Residents Could Decide Fate Of Dog Park At Monday Meeting

By Laura Coleman

Beverly Hills residents could share their opinions about plans for a dog park at Roxbury Memorial Park on Monday, Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the park’s Community Center.

The proposed 14,400-square-foot dedicated space for pooches is expected to take over an “underutilized” area currently used for croquet according to the City’s Community Planning Commission.

Board of Education Accepts 2011/12 Financial Audit Report

By Laura Coleman

The Beverly Hills Board of Education directed staff to explore creating a public relations position on Tuesday in response to the district Finance Committee’s recommendation that the school district enact a comprehensive communications program. "Effective coordination of the district’s public relations program is non-existent," Finance Committee Chair Mel Spitz told the board at Tuesday’s formal meeting. It was the first time the Finance Committee had made a resolution Board President Jake Spitz told the board at Tuesday’s formal meeting.

Human Rights Moves Forward in West Africa

By Laura Coleman

On Tuesday, Senegal publicly declared that 427 communities within the West African country would abandon forced genital cutting and child marriages. The announcement comes just weeks after Senegal’s neighbor to the South, Guinea-Bissau, publicly announced that 144 communities would no longer force children to marry or mutilate women’s genitals, a procedure that the

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Beverly Hills

Young Musicians (continued from page 8)

Stevens with the Living the Legacy Award for her 20-year commitment to the organization.

This year’s gala performance will feature legendary composer John Williams conducting the Young Musicians Foundation’s Debut Orchestra in a program featuring selections from some of his most memorable and beloved movie scores. The Debut Orchestra is the flagship program of the Young Musicians Foundation and one of the oldest and most successful pre-professional training orchestras in the country. Program highlights include music for Star Wars, Harry Potter, E.T. and Schindler’s List.

Gala concert tickets are available for between $50 and $200. Tickets for the Gala concert and dinner are available for $500. For more information or to purchase tickets visit www.ymf.org/gala.

School Funding (continued from page 1)

that could net a little more than $4 million for BHUSD. The funds are needed to help the school district plug a $3.5 million budget shortfall by tunneling up to $4.05 million of the City’s $10 million budget surplus back to City schools.

“We indeed are a family,” Boardmember Lisa Korbatov said at Tuesday night’s formal meeting before the Board voted 4-1 to accept the City Liaison’s proposal to plug this coming year’s education budget shortfall.

Boardmember Brian Berg was the lone no vote and cautioned that the onetime solution did not address the endemic challenges facing the school district.

At Thursday afternoon’s City Council Study Session, in anticipation of the City Council approving the plan, community activist and BHUSD parent

Audit (continued from page 4)

Hartzheim for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 determined that there were compli-
cance issues or material weaknesses, but did identify deficiencies with respect to Associated Student Body (ASB) activities.

Boardmember Brian Goldberg voiced concern that 19 of 20 ASB checks submitted did not have supporting documentation.

“We've had some substantial progress...but that did con-

HUMAN RIGHTS (continued from page 4)

World Health Organization estimates over 90 million African women have undergone. Also in December, 21 communities in Gambia did the same.

Senegal-based non-profit Tostan attributed its Community Empowerment Program for helping effect such change as a result of social mobilization and awareness-raising activities about human rights.

Tostan National Coordinator Khalidou Sy said the Jan. 22 declaration, which followed months of inter-village meet-
ings and awareness-raising car-
avans, reinforces human rights in Senegal.

“This is vital for future gener-
ations and has given us a ba-
sis for new behaviors to protect children and women and their physical and moral integrity,” said Cheikh Tidiane Diao, the governor of the Region of Ziguinchor.