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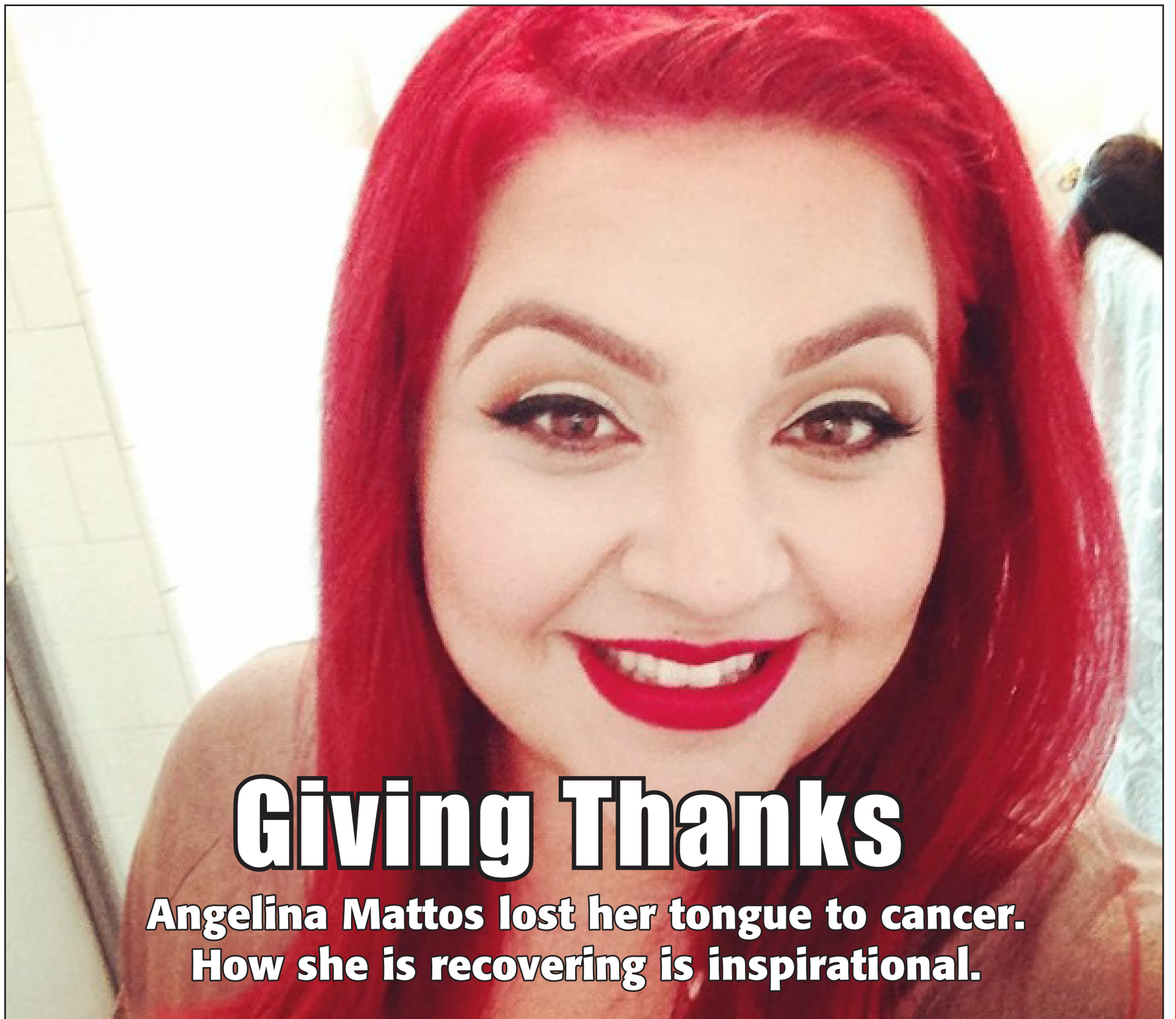
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Issue 791 • November 27, 2014 - December 3, 2014



Giving Thanks

Angelina Mattos lost her tongue to cancer. How she is recovering is inspirational.

cover story • pages 6-7



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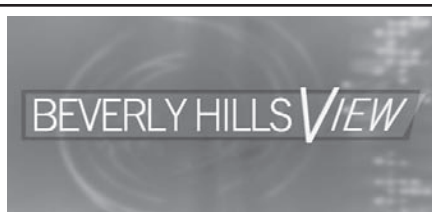
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Beverly Hills View - Channel 10

- Henry Waxman looks back on 40 years in Congress: December 1 at 4:30 pm, December 2 at 6:30 pm and December 4 at 9:30 pm
- Available online at: <http://vimeo.com/111473947>

Correction Issue #790

In the article "Fourth annual Chinese New Year to feature Beijing performance and arts group," the CVB changed the date of the Chinese New Year celebration to February 1.



BEVERLY HILLS TELEVISION

BHTV City Council and Commission Schedule - Channel 10

- Architectural Commission: December 1 at 5:00 pm
- City Council Formal Meeting: December 2 at 7:00 pm and December 3 at 7:00 pm
- City Council Study Session: December 2 at 2:30 pm and December 3 at 4:00 pm
- Fine Art Commission: November 28 at 8:00 pm
- Planning Commission: December 1 at 8:00 pm
- Recreation and Parks Commission: November 28 at 5:00 pm



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Letters & email

"Board of Education to try to recoup \$128,000 from EBI" [Issue #790]

It is difficult to believe that the BHUSD entered into an \$881,000.00 contract for security with a group that had no history as a company. That is to say, it would be hard to believe in any governmental body except for the current Board of Education and superintendent. The closest analogy is a novel written by Jimmy Breslin called, *The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight*.

Now the district is seeking to recover \$128,000.00 from the security people's bankruptcy. Who knows what that will cost in attorneys' fees? This comes after the Board dipped into its supposedly sacred Endowment Fund for \$7.5 million, and after the district borrows \$5 million from Los Angeles County.

The "main reason" for the cash shortage, per the district, is recent salary increases. Did the board and superintendent not know that when salaries are increased there is a drain on cash?

The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight, indeed.

Richard A. Stone
Beverly Hills

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BURBERRY IN BRONZE RODEO DRIVE

Rodeo Walk of Style Chair Peri Ellen Berne, fashion photographer Mario Testino, Walk of Style Selection Committee Chair Wanda McDaniel, Burberry Chief Creative and Chief Executive Christopher Bailey, Mayor Lili Bosse and Rodeo Drive Committee President Mark Tronstein at the 22nd Rodeo Walk of Style Award ceremony on November 19. Testino presented the award to Bailey who accepted the award on behalf of Burberry.

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OUR DATA SPEAKS VOLUMES



briefs

Weiss criticizes use of Measure E funds for legal fees

In an e-mail sent out to the press and Citizens' Oversight Committee members on November 20, COC member Mary Weiss raised concerns that the BHUSD's use of Measure E funds on legal fees may be improper.

"Although MTA litigation is not among the project expenditures listed on Ballot Measure E, the district has already expended approximately \$3 million of Measure E funds on MTA litigation," Weiss wrote. "The District and/or some or all of its Board members have asserted that the language of Measure E is so broad that it encompasses the expenditure of funds for MTA litigation."

COC Chair Woody Clark, Vice Chair Steve Hendry, and members Don Rosen and Josh Friedman met in a closed session with Board of Education members to review two legal letters that the BHUSD had received on whether Measure E funds could be used for litigation.

"I wasn't going to comment on whether or not it was a good plan of action or not, but I certainly felt that there was enough in those letters that gave the board the right to go forward," Rosen said at the November 20 COC meeting.

Weiss' letter referred to the case of Taxpayers for Accountable School Bond Spending v. San Diego Unified School Dist. where expenditures for items not specifically stated in the ballot measure's project list are unlawful.

"The confidential legal opinions from bond counsel apparently predate the definitive rule of law announced in the San Diego decision," Weiss said. "Is it prudent for the Board to continue to rely on outdated legal opinions and refuse to analyze the MTA expenditures under the current law enunciated in the San Diego decision?"

She also referred to Proposition 39 mea-

asures where bond language must include a list of specific school facility projects that will be funded through the bond.

In the Measure E ballot measure, buildings that were to be modernized would be Beverly High, Beverly Vista, the District Annex, El Rodeo, Hawthorne, Horace Mann, and Moreno High School. The project list includes 21 health and safety projects, 13 renovation, repair, upgrade and construction projects, and five wiring and instruction technology projects.

"[The Board] have also justified the use of Measure E funds by asserting that safety issues allegedly created by subway construction will necessitate much more expensive construction than would have otherwise been required," Weiss wrote.

Weiss, an attorney with 13 years of construction experience, referred to the Education Code that COC members are to "promptly alert the public to any waste or improper expenditure of school construction bond money."

COC member Jerid Maybaum said at the November meeting that the Education Code brought up by Weiss is applicable only if the COC as a whole determined that there was a misuse or waste of funds, and after the COC made a finding after proper investigation and voting.

Clark read a statement at Wednesday's Board of Education meeting saying that Weiss' statement is her own opinion, and was not reviewed or approved by the COC.

"Such opinions do not represent the findings, conclusions, or opinions of the [COC]," Clark said.

According to COC policy, members can have their own individual opinions as long as they explicitly express it as an opinion separate from the COC.

Clark told Weiss that she should apologize to the board for the statement that she released.

"I think that's completely improper," Weiss told the board at Wednesday's meeting.

Weiss said she made sure that her statements were seen as her own opinion and that it was her interpretation of the law of what is improper. She also mentioned that the construction subcommittee has not been receiving information that they have

requested, such as payment applications.

"I have been raising this issue within the COC for several months," Weiss said. "I resorted to sending out this memo to my fellow members and to certain members of the public because I think it is my duty as a COC member to bring this to light. At the [October] meeting, it was basically conveyed that the board is not willing to look into this issue any further."

Board of Education member Lisa Korbatov said that the COC was never told that the board did not "want to deal with this subject." The members who met in closed session told the board that "everything seemed just fine" and "they accepted the legal opinions from the two bond counsels," according to Korbatov.

"All we're doing is standing up for you, for your kids your families for our sovereignty and our sanctity," Korbatov said. "Nobody should tunnel under this school. Ever. We would be the first school in the State of California. I really hope that that person could redirect her frustration and her distain where it really belongs: at the decision makers who have put us into this battle."

Further discussion on the issues presented by Weiss will take place at the next COC meeting on December 18, and will be reviewed at a Legal-Ethics Committee a meeting prior to December 18.

Will the council election be canceled?

Michael Talei pulled papers Wednesday afternoon to run for City Council. He previously ran unsuccessfully in the 2013 election.

Jacob Goldstein also pulled papers to run for City Council on October 12, but has yet to file papers. He previously ran unsuccessfully in the 2005 election.

Mayor Lili Bosse and Vice Mayor Julian Gold have filed re-election papers to run for City Council in the March 10 election. Since both Bosse and Gold have filed papers, there will be no five day extension period. The nomination period will close on December 5.

Qualifications to run for election include being 18 years old, a citizen of the U.S., and a registered voter within the city limits at the times nomination papers

are issued.

Those who wish to have nominations papers sent to them are encourage to set up an appointment by calling (310) 285-2400.

The 1999 City Council race was cancelled due to a lack of candidates. The 2005 Board of Education race was also cancelled.

Flournoy drops out of race for Defense Secretary



Michele Flournoy

1979 Beverly High graduate Michele Flournoy, who was the top candidate for Defense Secretary to replace Chuck Hagel, dropped out of being considered for

the position, according to the Huffington Post. Flournoy, who was previously considered for the defense secretary position in 2012, would have been the first woman to be the head at the Pentagon.

"A person close to Flournoy said she had concerns about the job, including whether she would be given more latitude than Hagel in policy making," the Huffington Post article said. "Pentagon officials have long griped about White House micromanagement, and Hagel was largely seen as someone who would acquiesce to the West Wing."

Flournoy was the co-captain of Beverly High's junior varsity volleyball team. She is a member of the BHHS Alumni Hall of Fame.

She graduated from Harvard and studied international relations at the Oxford University.

She worked at the Pentagon during the Clinton administration and founded the Center for a New American Security, a D.C. organization which works to develop pragmatic and principled national security and defense policies.

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letters cont. from page 2

Brian Goldberg's favorite saying, "the buck stops with the Board of Education" only seems to apply to issues we become aware of.

I'm not referring to the \$128,000 the district lost when he voted yes on hiring EBI (security). I'm not referring to the ridiculousness of playing both sides when voting yes on accepting Michael Libow's generous donations - only to then give Marty Halfon an enthusiastic 'thumbs up' on his Facebook page when Marty condemned those very donations.

I'm referring to his frenetic rush to fire Vonzie Paysinger as athletic director in order to hire John Johnson (only to then fire him - after only a few months on the job).

This is vintage Brian Goldberg.

In June, he led the charge by saying in his newsletter, "We need an athletic director that has great organizational and leadership skills" (conveniently neglecting to mention that he originally voted to promote Vonzie to the position and then voted 3 more times to keep him in that position).

Ironically, the sudden loss of love for Vonzie coincided with his brother (Carter Paysinger) filing a lawsuit against the district in which Brian is portrayed unflatteringly.

I told Brian that this reeks of retaliation and (also) reminded him that school starts in seven weeks and that it would be virtually impossible to hire anyone who knows what they're doing

(that didn't seem to matter him as

Vonzie was now persona non grata).

John Johnson is a terrific young leader but had no experience in administration and no one at Beverly has ever gone from being a part time assistant football coach to running the entire athletic department. Brian and his colleagues completely set him up to fail and then made it worse by not allowing Carter Paysinger (who spent 10 years as the athletic director) the opportunity to mentor him. What could only look like political payback, the board took athletics away from Carter and gave oversight of the department to another brand new administrator with a lot of potential (first year assistant principal, Kevin Brown).

Kudos to you, Brian, for hiring someone in June with no experience only to be mentored by someone with no experi-

ence. The athletic department is now in disarray and you refuse to (once again) acknowledge being the catalyst for the chaos.

How about we fire you, Brian? For your lousy leadership, lack of transparency and poor judgment. Clearly, I'm not there anymore to prevent you from getting in your own way. In fact, nobody on the board seems to have the courage to take you or your ego on. After seven years on the board, you know better but refuse to do better. However, let's not forget "THE BUCK STOPS WITH YOU."

Steven Fenton
Beverly Hills

Residents oppose McCarty project

The Design Review Commission unanimously voted for a redesign on the proposed two-story single-family residence located at 337 McCarty Drive at their November 6 meeting. The project will return for restudy at the December 4 meeting.

The property owners Eli and Karen Sokolov purchased the property a year ago and tore down the original single-story Spanish-style home.

"We're excited by the prospect of moving our family here and moving forward with the project," Eli Sokolov said.

The Sokolovs' northern neighbor, Cindy Zimmerman Dubin, said that she has updated her home in the past and added a second floor to accommodate her family of six.

"We saved the old doors, we saved the old hardware, we tried to keep it in the Spanish theme," said Dubin. "We worked with our neighbors and we ended up with a beautiful project."

Dubin expressed concern that architect Hamid Gabbay's proposed design for a 4,500 square-foot home will encroach on her lot.

"I'm very troubled by the kind of apartment feel to me as someone who will be driving up and parking in the driveway to have someone else right there always," said Dubin. "The two driveways together [are] not the norm," she said.

Other neighbors to the project expressed concerns on the close proximity of the proposed two-story home to their property. Lawrence Koplin owns the house on the south side of the Sokolov property; he also opposes Gabbay's design.

"Why is this house going to be as close to my little house as possible?" Koplin, who purchased his single-story Spanish home in 2000, said. "All of our living spaces are going to be directly under the view of that house."

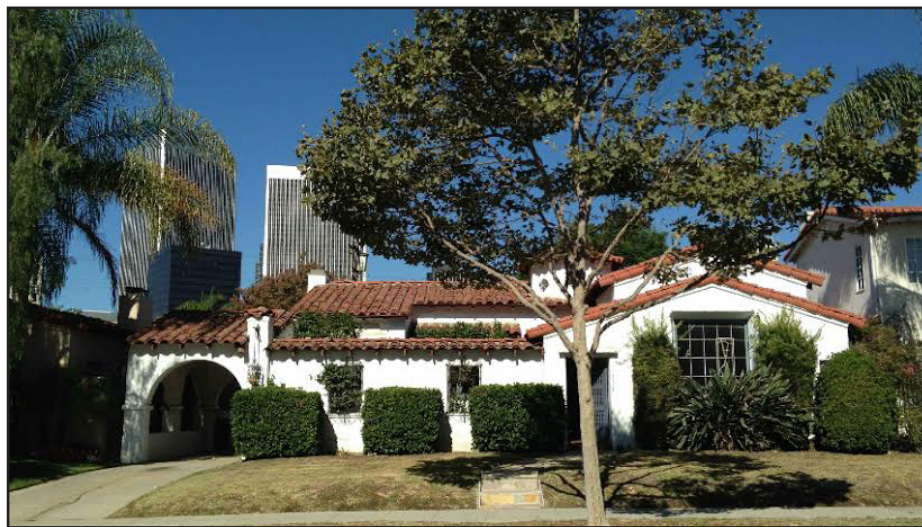
Commissioners Efi Hubschman, Nathan and Susan Strauss agreed that Gabbay's design lacked a clear aesthetic identity.

"[The house] really lacks a definitive style," Commissioner Ilene Nathan said. "It doesn't have any interesting features on the front. To me, it's a plain vanilla box, and I've seen things that [Gabbay does] and I know that this design can be improved upon."

Strauss suggested for Gabbay to redesign the residence into a contemporary house.

"I've seen [Gabbay] do some really fantastic contemporary houses," Strauss said. "I know that the houses on this street aren't necessarily contemporary, but if [he's] going in a certain direction, I think that that direction might be the way to go."

--Mina Riaz



Previous residence



Proposed project



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Pussy and Pooch co-founder Rob Gaudio and Commissioner Willie Brien

Chamber of Commerce launches City's "Shop Small" campaign

The Chamber of Commerce launched the City's "Shop Small" campaign with a Small Business Saturday-focused Business After Dark mixer at Pussy and Pooch Pet Lifestyle Center on November 20. The campaign shared tips for maximizing local impact of the Shop Small movement. Brien presented Gaudio with a certificate of commendation from the City Council of the pet lifestyle center's one-year anniversary and Gaudio's leadership in the Chamber's Small Business Saturday program.

Part of the Small Business Saturday campaign is that American Express cardholders will be offered up to a \$30 credit to "Shop Small" on November 29. Cardholders must register their eligible American Express card at www.shopsmall.com and shop at a business listed on the website. Once registered, cardholders can shop at any participating business to get \$10 off any single, in-store transaction of \$10 or more when they use their registered American Express card. Limit is three \$10 statement credits per eligible American Express Card.

An Evening in Mallory's Garden raises money for Cystic Fibrosis



Mayor Lili Bosse and Beverly High graduate Mallory Smith, featured in the Weekly's "Giving Thanks" issue #634 (see update on page 7) at An Evening in Mallory's Garden held at Jacqueline Canter and Randolph Schnitman's house on November 22. Mallory's parents have held the event for 19 years to raise money for a cure for cystic fibrosis.

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coverstory

GIVING THANKS

Angelina Mattos lost her tongue to cancer. How she is recovering is inspirational.

By Nancy Yeang

Before undergoing surgery to remove her tongue, Angelina Mattos was told that she would be unable to speak, eat, and breathe on her own. About a month after the procedure, Mattos is exceeding doctors' expectations and is able to somewhat speak on her own. The Weekly spoke with her sister, Darlene Rodrigo, who was able to communicate Mattos' responses as she is still rehabilitating. "I'm going to try and be her voice for her right now," Rodrigo said.

How did Angelina find out that she had tongue cancer?

Earlier this year, she thought that she had a mouth sore. She started noticing that the left side of her face was going numb. She went to her primary care [doctor], and he told her that she had Bell's Palsy on the left side of her face, which results in the numbing of your face usually caused by stress. She had that for about three weeks and then it went away, but the pain in her tongue did not go away. She started noticing that certain things she would eat would burn.

There were numerous times she went back to the doctor. He just told her, "It's your Bell's Palsy side effects. You're biting your tongue when you're numb and you're not feeling it." That wasn't the case. She started thinking it can't be related to [her] Bell's Palsy because [there was still pain] and the Bell's Palsy [had] already been gone.

You couldn't really see anything, [maybe] a little dot [on her tongue], but she started thinking that maybe she needed her wisdom teeth pulled out. She went to a dentist and they told her, "You could take your wisdom teeth out but it's not dire that you get them out. We don't think that's what's causing what's on your tongue."

They recommended that she see an oral specialist and then they put in an authorization. This was around the summer. The authorization took a while, and by the time she was able to get an appointment, they didn't have an appointment until five or six weeks later.

In between that time, the pain grew worse. She started noticing a lot of discomfort and a lot of pain in her ear. She started noticing that [the spot] was getting bigger on her tongue as well. She works at In-N-Out and during that time she was having to leave a lot of her shifts early because the pain was just so bad.

We started noticing, and she was even noticing as well, that her speech was starting to be impaired because she was trying to figure out how to talk and still move her tongue without it hurting too much.

The pain just grew so bad and it was just

excruciating that it ended up landing her in the [emergency room] one night. The ER recommended that she see an oral specialist right away. This happened to be on a Thursday night, [and] her appointment was actually that following Monday. She was ready to get seen by that specialist on Monday, but the pain was just so bad.

The next day they had her see an oral specialist. He told her he's been working in the field for nearly 40 years and he could tell just by looking at [her tongue] that it looked cancerous and that she should definitely do something about it.

That [Friday] night she landed back in the ER again because she was in so much pain. We were there waiting for her to be seen for 13 hours. She was in pain the whole time, but we weren't leaving until she got seen.

They did a biopsy, and a couple days later they did confirmed that it was cancerous. Her world pretty much turned upside down since then.

She's been seeing a lot of different specialists and [hearing] different opinions because the surgery that they recommended was just so extreme. [The] tumor that they ended up finding was actually a cancerous tumor that started on the left side of her tongue. It's a type of oral cancer that they refer to [as] squamous cell carcinoma.

Oral cancers typically happen to males over 50 that are smokers and heavy drinkers. It's typically males that chew tobacco a lot that get this type of cancer. She doesn't smoke, she is not a heavy drinker. But the alarming thing was that our specialist at City of Hope, the chief EMT Dr. Ellie Maghami who actually spearheaded her surgery, said that there's been an alarming rate with young females between the ages of 24-40 that are experiencing this type of cancer and they have absolutely no idea why.

[Angelina] started see different specialists and from there the ball started bouncing, and she was getting things done. It got to the point where the cancer was spreading pretty quickly. It spread to her lymph nodes on her neck.

It was pretty much remove your tongue and live or don't do anything and the cancer will continue spreading. She just turned 25 in May, and they told her, "Without a tongue, you're not going to be able to talk, and you're not going to be able to eat, and you're going to have a feeding tube from now on. You still will require the chemo and radiation and your life will change a lot. That's what you have to go into knowing right off hand."

But my sister has been remarkably strong. She's been extremely positive throughout this

whole ordeal. No matter how scary it's been. In her words, she chose to live, she wants to live, and she was willing to go through the extreme circumstances.

So she did go through with the surgery. This surgery was recommended by other specialists in the field from other clinics and different places.

She did do her due diligence and cover her basis to make sure that this was ultimately the only option. They got to that point where had she been properly screened and diagnosed earlier, it could have been a simple scrape procedure.

How did the doctors miss the cancer signs in those early stages?

It was from the original doctor. Also, the fact that she doesn't show any of the other signs or symptoms and it doesn't fall under the risks factors for [cancer]. It was bypassed, and also the fact that the Bell's Palsy, which actually could have been part of the cancer effects from the get go, they were easily bypassed as something else and misdiagnosed. Cancer is just something that nobody has really any control over.

Tell us about the procedure.

She had her surgery on October 22. It ended up being a 15-hour surgery. The specialist there were Dr. Ellie Maghami and [Angelina's] plastic surgeon Dr. Robbie Kang. Both of them worked together for the entire 15 hours on removing her tongue, which involved slitting her throat all the way across and slipping [her tongue] down her throat and that's how they were able to operate.

They were actually able to pull some fore-



Angelina's forearm skin was removed to create tongue

arm skin [from Angela's right arm] and tissue with a living vein that was still pumping blood to and from her forearm. They literally had to cut out and shape [the skin] to be the size of a tongue. It's amazing when you actually see it. How it's literally the shape of a tongue and how precise the doctor was.

They replaced her forearm skin with that vein and connected it to the cut piece of whatever was left of her tongue.

They fused a vein. [They took out a vein that was the size of that forearm skin] and they had to make sure that it was a vein that was pumping blood to and from so that they were able to connect that vein to the vein that they cut from her tongue.

They did tell us that [in] the first few days they would be able to tell if the fuse took or not. If your body rejected that, it would show within the first five days. The fuse did take and

it was successful. It looks like she has a tongue, but it really is her forearm skin.

She still needs to go through years of therapy but she has been recovering remarkably well. Her age has a lot to do with it but it's also the willpower she has that really is getting her through and a lot of support from family and friends. She is still recuperating [from] her wounds from her arm, and just everywhere. She actually even couldn't breathe on her own in the beginning; she was on a ventilator. The trachea that they left on her after the surgery that she came home with, she was breathing so well on her own that after a week she was able to have the ventilator removed.

Even though Angie was told that she wouldn't be able to talk, eat, or even breathe on her own, she's able to somewhat do those things now?

Yes. When she went into the surgery, the family of course was devastated, but we were sad that we thought that we would never hear her voice again.

During her recovery in the hospital, which she was there for 10 days in the ICU and then out of the ICU in a regular room, she couldn't even hum or make any type of noise. She was completely silent.

She called us one day when she was in the hospital and it was the day that they removed the really huge portions of the breathing machine. They closed up the breathing hole and she was actually able to try to talk.

She decided to surprise us [with a phone call], and she said, "Hello? This is Angie," and we freaked out. We were so happy.

She's getting better and it's becoming clearer but she does need a lot of therapy still. She's not use to not having a tongue that's fully functional. It's frustrating her.

She feels like she's moving her tongue in circles, but when she looks in the mirror, the piece – they call it a flap – the flap doesn't move because it doesn't have muscle and it's not connected to the nerves. But the base of her tongue is what's moving and she feels like she's doing what she's been so used to doing her whole life before this. So it's just frustrating and she is going through her regular motions but she is grateful and she loved her surgeons and the team that has been placed behind her at city of hope, they've been amazing to her and to the family.

You mentioned Angie will start chemo in December. Tell us about her treatment and recovery process.

She starts chemo and radiation in December, and she's getting ready and prepped for that right now. They are fighting this cancer as much as they can. They're trying to make sure that no more cancer can spread, or if it has spread they're just trying to make sure that they kill any cancer cells in the body.

She is still formula feeding through her stomach tube, but she's able to, and this is another thing that blew them away, she's actually able to swallow water from her mouth, and she even swallowed a smoothie before.

She was so happy, because she's a big smoothie person and she's a big food person. She literally has been a foodie her whole life, has worked at In-N-Out for five years, and how could you not think about food?

She was happy that she could drink the

smoothie and actually tastes it when it touched the base of her tongue. She was really happy about that and grateful.

She's still able to taste flavors from the base of her tongue that's still intact?

It definitely changed, she said. Different parts to the tongue has different parts of taste, so the pieces she kept are a lot of the bitter [taste buds]. A lot of times certain sweets, like the smoothie in particular, they're too sweet sometimes.

But yes, she can taste for the most part. Around her mouth she can taste and her tongue she doesn't taste anything. She can't even feel when she bites her tongue. She feels like something in between her teeth but she doesn't feel it on her flap.

When they removed the cancerous part of her tongue, it was just the bulk part of it, but there still might be traces left?

What happened was the cancerous part of the tumor is for sure gone and they actually scraped all of her lymph nodes out of her neck out and parts of her cheek. [The doctor] said she needs to clear all her bases because your lymph nodes serve as a filtering [system] – it filters everything in our body.

The fact that the cancer spread to her lymph nodes, it had chances to spread to other parts. She will be having a scan done again to see if it has [spread]. She's still waiting for that scan to happen because it's all in a timely manner and she's still recuperating from everything.

In regards from day one of the surgery until now, it's such a big difference and she's happy to be home.

She's just grateful to be alive and to be able to have gotten to this part. She wants to continue so that she can say she's cancer free and be a testimony to other people.

In terms of how she is able to communicate now, there's you to help her out right now. What other else is she using to help her?

I read her lips really well. One of my sister-in-laws, [Rosalyn], has cerebral palsy and has a really hard time talking because she doesn't have control of her tongue muscle. Rosalyn is really hard to understand. So now when I hear Angie, it's like a bigger Rosalyn. I could pick it up [on what she's saying] really fast. I've seen my dad looking her and he couldn't and I was like, "You couldn't understand her?"



Angelina and La Verne In-N-Out store manager Bryan

[Angelina's] work was really awesome, and they did a really nice fundraiser for her and she was able to buy an Ipad. Even though she hasn't used it as much as she thought she would, she did get that to help communicate. [The Ipad has] the tech to speak function and she is also able to text

or write down a note really fast, but she's been getting creative.

She knows some sign language, very basic signs, but she's been really creative with her hands. She did a lot of hand signals in the hospital when she was literally connected from head to toe to everything. She did a lot of snaps to us. She was snapping her fingers and then she was making a lot of face gestures, which we were able to read. We did along just fine. But now her speech is definitely impaired.

For the most part I feel like I can understand her all the time. I don't know if it's because I have an ear for that or I don't know what it is. There are certain sounds that are definitely impacted where it's really hard for her to say, like the "l," "s," or any "th" sounds. The therapy still hasn't kicked in yet. It [started November 21] but she is trying to do as much as she can because they told her to do that and also once the chemo and radiation hits that she would her tongue would shrink and also some of the functions could be taken away.

There were some difficulties with the insurance and her recovery treatment. Tell us about that.

Right now we kind of hit an obstacle where she is only able to intake nutrients through her formula feeding food. Of course [with] her insurance, which so far has been a good insurance for her, she has been able to go to City of Hope where she's met these amazing surgeons and has a great team.

However the insurance company is not covering any type of formula for her feeding formula. She is having to privately pay for that herself, and it runs at a discounted rate it runs up to \$500 a month. You can't buy it from a store, you have to order it from a pharmaceutical company and it's made by Nestle. We tried contacting Nestle but they don't give any of it or have any programs [to help us].

In order to get it through the pharmacy, [it's] in one month bulks. So regardless if it's medically necessary, which in this case it is since it's her only way of intaking nutrients, it's not a covered benefit with her insurance, so they're not covering it. [It's] kind of a problem on top of all the other problems she's got going on.

Tell us about her GoFundMe page.

We set up a GoFundMe page [www.GoFundMe.com/hope4angie] to help her in the very beginning when she first found out. She had been working for In-N-Out for years, but she was technically a part-time employee. She still has all of her bills. Now on top of those bills and a car payment, she lives on her own, so she has that and she has so many hospital bills now that requires a lot of deductibles and copayments that she still owes.

What is Angela thankful for on this Thanksgiving holiday?

She's thankful for God and for the faith that she's been able to keep her going and for all her family and friends and loved ones.

And honestly she's getting better. She hasn't even started the therapy so she's only going to get better. She's blowing everybody out of the water. She's been so great and her doctors even told her, "You're healing extremely well, even faster than we all thought." We are really grateful to her doctors too. Her doctors have been literally they've been more than amazing, there's not even a word to describe them.

UPDATE ON PAST "GIVING THANKS" PARTICIPANTS

RAND A ALSABEH, featured in "Giving Thanks," issue #634, said that she is doing great physically, spiritually and emotionally.

"Faith and the love and support of my family have been a very important role in making me go through all this," Alsabeh said. "I think without both of them I wouldn't have been able to talk to you."

After experiencing frequent migraine headaches and a blurred vision, an MRI in April 2010 revealed a six centimeter tumor in Alsabeh's occipital lobe, the visual processing center of the brain.

"If I [had been] in a different profession, I probably would have caught it much later," Alsabeh told the Weekly in 2011. "But my job relies very much on my vision."

This year marks the fourth year after Alsabeh's eight-hour surgery. Alsabeh is now working as a pathologist at Kaiser Sunset since September 2013. Previously she worked at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Her oldest son, Ryan, just started his new career as a lawyer, and her younger son, Mark, is in his fourth year in Berkeley. This Thanksgiving, as well as every other year, her family will go to her son's godfather's house in Chatsworth. She said that about ten families will join this year.

"I'm very grateful and thankful to all the blessings in my life," Alsabeh said. "Being healthy and being with my family [and friends] is the best gift ever."

MALLORY SMITH, who was profiled in issue #634, said that though she frequented the hospital about 20 times while at Stanford, she started a clinical trial in June this year that has improved her condition.

"Since then I've been a lot more stable," Smith said. "I seemed to have recovered a lot of the abilities that I lost in terms of what I can do physically, and my lung function has been slowly going back up a little bit, which I never thought would happen. So it's a little bit of a miracle."

Smith, a 2010 Beverly High graduate, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at the age of three. The chronic, life-threatening disease is caused by a defective gene that causes the body to produce thick, sticky mucus that builds up in the lungs and digestive system,

"College was not the best environment for me health wise, and also people, when they hit about the age 18 or 20, women especially, tend to have a more serious decline around that age," Smith said. "It's kind of unclear why but they think it might have something to do with hormones."

Smith is a human biology major with an emphasis on environmental anthropology at Stanford. Smith said that her family and friends have helped her through the tough times, and that every time she was in the hospital one of her parents were there.

She was also in the hospital on her birthday this year in October, and her friends were able to spend time with her and leave with her when she was discharged.

"My friends are such an important support network," Smith said. "I found the best group of people that, I won't say they understand what my life is like, but they just go with it. My life is very weird but they just go with it."

The Smiths held the 19th annual Evening in Mallory's Garden on Saturday at Jacqueline Canter and Randolph Schnitman's residence (see photo on page 5). Through ticket sales, donations and auctions, the proceeds were donated towards a lab that does research for Burkholderia Cepacia, one of the infections Smith already has in her lungs.

Smith is spending Thanksgiving with her family and family friends, and is planning to rest and relax during her vacation. "I'm hoping to go hiking and go to the beach and just go to yoga, and do the things that help me recharge my batteries a little bit," Smith said.

After three unsuccessful pregnancies, ophthalmologist **DIANA SHIBA**, featured in issue #686, was able to conceive twins with the help of a Beverly Hills fertility center.

"I used to tell my patients that being a mother was one of the best things that's ever happened to me in my life, and now I say it is the best thing that's happened to me in my life," Shiba said. "The twins are just my pride and joy. I love being a mother, and I am so thankful to Dr. [Shahin] Ghadir for giving us this gift."

From the fertilization process, Shiba and her husband, Yuson, were able to have three genetically normal embryos. She said she plans to have another child in the next year.

"We don't want there to be too much of a gap between the three children if we do decide to have the third child," Shiba said.

The twins, Noah and Zoe, just turned two this year. Shiba said that most twins are born smaller, but the twins are now caught up to the growth curve.

Shiba always spends Thanksgiving at her mother's house, who's "constantly buying little clothes and little shoes, just like a typical grandma."

"[The twins] are an absolute joy in my life," Shiba said. "They are the best gift I have ever received, ever. I can't express how happy and grateful I am to be a mother."

This year marks **ELAINE LERNER SCHREIBER**'s 13th anniversary of being cancer-free. Schreiber was first profiled in "Giving Thanks" issue #217 in 2003. She was diagnosed in 2001 with stage 3C ovarian cancer.

Schreiber will have a new grandson to join the family at the Thanksgiving table, who just turned six months old this month.

"I have a new grandson to add to the festivities, so that's always fun," Schreiber said.

Her husband, Arthur, passed away in the spring of 2008 due to a respiratory infection which was complicated by his asthma and chronic lung disease.

Schreiber said that she is seeing "a very nice man," and that "life is good."

Baccarat chandeliers light up Beverly Hills



In celebration of Baccarat's 250th anniversary and the Centennial anniversary of Beverly Hills, (Back, left to right) Councilmember Nancy Krasne, Vice Mayor Julian Gold, (Front) Baccarat Global CEO Daniela Riccardi, Mayor Lili Bosse and Councilmember Willie Brien take part in Rodeo Drive's holiday lighting ceremony on November 23.

briefs cont. from page 3

Recently, she worked in the Pentagon as undersecretary of Defense for policy, and resigned from the position in February 2011 to spend more time with her children.

Beverly Hills residents pass the July California Bar Exam

Beverly Hills residents who passed the July 2014 Bar exam include: Laura Michele Ames, Kathiana Aurelien, Raffi Babaian, Nicole Kristen Bagood, Kendall June Bass, Kirsten Eloise Bass, Ashley Elizabeth Berk, Jeffrey Charles Bils, Katrina Marie Boice, Allison Chi Nan Cheung, Benjamin Arron Cousineau, Yas Rebecca Esagoff, Michael Eshaghian, Yasmin Fardghassemi, Ryan Jeremy Fisher, Joshua Marc Genet, Bijan Gharavi, Joshua Popik Glucoft, Vanessa Harva Himeles, Barak Jacob Kamelgard, Garrett David Lee, Jasmine Nosrat Mahgerfteh-Meyers, Alexander Monsef, Gabriella Ariana Nourafchan, Nicole Victoria Ozeran, Rambod Peykar, Alexandra Blaire Pop, Nathan Saadat, Ashley Lauren Silver, Natalie Torbati, Adam Pearce Wiley, Andrew Douglas Woods, Justin Yashoufar and Jennifer Morgan Zembrzuski. Source: calbar.org

Beverly Hills home prices down and condo prices up in October 2014

October sale prices for single-family residences in Beverly Hills decreased in the 90210 on 25 homes by 25 percent, increased in the 90212 on two homes by 13.6 percent, and decreased in the 90212 on five homes by 13.6 percent, according to a report published by Data Quick Real Estate (www.dqnews.com) that uses a comparison between October 2014 and 2013 statistics.

The median price for a single-family residence in the 90210 was \$2.3 million, \$1.74 million in the 90211 and \$2.77 million in the 90212.

Condominium prices increased in the 90210 on 3 condos by 14.3 percent, increased in the 90211 on one condo by 82.6 percent, and decreased in the 90212 by 15.6 percent.

The median price for condominiums in the 90210 was \$1.05 million, \$1.52 million in the 90211 and \$764,000 in the 90212.

In Los Angeles County as a whole, the sale of single family homes increased by eight percent on 4,712 homes with a median price of \$475,000. Condominium sales on 1,717 condos increased by 6.7 percent with a medium price of \$400,000.

Blood drive to be held at Beverly Vista

Beverly Vista teamed up with Cedars Sinai and the city of Beverly Hills to host a community blood drive on December 6.

The blood drive will be held at Beverly Vista. Bagels and cream cheese will be available, courtesy of The Nosh of Beverly Hills. Donors will be given gift items including a voucher for a free pint of ice cream and a Coffee Bean gift card.

Visit www.DonateBloodCedars.org to set up a profile and to make an appointment.

On the same day, Beverly Vista partnered with Goodwill to collect used items to help fund The Instrumental Music Department.

Visit <https://www.scribd.com/doc/248343328/Goodwill-Donation-Guidelines> for a guideline to help increase the amount of "sellable" donations that will go towards the fundraiser.

--Briefs compiled Nancy Yeang

BHHS Teams Finish 13th, 14th in Southern Section Cross Country Prelims

The Beverly High boys' and girls' cross



Planning Commission approves Peninsula Hotel permits

The Planning Commission unanimously approved a request for a Conditional Use Permit and an Extended Hours Permit for the Peninsula Beverly Hills at the November 13 meeting.

"I believe the Peninsula Hotel has been a great neighbor and a tremendous asset to the city," said Vice Chair Alan Block. "I think that the improvements that they're requesting in this application will allow it to compete as a five-star hotel."

The Peninsula Hotel will be adding a 2,160 square-foot addition to the hotel property, where 1,829 square feet will be added by eliminating 14 subterranean parking spaces and the remaining 331 square feet will be added to the hotel's ground floor. The ground-floor outdoor dining area will be expanded by approximately 883 square feet, which will increase occupancy by 25 people.

The Planning Commission considered whether the proposed changes for the extended hours permit would negatively impact the surrounding neighborhood, and focused on the potential for increased noise and traffic and the accumulation of waste. The Commission later determined that the extended hours permit would not produce unfavorable results, meaning that the hotel will operate until 2:00 a.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and evenings preceding a holiday. On Sundays and Thursdays, the hotel will operate until midnight.

"Looking at this project, I don't think it's detrimental to the adjacent properties and public welfare," Commissioner Joe Shooshani said.

--Mina Riazi

country seasons ended in the Southern Section Division 3 Prelims Nov. 15 at Mount San Antonio College.

The Norman boys' team finished 13th in its 15-team heat with 356 points, 11 more than 12th-place Hacienda Heights Wilson. Brea Olinda won with 43, while Dos Pueblos was fifth with 159.

Sophomore Jonathan Cohen was the top Beverly Hills finisher, finishing 44th. He completed the 3-mile course in 16 minutes, 47 seconds, seven seconds behind the 43rd-place finisher, Dos Pueblos sophomore Hunter Clark.

Rubidoux senior Luis Ramos won in 15:07.

The Norman girls' team finished 14th in its 15-team heat with 369 points, 41 more than 13th-place Rubidoux. Palos Verdes won with 51, while Oak Park was fifth with 114.

Junior Sydney Hanover was the top Beverly Hills finisher, finishing 54th, followed by sophomore teammate Jillian Dveirin, who was 55th. Both were timed in 21:28, one second behind the 53rd-place finisher, South Pasadena junior Maaike

Wielenga.

Bolsa Grande senior Jeanette Zambrano won in 17:57.

The top five teams in each of the three heats were guaranteed spots in the Southern Section Finals.

BHHS junior advances in Southern Section tennis tournament

Beverly High junior Martina Boochi won two matches, both in straight sets, at the Southern Section girls' individual tennis regional at Whittier Narrows Tennis Center Monday to advance to the round of 16.

Boochi, the Ocean League champion, defeated Lena Tavitian of Westridge, 6-3, 6-3, and Theresa Papikian of Campbell Hall, 6-4, 6-2.

The round of 16 will be played Wednesday at the Seal Beach Tennis Club.

--Steven Herbert

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