



**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. The identity of the 58-year-old male is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Based on witness statements and

video evidence, Hoshino said there are possibly two vehicles involved that struck the male, who had apparently just exited his own vehicle when he was hit.

According to witness statements, one suspect was last seen heading northbound in the 400 block of North Crescent Drive in a dark 4-door sedan. The second suspect was seen southbound on Rexford Drive from South Santa Monica Boulevard in a dark mini-van or SUV.

Anyone with information on Wednesday's incident, or the possible suspect cars, should contact BHPD traffic investigators at 310-285-2195.

## BHUSD'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 unpublish its decision that conflicts of interest engaged in by individual 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 Czulger ruled that Christiansen was not subject to Gov. Code Section 1090 because she was an independent contractor. Czulger'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 Christiansen case will reverse the trial court judgment since

(see 'CHRISTIANSSEN' 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 Efrem Harkham, and of course, many of the former presidents who have made the organization vibrant 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 boardmembers sworn in last night.

Last year, BHEF raised more than \$560,000 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.

Stone and Gibbons worked in concert with past President Annette Saleh to orchestrate last night's special event, which included the unveiling of a "per-



Annette Saleh, Ronit Stone and Monique Gibbons

petual plaque" listing all past presidents.

"I hope this will continue to help all to step up and inspire others," Saleh said, underscoring how honored she was to meet the first BHEF president, Martin Perlberger.

Perlberger founded the fundraising institution 38 years ago, originally known as the Hawthorne Fund, in order to overcome budget deficits inflicted by the passage of Proposition 13.

Gibbons, who joined BHEF last year and has two children now attending BHHS, underscored that there are significant naming opportunities at all five schools.

## 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.

BHUSD Board of Education President Brian Goldberg faulted the City for prematurely accepting a "Fault Rupture Investigation" for 9900 Wilshire which failed to hold the then-owner accountable for destroying a key coring sample. The property has since been purchased by the Wanda Group.

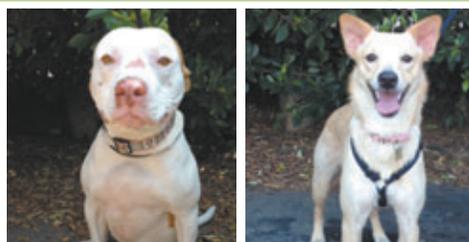
"It's a direct result of the City's failure to properly protect those samples from the 9900 [Wilshire] coring project," he said. "Their report indicated faults...I'm hoping the City will step up and pay for this."

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**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](http://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



Mandy

Brooklynne

Mandy is a 4-year-old, 45-pound Staffordshire Terrier who is deaf, crate trained and good with other dogs. Brooklynne is a Collie/cattle dog mix, 1-year-old, housebroken, very smart and energetic. Both available through the Amanda Foundation at 310-278-2935



Sassy (ID#A1571638) is a female brown tabby, whose age is unknown, available from the West L.A. Animal Shelter, Call 888-452-7381 or visit [www.laanimalservices.com](http://www.laanimalservices.com)

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