HIT-AND-RUN — The crime scene Wednesday night in the 300 block of North Crescent Drive, where the Beverly Hills Police Department is investigating a hit-and-run incident which ended in the death of one man.

Beverly Hills Police Investigating Fatal North Crescent Drive Hit-And-Run

By Matt Lopez & Victoria TalBot

A man died Tuesday night in the 300 block of North Crescent Drive after what Beverly Hills police are investigating as a fatal hit-and-run incident.

According to BHPD Lt. Lincoln Hoshino, officers responded at about 10:56 p.m. to a traffic collision call. Police discovered an unconscious man lying in the street and immediately began CPR. They were relieved by Beverly Hills Fire Department paramedics, who transported the victim to an area hospital where he was later pronounced dead. Police believe he was found as a stray, dodging cars on the freeway. Fortunately, she was rescued and brought to ShelterHopePetShop.org for vet care and fostering. Those interested in making this sweet, street survivor a part of their happy family may call Shelter Hope at 805-379-3538.

The Sweetest Jelly Bean — Jelly Bean is a 1-year old, 10-pound, female Brussels Griffon mix beauty. It’s hard to believe she was found as a stray, dodging cars on the freeway. Fortunately, she was rescued and brought to ShelterHopePetShop.org for vet care and fostering. Those interested in making this sweet, street survivor a part of their happy family may call Shelter Hope at 805-379-3538.

BHVSD's Battle Against Christiansen Far From Over As California Supreme Court Says 1090 Applies To Consultants

By Laura Coleman

Beverly Hills Unified School District attorney Fred Fenster, a partner at Greenberg Glusker, is ever-more certain that the district’s former facilities manager Karen Christiansen will never see a dime of the $20 million-plus she is now “owed” thanks to the California Supreme Court’s belief that Government Code section 1090 applies to consultants.

On Wednesday, the California Supreme Court denied the Petitions for Review in the case of Stephen K. Davis v. Fresno Unified School District. It also declined the request that the Court of Appeal un publish its decision that conflicts of interest engaged in by individuals consultants as well as corporations and limited liability companies are subject to the reach of 1090.

“It means that the Karen Christiansen [verdict] is going to get reversed because the judge made a grievous error,” Fenster said.

Earlier this year, L.A. Superior Court Judge Stephen Czuleger ruled that Christiansen was not subject to Gov. Code Section 1090 because she was an independent contractor. Czuleger’s ruling, which enabled the jury to award her $13.7 million in damages, echoed the Court of Appeal’s decision to reverse Christiansen’s 2012 criminal conviction for self-dealing by engaging in a conflict of interest.

Fenster said he expected a ruling in the district’s favor would come sometime next year, once the appeal of the Christiansen verdict is heard.

“Unless the legislature passes a law which contravenes the decision, it is fully anticipated that the Court of Appeal in the Christian case will reverse the trial court judgment since (see CHRISTIANSEN page 16)

BHEF Celebrates Past, Installs New Board At Luxe Rooftop Celebration

By Laura Coleman

Last night, the Beverly Hills Education Foundation feted its past presidents while installing its incoming board of directors at the Luxe Rodeo Drive Hotel.

The intimate ceremony held on the rooftop included the participation of local elected officials, several high-profile donors, including Audi, Infiniti and Luxe owner Erem Harkham, and of course, many of the former presidents who have made the organization viable since its inception in 1978.

“Our foundation has always been a strong advocate of schools,” said incoming BHEF President Monique Gibbons, who was among the 18 board members sworn in last night.

Last year, BHEF raised more than $160,000 for Beverly Hills schools and this year, is asking parents to contribute $500 per student.

BHEF is a cornerstone of our community, bridging our school district, our alumni and our businesses, all of whom come together to support our local businesses,” described outgoing president Ronit Stone.

Musician from the Senior class.

THE SWEETEST JELLY BEAN — Jelly Bean is a 1-year old, 10-pound, female Brussels Griffon mix beauty. It’s hard to believe she was found as a stray, dodging cars on the freeway. Fortunately, she was rescued and brought to ShelterHopePetShop.org for vet care and fostering. Those interested in making this sweet, street survivor a part of their happy family may call Shelter Hope at 805-379-3538.

Adopt one of these pets and receive a free month of food from Freshpet!

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El Rodeo School Trenches Once Again To Prove Its Area Has No Faults

By Laura Coleman

Trenching at El Rodeo kicked off once again on Monday after the California Geological Survey (CGS) said they were unconvinced that the Beverly Hills K-8 school wasn’t clear of active faulting.

Beverly Hills Unified School District consultant Tim Buresh told The Courier that as a result, the district must provide additional subsurface exploration.

Earlier this month, the board approved Leighton Consulting, Inc. to perform those additional geotechnical explorations along with submission of the report to CGS in the amount of a not-to-exceed fee of $415,676. Earlier this year, Leighton created two trenches on the campus to test for seismic activity at a cost of $250,000.

BHVSD Board of Education President Ronit Stone and Monique Gibbons "owed" thanks to the California Supreme Court’s belief that Government Code section 1090 applies to consultants.

It’s a direct result of the City’s failure to properly protect those samples from the 9900 [Wilshire] coring project,” he said. “Their report indicated faults…I’m hoping the City will step up and pay for this.”