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Corinna Fields Celebrated Her Wedding Anniversary To Freddie Fields With A Greek Island Party In Beverly Hills.

Editorial from Rabbi Pressman

AND MORE

BHUSD Realizes 10 Percent Reduction Of Teachers For Fall

By Amanda Peabody

Without issuing layoffs, BHUSD has successfully reduced certificated staff by nearly 10 percent. The reduction further helps to balance an ailing district budget.

Beverly Hills Unified School District teaching staff reductions were achieved through attrition due to retirement, resignation or leave of

(see '**REDUCTION**,' page **7**)

Superintendent Contract Finalized By School Board

By Amanda Peabody

Richard "Dick" Douglas is officially a member of Team BHUSD. In a closed session Board of Education meeting last week, Douglas' contract was approved 4-0, naming him acting superintendent of Beverly Hills Unified School District.

As acting superintendent, Douglas will serve the district for only a limited time. His con-

(see '**SUPERINTENDENT**,' page **9**)

THE $160 MILLION MOVIE—Marion Cotillard, Leo DiCaprio and Ellen Page attended the world premiere of Christopher Nolan's *Inception* at the Odeon Cinema in London. ***Celebrity Photo***

Report Shows High Accident Rates At City Borders

By Abbey Hood

Beverly Hills Police are asking drivers to slow down as they exit the City heading west on Wilshire Blvd., as high speeds are accounting for most of the accidents at the busy intersection of Wilshire and Whittier Blvd.

According to a new report of the Top 10 Traffic Collision Intersections generated by the department's traffic bureau, there were 21 reported accidents from July 2009 to June 2010 at the intersection in front of the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

"The number one cause of these accidents is speed," Lt. Mark Rosen told *The Courier*. "You have very heavy traffic coming in from L.A. traveling at 50 mph."

The department installed a red-light enforcement camera at the intersection to decrease the amount of vehicles running red lights, and says it is working with engineers at the traffic light to see if there is another solution to reduce the number of accidents.

The report also found that

(see '**TRAFFIC**,' page **8**)

JACK STONE MEETS THE VICE PRESIDENT—Jack Stone greets Vice President Joe Biden at the pre-celebration for his Bar Mitzvah, hosted by Stone's grandfather, former mayor Richard Stone.

Vice President Joe Biden Pays Visit To Local Boy's Bar Mitzvah Pre-Celebration

By Abbey Hood

Jack Stone was eating Shabbat dinner the night before his Bar Mitzvah with 60 of his family and friends at his grandfather's home on Linden Drive when he received an unexpected visit from Vice President Joe Biden.

(see '**BIDEN**,' page **8**)

UNITED ALL THE WAY—Three teams from Los Angeles County, including one from Beverly Hills and South Los Angeles, united to form Team LA United at the 2010 National AYSO Tournament from July 6-11. Pictured (from left): Top row–Coach Mario Araujo, Gustavo Martinez, Ivan Orozco, Gabriel Araujo, Coach Linda Drucker, Antonio Maldonado, Jackson Feder and Luis Solis, (goalie) Daniel Yossa. Bottom row–Justin Kramer, Oscar Guzman, Sean McAlister, Brian Cruz, Leo Magardechian, Arlen Siraki, David Rust and George Kekejian.

Beverly Hills Soccer Team Partners With South LA Players For National Tourney

By Abbey Hood

Fifteen boys on the brink of adulthood slapped their hands one on top of the other until it came to the last in the circle, creating a melting pot of colors.

In unison the boys dropped their hands to the ground and

(see '**SOCCER**,' page **18**)

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SOCCER

(Continued from page 1)

lifted them back into the air, as they shouted, "LA United, LA United, LA United!"

One week ago these boys were strangers who lived miles apart leading totally different lives. Some were attending summer school in Beverly Hills, while others were living in Watts. Some children grew up in Armenian families in Glendale, others Mexican families in South Los Angeles and others outside of the United States.

But today they huddled together as one team at the half line of a soccer field for the Championship Game of the AYSO National (soccer) Tournament in Wellington, Fl. calling themselves, "Team LA United."

LA United was the joining of three All-Star soccer teams between the ages of 12-14 years old in Los Angeles County from the Beverly Hills All-Star Team Alliance, South Los Angeles Team Region 1031 and three players from a Glendale team. The players joined together because the South LA team was invited to play in the National Tournament, but could not afford to go. They reached out to Beverly Hills asking for sponsorship and in turn allowed their players to join the team.

The South Los Angeles team was notified last March that they were selected through a lottery to play in the national tournament the first week of July in Florida.

It was a dream for this team that has been playing together for years, said Coach Mario Araujo.

"They are determined players, who work very hard from all over the world," he said. "One child is from Kenya, another El Salvador and many are from Mexico."

The boys practice twice a week and play at least one game a week at the Kenneth Hahn Park in South Los Angeles, year round.

"Soccer is very positive in many of their lives, it keeps them busy," said Araujo. "Some live in bad neighborhoods, but coming to a positive environment every week, working hard , training hard and self discipline, will make them very successful in their lives."

The tournament, July 4 -11, consisted of more than 225 teams throughout the United States and the Virgin Islands. Region 1031 would be playing 30 teams in their pool from states including Trinidad and Tobago, Kansas, Michigan and New York.

If the team wanted to play, however, they would have to pay for their own airfare, hotel accommodations, food, uniforms, tournament fees and ground transportation.

The team tried hosting car washes and reaching out to potential corporate sponsors but they could not raise enough money for all of the players to go.

As they were about to give up, Coach Araujo approached the Coach of the Beverly Hills All-star team Alliance-a team they had often scrimmaged against.

The coach asked for sponsorship and invited their players to come to the tournament with Region 1031.

Beverly Hills' Coach Linda Drucker said they were happy to help, as did the parents of her players who sponsored the trips for seven of the eight boys from South LA.

Others started to pitch in, including Rick Wolfen a commissioner of Beverly Hills AYSO who was a big help getting the uniforms, said Drucker.

In a just a few months, both teams raised enough money for every player to attend.

Shortly before the tournament three Beverly Hills players dropped out— so the team invited three more boys from Glendale to join.

"When the three teams met at the airport to leave for Florida, they were a little shy, but that ended by the first day," said Araujo.

"We couldn't get the boys out of the swimming pools or the beach," he joked.

"It was really fun to play with new people," said El Rodeo eighth grader Sean McAlister. "They were all really nice kids, who played very well."

When it came time to hit the soccer field, Team LA United played 10 games in five days making it to the Championship Game. They earned second place in the Tournament.

"The amazing thing about soccer is, it doesn't matter where you are from, or what you do off the (field), because when you get on the (field), you all become a family; everything else is left behind; everyone is equal," said Drucker.

-*ahood@bhcourier.com*