His class was magical," she said.

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