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VOTE MARCH 5

North Valley News

Volume 2, Number 25 March 1, 2024

Serving Porter Ranch, Northridge, Granada Hills & Chatsworth

News in Brief

Reseda Street Racing Ends in Death

It seems to have taken over almost everywhere in the Valley: street racing. This past Sunday, firefighters were called to 18153 W. Vanowen Street in Reseda after reports of a multi-vehicle crash that was likely caused by the dangerous trend of street racing. According to the LAPD, a white Dodge Charger and a yellow Chevrolet Camaro were speeding down the eastbound lanes of Vanowen St., collided with each other, lost control and crashed into multiple vehicles in their vicinity. The driver of the Camaro, a 32-year-old male, died at the scene after being trapped in the vehicle and the driver of the Dodge, 21-year-old Nicolas Velasco Marcos, was arrested on scene and booked for murder. Five other individuals were rushed to the hospital after being rescued from the jaws of life from their vehicles.

Students Walk Out at El Camino High Over Antisemitism

Students staged a walk out Tuesday at El Camino Charter High School over alleged antisemitic incidents. Many carried Israeli flags and chanted "Stop the hate" or "Stand Against Antisemitism." What sparked the protest was one student being called a "dirty Jew" and being punched in the neck and back. The girl said her teacher was on the phone and didn't realize what was happening until she left the classroom crying. The school's Executive Director David Hussey said the school does stress an anti-hate message to students. "One is addressing the issues, maybe some students don't know what they're saying and what the impacts are. So it's educating these students, and then reassuring the other students that they're safe at school," he told reporters. The victim's father said that the school is not calling the incident a hate crime and that instead of taking disciplinary action against his daughter's alleged attacker they moved him to a different seat. "The school thinks that he has more rights than my daughter for protection. He has rights to be educated, but my daughter doesn't have the rights for her safety," said Edan Eshee.

Turn Your Clocks! Daylight Saving Time Starts March 10

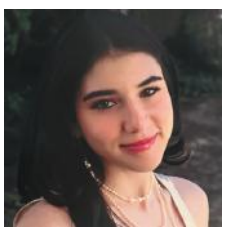
Despite the recent onslaught of rain, it's almost time to "spring forward!" Daylight Saving Time will go into effect on Sunday, March 10, at 2 am. While the time change will mean we "lose" an hour of sleep, sunset will be an hour later, leading to longer and brighter days. Later this year, Daylight Saving Time will end on Sunday, November 3.

Avlyn Kotton
Legacy of Hope

Dr. Marilyn Harran
Leadership in Holocaust Education

Kathleen Sterling
Courage to Educate

Katia Lysobey



Sophia Small
Ellie Lainer Youth Leadership in Holocaust Education

Honoring Those Who Fight Against Hate

We see it in the news every day. Stories of brutality, incidents motivated by religious or racial bias, hate crimes. How to confront it?

The David Labkovski Project (DLP), based in West Hills, is a non profit which seeks to combat antisemitism by teaching students about the Holocaust through art. Over the years they have reached over 5,000 students with their programs.

The project's unique educational program, fusing history and art, is based on the life and art of renowned artist, David Labkovski (1906-1991). By engaging viewers with his paintings and sketches, the David Labkovski Project shares lessons of life, survival, tolerance, acceptance, and the importance of bearing witness to history.

The DLP uses the body of over 400 pieces of artwork created in pencil, acrylic, and gouache to educate about life before, during, and after the Holocaust.

At the Project's 8th Annual Scholar's Event on March 17 at Skirball Center, they will honor Angelenos for, as founder Leora Raikin says, "their leadership and bravery in confronting a world in which increased antisemitism and hatred exists."

The DLP's 2024 Legacy of Hope Honoree, Avlyn Kotton is a Board-Certified Educational Therapist and the director of the Kotton Educational Therapy Center in Malibu where she works with students who have learning differences. Avlyn has been a board member of the David Labkovski Project since its inception in 2015 and is committed to its mission of advancing knowledge about the Holocaust through the use of the artwork of Holocaust survivor David Labkovski.

The impressive honorees for

The David Labkovski Project shares lessons of life, survival, tolerance, acceptance, and the importance of bearing witness to history.

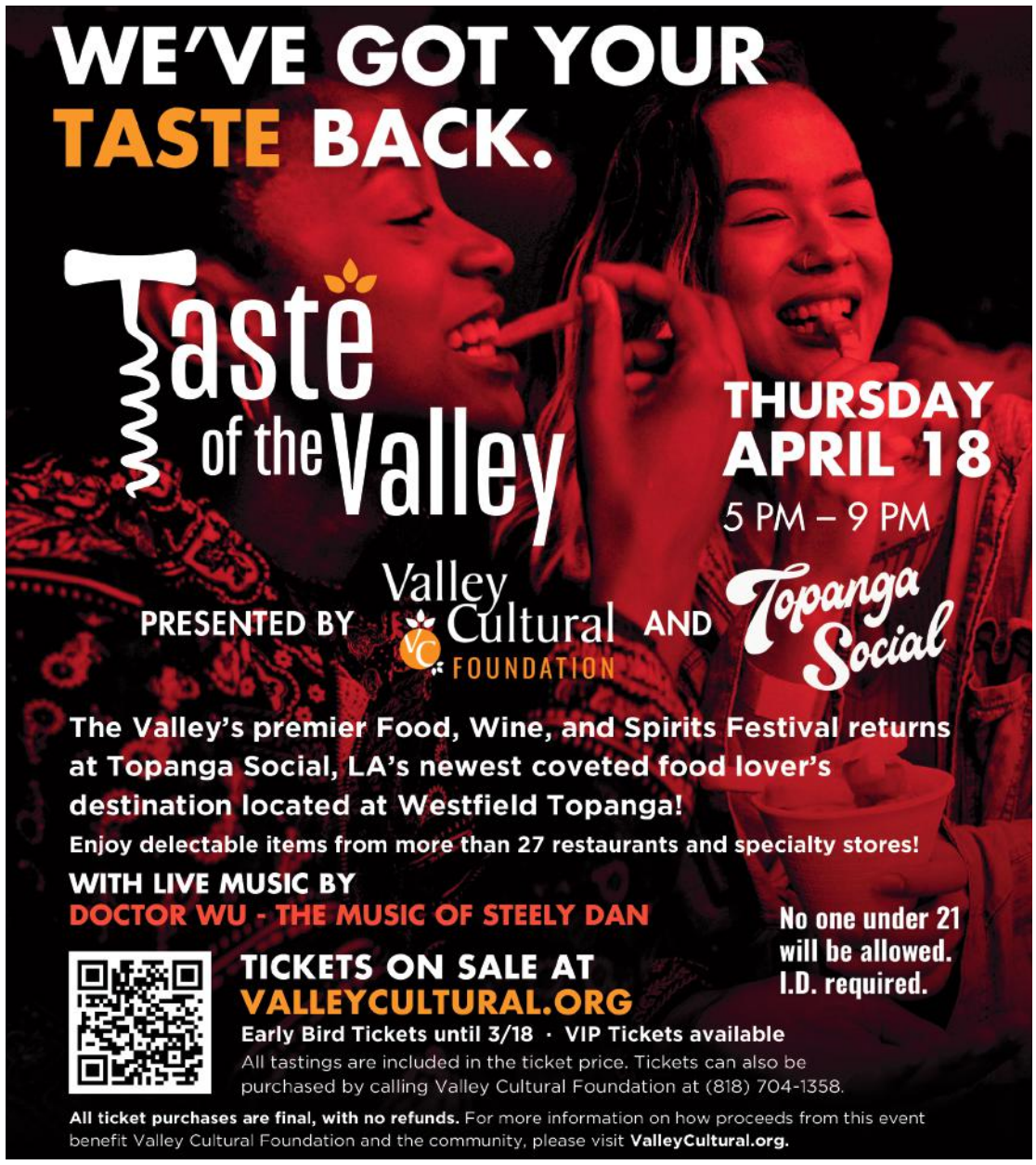
the Courage to Educate Award include Kathleen Sterling, Publisher of *Valley News Group*. Sterling has supported DLP through her writing and sharing of articles about DLP's Holocaust education programs and was part of the DLP Holocaust Commemoration Program in 2022. She is committed to educating people on the dangers of antisemitism and proactively shares DLP's approach through exhibits and educational programs through her newspapers. Sterling reports on incidents of hate and highlights the dangers it poses to the community. She is an award-winning journalist and publisher of five community weeklies in the west San Fernando Valley – *Warner Center News, Valley Vantage, Calabasas Enterprise, Encino Enterprise* and *North Valley News*. She is an active community member and has sat on the boards of the Valley Cultural Center, Louisville High School, Pacific Lodge Boys Home, Calabasas Chamber of Commerce, the Heart Run & Walk and American Heart Association.

Capital Group embodies how corporations should approach educating and empowering their employees to practice inclusion and tolerance in the workplace. Through their CG Chaverim and CG Arts communities, they have supported DLP's mission of bearing witness to history and using art to break down barriers and begin difficult conversations.

Receiving the Courage to Educate Award on behalf of Capital Group CG Haverim and CG Art will be Annie Soleymani, Mark Reiser, Julie McArthur, Darryl Pugh, Effie Braun Nathan Issacs.The Courage to Educate Award Recognizes individuals and companies who exemplify leadership in proactively educating and engaging audiences in creating awareness of the dangers of antisemitism while educating about Jewish history and the Holocaust through David Labkovski Project.

Dr. Marilyn Harran from Chapman University is being honored with the Leadership in Holocaust Education Award. MHarran is professor of Religious Studies and of History, holder of the Stern Chair in Holocaust Education, and the

(Continued to page 12)



Join us for the Eighth Annual Scholar's Event
Sunday, March 17, 2024

10AM Check-in; 11AM Program Begins | Skirball Cultural Center

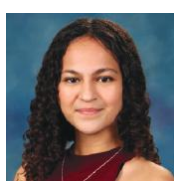
https://davidlabkovskiproject.org/events/dlp-scholars-event-2024

Congratulations to Our 2024 Honorees

Avlyn Kotton
Legacy of Hope

Dr. Marilyn Harran
Leadership in Holocaust Education

Kathleen Sterling
Courage to Educate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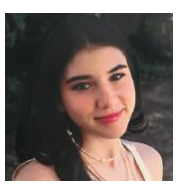
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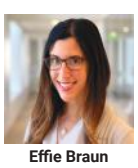
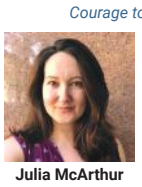
Courage to Educate


Effie Braun

Nathan Isaacson


Julia McArthur

Darryl Pugh Jr.

Marc Reiser

Annie Soleymani

Live Auction

Featuring the *Enchanting Danube* river cruise donated by Uniworld Boutique River Cruises!
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www.davidlabkovskiproject.org **ENGAGE. ENRICH. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.** info@davidlabkovskiproject.org

Community Calendar

GRANADA HILLS: There will be a Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee Meeting on Thursday, March 14, at 3 pm. The meeting will be held at the Center for Spiritual Living, 17622 Chatsworth Street.

CHATSWORTH: Join the Chatsworth Library for adult gaming on Wednesday, March 6, at 11 am. Enjoy a variety of board games and card games. Games available include checkers, backgammon, Rummikub, Uno, Gin Rummy, and Monopoly. For more information call (818) 341-4276.

SIMI VALLEY: On March 15, the Reagan Library opens a fun and informative exhibition on Star Wars – both the real-world technology of SDI, as well as items from the movie phenomenon. The exhibition will include original items from SDI including an authentic Command Launch Equipment Console, as well as props, costumes, and concept art from the *Star Wars* franchise, including a Landspeeder made for *A New Hope*, master replicas of Luke Skywalker's lightsaber made from the original mold of *The Last Jedi*, and an original script signed by Dave Prowse (actor who portrayed Darth Vader in the original trilogy). For more information visit reaganfoundation.org.

NORTHRIDGE: Volunteers Cleaning Communities will be cleaning the area around Reseda Blvd. and Rinaldi on Saturday, March 9. Meet at 8:30 am on the west side of Reseda just north of Rinaldi and look for the volunteers in yellow vests. For more information visit volunteerscleaningcommunities.com.

NORTHRIDGE: Looking to get more business? Join BNI, a networking group that only allows one member per category to maximize your business leads. The group is looking for a variety of members in different categories. They meet every Tuesday for lunch in Northridge. For more information and to apply in your category call (818) 517-3955.

GRANADA HILLS: The Granada Hills Charter High School "Highlanders" 2024 Golf Classic will be held on Friday, March 29. Registration begins at 7 am with an 8:30 am shotgun start. Play 18 holes of championship golf with a cart at Tierra Rejada Golf Course, 15187 Tierra Rejada Road, Moorpark. Cost is $135 for individual golfers, and $500 for a foursome. Register at chctk12.com/hgc.

CANOGA PARK: Tickets are now on sale for Valley Cultural Foundation's "Taste of the Valley" to be held on Thursday, April 18, from 5 to 9 pm. The food, wine and spirits festival will be held at Topanga Social at Westfield Topanga. More than 27 restaurants and specialty stores are participating, and there will be live music from Dr. Wu. Early bird tickets are on sale through March 18. Visit valleycultural.org.

SYLMAR: The Southern California Garden Club will celebrate Arbor Day with a tree planting on Thursday, March 7, at 11 am. Join them as they plant a flowering cherry tree at Osceola Street Elementary School, 14940 Osceola Street. For more information on the group and their regular meetings visit southercaliforniagardenclub.com.

NORTHRIDGE: The Northridge Library will offer a free workshop on Mind-Body Health & Wellness on Saturday, March 2, from 2 to 4 pm. Learn how to boost your immune system and fight illness using food. Dr. Dermonette Hazly will give this informative bilingual presentation about using herbs, spices and teas as well. The library is located at 9051 Darby Street. Register for the event by emailing nrthrg@lapl.org.

LOOKING FOR MORE BUSINESS?

Join our networking group, where we only allow one member per niche. We are looking for any of the following professions (but not limited to): attorneys, florists, solar company, dentist,

Come visit us for a Tuesday lunch meeting in Northridge. Apply ASAP to secure your classification. Call 818-517-3955 for more info.

People in the News

California State University, Northridge Vocal Jazz Director **Erin Bentlage**, above, reached a huge milestone in her career when she took home a Grammy Award at the 66th annual show on February 4. The accolade, under the category of "Best Arrangement, Instruments and Vocals," was given to Bentlage for her part in the song "In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning." The award-winning piece is a part of the debut album of her all-female vocal supergroup, säje, formed in collaboration with Sara Gazarek, Amanda Taylor, and Johnaye Kendrick.

"Grateful beyond measure to these people and tiny slivers of time for everything they've taught me, grateful for the opportunity to pause and reflect on our dreams coming true in the music that we are lucky enough to make and the life that we are lucky enough to pour into that music," Bentlage said. "I take none of it for granted, no matter how courageously joyful or sickeningly devastating the moment and might not be able to digest one bit of it without music…"

The Grammy victory isn't her first brush with recognition. In 2020, Bentlage was nominated in the same category for the debut original song "Desert Song" by her group.

West Hills Hospital & Medical Center has honored **Amy Sekhon**, above, a registered nurse, with the prestigious DAISY Award.

This award recognizes extraordinary nurses who make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients and their families. Sekhon was nominated by a patient's family for the outstanding care she provided. The family wrote, "Her kindness, hospitality and patience are unmatched. She answered every question with clarity and made sure that we understood what was going on. We loved her calm and gentle yet outgoing personality and she is definitely a person that anyone can feel comfortable around, which is a trait that is so important to have as a nurse."

The award was presented to Sekhon by Jesse Roque, West Hills Hospital Chief Nursing Officer.

"We are very fortunate to have Amy on our team. She is a very skilled and compassionate nurse, who goes above and beyond to care for her patients," said Roque.

VIEWPOINT

• David Epstein told us he was circumcised when he was born. He said he couldn't walk for a year...

• We all know the saying "$(#*)$ happens." Did you ever wonder what other world religions say about it:
- Buddhism "If $$()#*) happens it really isn't $*(#$).
- Hinduism "This $(#(*) happened before."
- Judaism "Why does this %(#*)(% happen to us?"
- Catholicism "If %($#() happens you deserve it."
- Existentialism "$%(*#($ doesn't happen, $(#*)($ is."
and - Mormonism "If $(#*(happens, shun it."

• "It's incredible," said the young woman to her doctor. "Every time I sneeze I have an orgasm. What do you recommend?" The doctor replied, "Black pepper."

• The wife asked her husband about his upcoming parachute jump - "at least how high should you be?" The husband replied, "three days of steady drinking should do it."

• George Thomas is telling the story about the drunk who felt ill, so he mixed orange juice with Milk of Magnesia and made a Phillips screwdriver.

• A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty.

• Nostalgia isn't what it used to be...

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Word on the Street

----------From Kathleen Sterling

As Billy Joel said, "Don't come bitchin' to me!"

With regular low turnout for elections, if you're not one of the 22% of registered voters who actually voted in the last primary election, I don't want to hear any complaints from you.

Pathetically, that's 22% of registereds, not 22% of the population - which makes it even worse. And I guarantee those that don't get off their duff to go vote are the ones who sit around complaining.

Not that there isn't a lot to complain about.

Our roads are still a mess of potholes and you can't get from the valley over the hill without gridlock.

We all just paid our Gross Receipts Taxes to the City of Los Angeles (at least those of us who are staying within city limits as opposed to those who have moved beyond because of the tax).

If you voted, you're entitled to bitch. You're at least participating in the system and trying to effect change.

Not voting means no one hears your issues. Sitting on the couch means the only one listening to you is...you. Good luck with that.

We're doing our best on our end.

Locally here in the 12th Council District we have brought you statements from both candidates running for City Council - John Lee and Serena Oberstein. We asked them to explain in their own words why they were running, what the issues are they want to address, and why you, the voter, should choose them.

Know that these statements are from the candidates themselves and do not represent the views of the newspapers or its staff.

All we can do on our end is urge you to get out and vote. Get involved in the process. We hear lots of complaints at the paper about everything from the Aliso Canyon gas leak payouts to giant sinkholes. From the homeless camping out on city streets to the proposed Home Depot taking over the old theatre. From traffic to trash - we hear it all.

A newspaper's job is to inform, to educate, and incite change.

A voter's job is to be informed, to be educated, and to incite change by marking their ballot.

Together, we can guide our politicians to take notice, to effect change, and to make each and every one of our lives better.

But it takes marking that ballot and making sure you vote.

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Candidates for 12th Council District Seat

Candidate Statement Councilman John Lee

It is an honor to serve as the Los Angeles City Councilmember of Council District 12, my home for over 45 years, where I am raising my family with my wife Shelia, and have proudly served our community for over 20 years. I deeply understand the uniqueness of the communities in the Northwest Valley. As your Councilmember, my focus has consistently been on addressing neighborhood issues and enhancing our daily quality of life, all while tackling crucial challenges such as crime and homelessness. Taking a results-first approach to homelessness, our council district now boasts one of the lowest rates in the city. Since day one, my office has utilized every available tool, investing in outreach and mental health services, expanding housing options, and enhancing enforcement and clean-up efforts. We have significantly increased the number of interim housing beds from zero to over 200, with another 150 permanent housing beds scheduled to be available by the end of my first term. This achievement is the result of collaboration with neighbors and small businesses, supporting appropriately located projects. Our district-specific outreach team, operational six days a week throughout the year, has been a model for the city, successfully transitioning people off the streets and into housing and services. Collaborating with LA Sanitation, we have implemented CARE+ and CARE cleanups, achieving the highest rate of encampment clean-ups in the City, especially in our community's most sensitive areas. Additionally, when necessary, my office collaborates with the LAPD to enforce the City's anti-camping law. I am the only current City Councilmember who opposed the $150 million LAPD budget cut in 2020, demonstrating my unwavering support for our officers during the "Defund the Police" movement. You can rely on my steadfast commitment to public safety. Crucially, I understand the significance of our community, hearing from many of you about the importance of safe communities, excellent schools, and healthy neighborhoods in preserving our quality of life. While facing criticism for not aligning our district with the rest of the city, I remain resolute in fighting for our Northwest Valley priorities. I will always be an independent voice at City Hall for Council District 12, prioritizing our community and neighborhoods. It would be an honor to earn your support in my re-election campaign on or before March 5th, as YOUR Los Angeles City Councilmember. Best Regards, Your Councilmember, John Lee

Candidate Statement Serena Obertstein

"We think Oberstein would be a much better representative for the district and a more thoughtful member of the city's leadership," was what the *L.A. Times* wrote about Serena Oberstein, a leading candidate for Council District 12

Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, Serena is a public servant, mom, and nonprofit leader, and has always believed that for the government to work for people, our leaders need to set an example of integrity. That is why Serena was honored to serve as the President of the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

As our next City Councilmember, Serena will always lead with integrity and fight to keep our community safe, address our homelessness emergency with a renewed sense of urgency, and persistently address our housing affordability crisis.

As your next City Councilmember, Serena will tap her decades-long experience by bringing all stakeholders to the table to tackle the toughest issues facing our community, which have only grown worse in recent years, including homelessness, housing affordability, public safety, and reforming City Hall.

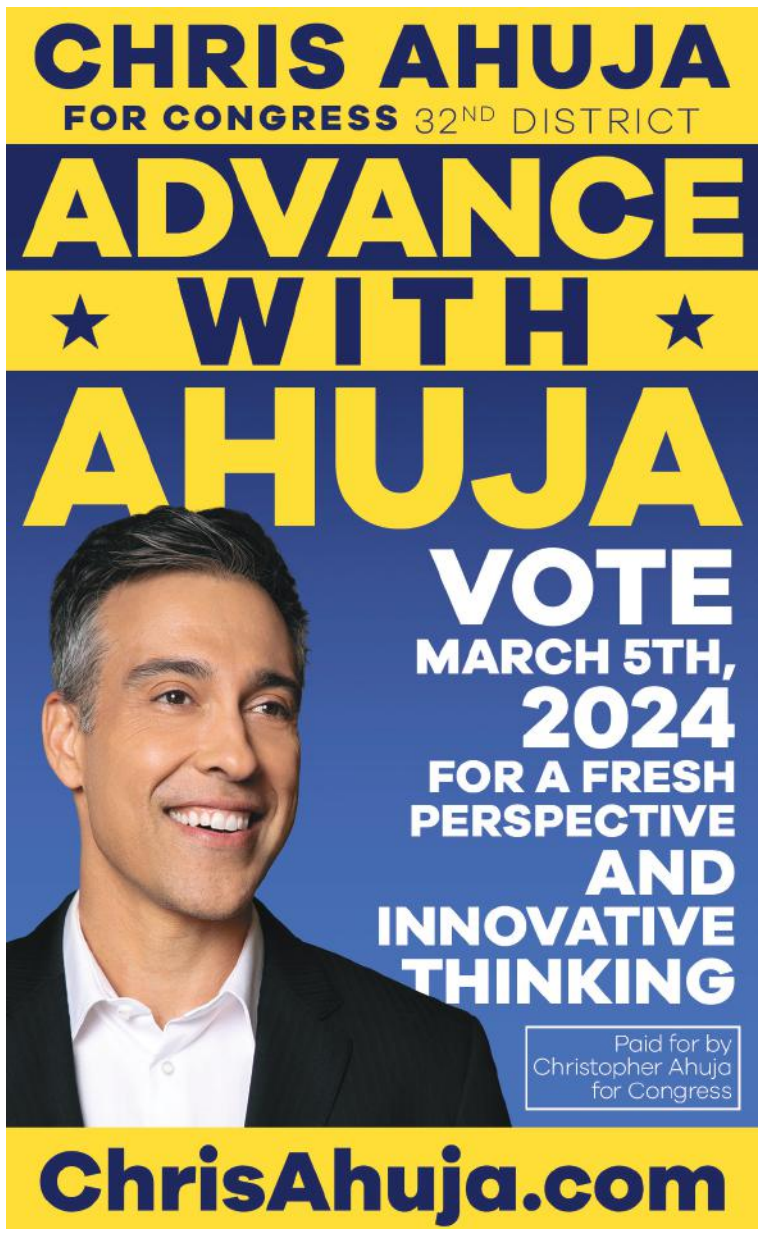
That's why Serena is endorsed by business and community leaders we trust, including: the Los Angeles Times, North Valley Democratic Club, Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley, Democrats for Israel-Los Angeles, Southern California Armenian Democrats, SEIU121 Nurses, National Union of Healthcare Workers, Rep. Brad Sherman, Rep. Adam Schiff, State Sen. Henry Stern, Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo, Past Chair of the CSUN President's Advisory Council Lee Alpert and Arlene Alpert, past LA City Anti Abuse Commissioner.

A second generation Angeleno, Serena attended public school in the San Fernando Valley through high school. Her parents were both LAUSD public school teachers, working for the district for 30 years after having met at CSUN while getting their teaching credentials.

Serena most recently served as the Executive Director of Jewish World Watch, an anti-genocide and mass atrocities nonprofit. In her role, she passed federal, state and local policy by cultivating bipartisan coalitions and building alliances across faith and other communities around the world facing targeted persecution.

Previously, Serena was the Chief Operating Officer for Vision to Learn, a national nonprofit that provides free eye exams and eyeglasses to students in need. She also served as a Policy Analyst and Neighborhood Liaison in the Los Angeles Mayor's Office.

Learn more at www.serena4cd12.com



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Everyone Can Be A Hero at This Store!

It's over 7,000 square feet of action, adventure, odyssey and more. Honestly, it's a toy store for all ages.

We Can Be Heroes Comic Book store's new location at 9449 DeSoto in Chatsworth offers everything for the comic collector.

The shelves are lined with new books, used books, graded books and encapsulations.

Owner Julio Galvez has one goal - and it's not necessarily to sell comics.

It's to make sure that everyone is welcome, and that We Can Be Heroes is a place where people can come and shop, but also gather, play games, meet other collectors, and feel at home.

The new store opens onto the collection of comics that span three walls and a huge island. That's only where the fun begins.

Beyond the store is an enormous room set up for meeting, games, social events, movie screenings and more.

There are pinball machines lining one wall, and TV's on another.

Galvez wants people to buy comic books, then stay and read them. Buy trading game cards, then stay and play them.

"It's like our living room," he told *Valley News Group*. "A place for our customers, but also

community members and the chamber of commerce can hold events."

That's important to Galvez, because he is president of the Chatsworth Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce. As such he and his team help organize such events as Blockfest and other street fairs with fellow chamber member David Phelps.

He's organizing even more events - a "Cocktails and Comics" show is coming with comic vendors and others to relax, sip and shop all at once.

The new location is also a spot for emerging filmmakers to screen their productions. Moreover, there is a full studio upstairs where photo shoots can take place.

Galvez bounces from one corner of the store to another - checking on a sale up front, looking over the shoulders at

Comic books line the walls, at top. Owner Julio Galvez, above.

two customers seriously playing a game in the back, showing prospective clients the studio upstairs, and chatting all the while to everyone he sees in the store.

It's his living room, and you're all invited!

For more information call (818) 960-4699.

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Women in Leadership: Growth Through Representation

By Stacey McKinnon

The elevation of women in leadership roles continues to drive the shift towards inclusivity and diversity in the service sector. The momentum towards gender equality is palpable with the industry gradually moving away from its historical "boys' club" mentality, as evidenced in the presence of women at industry events in recent years.

At a prominent financial services event in 2018, the stark contrast in numbers between male and female attendees underscored gender disparity within the industry. The presence of women in executive positions in advisory firms was notably scarce. However, the women present at that event - seeing the imbalance - persisted, determined to shift the narrative through representation. Their persistence paid off as the leadership landscape slowly but surely began to change. By 2019, at another industry event, the audience composition shifted, with a considerable increase in female leadership from Operations Managers to Chief Operating Officers. Despite the progress, the questions posed to the speakers after their presentations centered on gender-based respect, challenging stereotypes, and the struggle to get women's ideas acknowledged within their companies and organizations.

The transformation of this industry's leadership landscape in the ensuing years was made possible by the steadfast efforts of women leaders who walked on stage after stage, sharing their perspectives and experiences at conferences and on social media platforms. These industry consultants and female leaders played crucial roles, creating opportunities for women to not only express themselves in this space, but also to advocate for change.

In our local community, we see these shifts happening each day. Chief Operating Officers are shattering the glass ceiling of "glorified secretary," demonstrating the profound impact and authority women can wield in leadership positions beyond traditional administrative roles. Founders of women-led firms like Janice L. Miller, Miri Rossitto, or Jerri Hemmsworth exemplify the shift towards a leadership model rooted in humility, authenticity, and purpose. Their journeys serve as inspiring narratives of resilience and leadership diversity.

Over the past few years, we have also seen the evolution of groups like "Women Founders Network" that opens the doors for more female-led firms in the future. Schools, like Granada Hills Charter High School, have launched "Women In Business" programs to teach young ladies how to evaluate themselves and approach the workforce with more confidence and experience.

Leadership driven by compassion, empathy, and care are increasingly recognized as strengths, challenging traditional notions of aggressive and autocratic leadership styles.

Despite these achievements and milestones, women still represent the minority in leadership roles within most industries. But the change to push past these barriers continues to move forward and gain momentum. There is so much to be gained from equal representation including lessons from female leaders who paved the way.

Leadership driven by compassion, empathy, and care are increasingly recognized as strengths, challenging traditional notions of aggressive and autocratic leadership styles.

Adapting and embracing diversity of thought enriches the decision-making process, leading to more creative, thoughtful, and innovative strategies and outcomes.

Diminishing the stereotype of women as primarily suited for administrative roles only fosters a more inclusive and equitable professional environment.

As the service industry continues to evolve, the emphasis on gender equality, diversity, and inclusion promises a more dynamic and responsive industry capable of meeting the needs of its clientele. Though much has been achieved in almost a half a decade, the journey towards increasing representation through elevating women's leadership roles is still an ongoing process, with trailblazing women paving the way for future generations.

Stacey McKinnon, CFP, is Chief Operating Officer, Chief Marketing Officer, Partner at Morton Wealth in Calabasas. She can be reached at (818) 222-4727.

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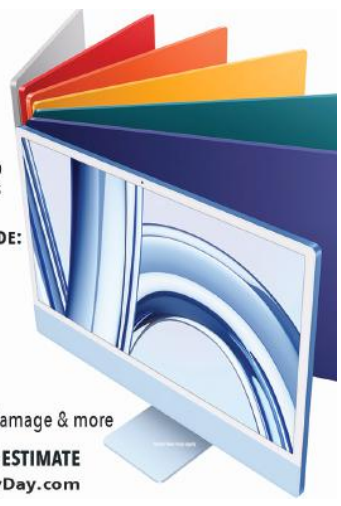

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COMMUNITY

Play Golf March 25 "Fore" West Valley Boys & Girls Club

The Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley is now accepting reservations for their March 25 "Tee Off Fore Kids" golf tournament. Included with registration is a player prize pack, time on the range, shotgun start, and a boxed lunch followed by a fun cocktail hour featuring contests and team awards. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

The Club sees more than 800 Valley youth stream through their doors at the Gary M. Thomas Clubhouse & Teen Center and their seven area school sites. They provide fun, safe and welcoming spaces during critical hours of the day. Youth have opportunities to engage in positive social activities with peers, achieve academic success through tutoring and enrichment programs, and learn the benefits of healthy eating and lifestyles through sports, fitness, and wellness programs.

For more information contact Lisa O'Laughlin, Special Events Manager at l.olaughlin@bgcwv.org.

Been in Business 20 Years or More? Become a L.A. Legacy Business

The City of LA is launching an ongoing initiative to celebrate and support the visibility, legacy, and sustainability of Legacy Businesses, small businesses that have been operational for 20 years or more, with tangible benefits including technical assistance, promotional support, and access to apply for grants.

The program will support the visibility, patronage, and sustainability of long-standing small businesses within the City of LA that contribute to the city's rich cultural and historical identity. The Legacy Business Program aims to foster economic empowerment by encouraging patronage of participating Legacy Businesses throughout Los Angeles.

A "Legacy Business" is defined as a business open to the public that has been in operation for 20 years or more within the same community, and which meets three of the following four criteria:

- It contributes significantly to its community's history or identity.
- It sustains and cultivates distinctive cultural traditions or practices.
- The business is not franchised or affiliated with a national corporate chain.
- It provides vital goods and services in a language and manner that is culturally accessible to the community.

The Legacy Business Program is an ongoing initiative. Small businesses that have been in business for 20 years or more within the same community will be eligible to participate.

The Legacy Business Program will provide tangible benefits to foster economic resilience and support the longevity of Legacy Businesses. Benefits include:

- Technical Assistance to provide resources and support for operational and technical issues Legacy Businesses may encounter.
- Financial Assistance – Provides access to financial opportunities and capital to sustain or grow their business, including the opportunity to apply for grants up to $20k.
- Promotion Activities – Assisting Legacy Businesses with increased visibility and exposure to potential customers.
- Government Connections – Assisting Legacy Businesses in navigating the LA City government and contracts.

We understand that business owners are incredibly busy managing the day-to-day operations of their businesses. Time commitments for participating in the Technical Assistance program will vary depending on the services you participate in. We aim to make all aspects of the program efficient and effective for all participants.

The online application to apply for grants will begin in the Fall of 2024. The grant application portal opening will be announced on the City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department website, social media, and with a press release. Applications will be given priority for businesses facing gentrification, steep lease increases, and other impacts on the security of the business. For Legacy Businesses with one to five employees (including the owners), the grant amount is $10,000. Grants for $20,000 will be provided to Legacy Businesses with six or more employees.

Technical assistance begins in January 2025 and is designed

Benefits include technical assistance, financial assistance, promotion activities and government connections.

to support business owners with knowledge, training, and assistance for key business-related topics, including social media marketing, retirement and succession planning, access to legal consultation, lease negotiation, financial counseling, and more. Support will be offered online, aiming to maximize impact while reducing time commitments for business owners. Business owners will complete a self-assessment to determine which services they need. Participation is voluntary, and all Legacy Businesses are eligible for technical assistance.

The City will elevate the Legacy Businesses, uplifting their heritage and contribution to the fabric of Los Angeles. The City will implement promotional activities to assist Legacy Businesses with increased visibility and exposure. Participating businesses will be prominently featured on the City of Los Angeles Legacy Business website. They will receive a Legacy Business Program promotional toolkit to highlight their designation as a Legacy Business and participation in the program.

The City will hold four Zoom information sessions on how to become a Legacy Business on March 7, 13, 19 and 21.

For more information and to register for a webinar visit https://la-legacy-business-lahub.hub.arcgis.com.

Seniors Enjoy Valentine's Day Dance

PHOTOS: DAN BRIN, MARY JO LOSSO, ALEJANDRO PHILLIPS, PENELOPE NEWMARK

Seniors - and City Councilman John Lee - danced the night away on Valentine's Day at Chaminade's Bob Hope Center.

The event was sponsored by Lee and the West Hills Neighborhood Council.

The event included dinner, dancing, a raffle, prizes and more... including a rowdy conga line around the dance floor.

The free party brought together residents, community leaders and Neighborhood Council members for a rockin' Valentine's night.

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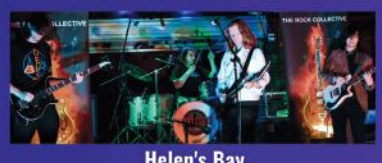
MONDAY, FEB 12

American Superdrive

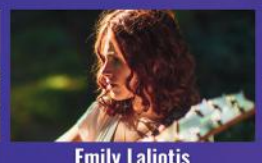
Buffalo Bones

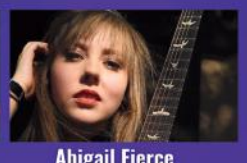

Helen's Bay

The Hye Priestess and The Fool

DAY 2
TUESDAY, FEB 13

Saticöy


Emily Laliotis


Abigail Fierce

Aster Baby and The Wild Rabbits

Tomorrow's Tigers

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VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

Broadway in Hollywood Announces New Season

Broadway in Hollywood (Nederlander Organization) is proud to announce their new 2024-25 season - consisting of six Los Angeles premieres and the return of two blockbuster favorites, both back by popular demand, and both available for priority access to all who purchase or renew into this new season.

All productions will play at the iconic Hollywood Pantages Theatre, located in the Heart of Hollywood at the intersection of Hollywood & Vine.

The new 2024-25 season at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre kicks off with this past Broadway season's most awarded production, *Kimberly Akimbo*, the 2023 Tony Award Winner for Best Musical.

Next up will be the newest West End and Broadway fan favorite *Back to the Future: The Musical*, based on the 1985 Universal Pictures/ Amblin Entertainment film.

Following that will be a 19-week engagement of the Los Angeles premiere of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, the highest grossing non-musical play in Broadway history.

Following a short break, cheering audiences will return to the Hollywood Pantages for the L.A. premiere of A Beautiful Noise: *The Neil Diamond Musical*, which celebrates the life of the groundbreaking song writer using a catalogue of over 30 of his original songs.

Following this will be the L.A. premiere of the Tony and recent Grammy award winning musical comedy hit *Some Like it Hot*, featuring music and lyrics by the Tony-winning songwriting team from *Hairspray* and *Catch Me if You Can*.

The sixth and final L.A. premiere production is the Broadway hit *Shucked* – the farm to fable tale about one of two of America's greatest pastimes: Love and CORN!

As previously announced, Hollywood Pantages Theatre will welcome back two Broadway Blockbusters to Los Angeles as season add-on productions which will play over this fall and holiday seasons: *Hamilton* and *Wicke*d.

Season ticket holders who purchase or renew into the new 2024-25 season will have priority access to both of these productions: immediately for *Wicked* and beginning March 18 for *Hamilton*.

Season ticket packages for the 2024-2025 new season are available now at www.BroadwayInHollywood.com/SeasonPackages or by phone at 866-755-BWAY (2929) (Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm PT and Saturday, 9 am to 3 pm).

Vote for Final Battle of the Bands Artists

After two very exciting voting rounds, the field has narrowed. The lineup of bands and artists for the Final Round of Rock the Valley. Battle of the Bands 2024 features Saticöy, Emily Laliotis, American Superdrive, Aster Baby and The Wild Rabbits and Abigail Fierce.

Watch and vote at www.ValleyCultural.org! Voting begins on Monday, March 4, at 10 am until Wednesday, March 6, at 10 am. Voting lasts 48 hours. You can vote for as many bands and artists as you like, once for free every 24 hours. Winners will be announced on Wednesday, March 6, at 4 pm.

Rock the Valley – Battle of the Bands provides up-and-coming musicians an opportunity to showcase their talents by playing original music for a broad virtual audience while also contributing to the cultural and social amenity of the music community. The first place top vote-getter winner will receive $500; second place, $250; and third place, $100.

Killing Dogs for Food Now Banned In South Korea Thanks In Part To Local Resident

By Ken Ross

A real life hero resides among us here in the San Fernando Valley. He's Jeff Mausner, the former Department of Justice Federal Prosecutor, who worked tirelessly to convict mass murdering Nazi war criminals in denaturalization and deportation trials following World War II. However, to me he's a superhero, who helped get South Korea to pass a Special Bill, ending the breeding, slaughter, and consumption of dogs for food. It was shocking to learn that this South Korean National Assembly Law is also preventing murderous torture. It is a frequent horrific practice of many cultures to brutally torture dogs before their slaughter to stimulate adrenalin flow to supposedly augment meat flavor. Most Americans could not even imagine that anyone would think of killing a dog for food let alone breed them in horrible conditions to that barbaric end.

Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Indonesia, Nagaland in eastern India, and North Korea also allow the killing and eating of dogs. Actually, tens of millions of canines are murdered worldwide every year. So, it's still an unimaginable task to even try to address this worldwide case of inhumanity.

Teaming up in 2019 with VANC (i.e. the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils), Mausner spearheaded the movement to convince the LA City Council and LA Mayor to declare officially that the City of Los Angeles opposes the dog meat industry in South Korea and other countries. See koreandogs.org/la-resolution.

Hopefully, you can imagine what a daunting task it was to get any foreign country to stop this practice. It's hard to conceive how anyone here could possibly convince South Korean legislators to ban this commonplace practice. But it wasn't any one person who did it all.

Jeff Mausner and friend.

It took Korean War Veterans, our Valley Congressman Brad Sherman, and celebrities like Priscilla Presley and Katherine Heigl to get the South Korean National Assembly to want to do something finally. A video, that Jeff himself produced and directed, apparently had a very positive effect on the Members of the National Assembly. They requested their legislators to vote for the dog meat ban. You can actually watch this video at youtube.com/watch?v=Cv9926QP5IM.

"These Korean War Veterans, Anthony Melecca, Orville McKinney, Eugene Clifford Barker, and other members of the United States military who served in the Korean War, risked their lives to protect the lives of South Koreans and the Republic of South Korea itself. Many of their friends died to save their country. In their video statements, they sincerely ask the South Korean National Assembly to pass the Special Act to End Dog Meat and stop killing dogs. I'm very proud to have worked with these heroes and given them a platform to directly express their strong feelings to the South Korean National Assembly," said Jeff Mausner, who is a retired attorney and also co-founder of the Global Anti-Dog Meat Coalition.

"These Veterans, who fought for the lives and freedom of South Koreans, who are responsible for the very existence of democracy and the National Assembly itself, deserve to be listened to when they speak of their love for dogs and ask that the torture and killing stop," Mausner repeated heartfully to me recently.

He knew that many Members of the National Assembly watched the video, or at least knew about it, before there were votes in the Agriculture Committee, Judiciary Committee, and the full Assembly. The South Korean National Assembly voted on January 9 to unanimously abolish the dog meat industry and eliminate this barbaric practice in the whole nation.

It was South Korean organizations and activists, Mausner said, who were the main impetus in passing the dog meat ban. It has long been known by South Korean presidents and legislators that the dog meat trade has had a detrimental effect on South Korea's international reputation.

The United States appropriates billions of dollars, and American soldiers put their lives on the line, to protect South Korea, so it's critical that Americans have a positive attitude toward our ally. South Korean legislators paid attention to what Americans had to say about killing dogs for food.

Mausner said that "organizations right here in California, like In Defense of Animals, which has been working to ban dog meat in South Korea for 30 years, and KoreanDogs.org, which has circulated hundreds of petitions to ban dog meat, have played a very important role."

Listed at the end of the video, are members of the Global Anti-Dog Meat Coalition, who also had an instrumental role. Jeff hopes everyone will watch the video, noting that there is very little graphic material, "it's not difficult to watch." See the video at youtube.com/watch?v=Cv9926QP5IM.

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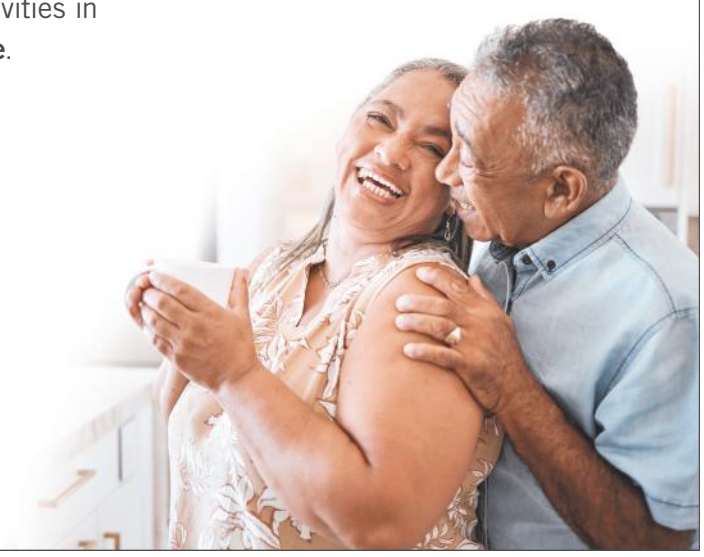

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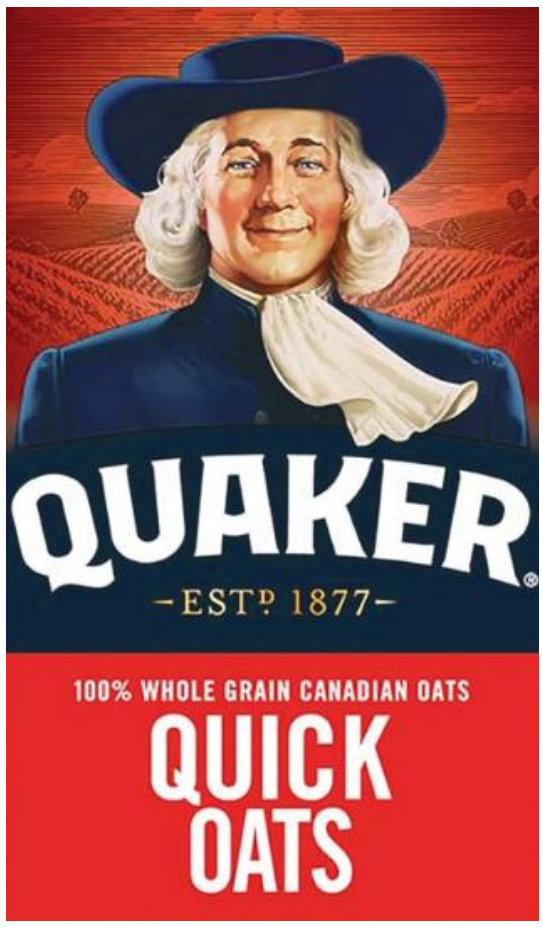
Questionable Chemical Found in Quaker Oats and Cheerios



Quaker Oats are quaking in their boots after the recent news that a pesticide, which is linked to reproductive and developmental issues, was found in their oat-based products sold in the United States.

The pesticide, chlormequat, was found in 80% of individuals tested according to a study by the Environmental Working Group (EWG) and published in the *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology*.

The concentrations detected were significantly higher than in previous years' samples.

EWG said it detected the chemical in 92% of oat-based foods, including Quaker Oats and Cheerios. In the study, four out of five Americans tested positive for chlormequat chloride, which has been linked to reduced fertility, altered fetal growth and delayed puberty.profit EWG and

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reviewing the work of the non- is weighing on the idea of whether to allow US farmers to start using the pesticide.

The reason for the high levels of the chemical in Cheerios and Quaker Oats is that those products are mainly used with oats grown in Canada where chlormequat is allowed. The use of chlormequat is to increase crop yields as the chemical allows the grains to stand upright, making them easier to harvest.

The EPA will make a decision on the chemical later this year, but chlormequat has been allowed in imported oats, wheat and barley since 2018.

Given that the adverse reactions have been found in studies on animals, and not humans, the EPA stated that they had "assessed whether exposure to this product would cause unreasonable adverse effects to human health and the environment" and concluded that there are "no risks of concern."

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Register Now for Kiwanis Golf Tournament

The Kiwanis Club of Chatsworth is taking reservations for their Monday, April 15, 31st annual charity golf tournament.

The tournament is sponsored every year by Nicolas Montano and Los Toros Restaurant.

It will be held at the Porter Valley Country Club, 19216 Singing Hills Drive, Northridge, from 9 am to 3 pm.

Single player tickets are $200 plus a $15.26 Eventbrite fee. A foursome is $800 plus at Eventbrite $55.50 fee. Best Deal Player tickets are $300 plus a $21.96 Eventbrite fee.

The tournament provides local schools with much needed supplies and funding for their arts programs. Schools are in financial despair due to local and state budget cuts. The communities and children need our help more than ever, and the Kiwanis Club is dedicated to serving the community and raising funds to support local programs.

To register for the golf tournament visit www.chatsworthkiwanis.org/upcoming-events or call (818) 489-6423.

Organization Fights Hate Through Art; Honors Local Leaders

(Continued from page 1)

educating and engaging audiences in creating awareness of the dangers of antisemitism while educating about Jewish history and the Holocaust through David Labkovski Project.

Dr. Marilyn Harran from Chapman University is being honored with the Leadership in Holocaust Education Award. Harran is professor of Religious Studies and of History, holder of the Stern Chair in Holocaust Education, and the founding director of the Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education and the Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library at Chapman University. Dr. Harran has worked with administrators, colleagues, and supporters to establish a multi-faceted program in Holocaust history and education with academic minor, distinguished lecture series, an archive containing the world's largest collection of materials on rescuer Oskar Schindler, and community outreach, including a Holocaust Art and Writing Contest that each year engages some 7,000 middle and high school students in more than 32 states and 10 countries.

The Ellie Lainer Youth Leadership in Holocaust Education is being awarded to students Sophie Small from De Toledo High School and Katia Lysobey from Moorpark High School who have been involved in bringing, the DLP program to their peers and community.

These honorees are exceptionally worthy of being recognized, shared Raikin. "They understand the DLP's unique approach to educating and that through Labkovski's artwork, history becomes accessible not through statistics but through one person's lens of what it was like to live through difficult times.

At this year's annual DLP Scholar's Event March 17 at the Skirball, the exhibit "Documenting History through Art" will be featured and guided by DLP student docents.

There will also be a screening of the Telly Award winning film *Healing through Art*, produced by Darryl Pugh and sponsored by Capital Group. They will be recognized at the event for their leadership and bravery in confronting a world in which increased antisemitism and hatred exists.

Tickets for the event are $180 per person and are on sale at davidlabkovskiproject.org.

Sponsorships and tributes in the program are still available. For more information on the luncheon call Debra Levine at (818) 271-1307.

Nighttrek Report: What to See in the March Sky

By Neill Simmons

March brings a special event on Saturday the 16th at 11 am. The Woodland Hills Library will host a special talk on the upcoming "Total Solar Eclipse," which will happen on April 8. The presentation will also review what is going on in the night sky. Head Librarian, Patty Miranda will be there to hand out free ISO Certified Solar Eclipse Viewing Glasses to those who attend. Kids are welcome. This is a free event.

The highlight of March occurs on Sunday, the 24th, just after darkness falls. The swift planet Mercury will be at its highest point in the west. It will be a small point of light which is very bright about 20 degrees above the horizon. Make sure to see this. Binoculars will help you spot it. One of our favorite fun facts is that a year on Mercury is 88 of our days! This is because Mercury has a small orbit to travel around the sun.

One way our ancestors knew spring was coming is that they watched the "Big Dipper" in the north. When the Big Dipper was standing on its handle, the planting season was near. The seven star pattern had many names from cultures around the world, but "The Big Bear," or Ursa Major, was used often.

In March, the great constellations of the winter sky appear to jump to the western half of the night sky. Sirius, the brightest star in the night, was low in the east in February and now is high in the south in March. Orion, the mighty hunter constellation, is now in the west. Below the Orion, we can see the famous "Pleiades," also known as the "Seven Sisters."

At this time the king of planets, Jupiter, is a beacon in the west. Jupiter is the fifth planet from our Sun and is, by far, the largest planet in our solar system – more than twice as massive as all the other planets combined! Currently, NASA and JPL are working on the "Europa Clipper" which is a ship that will travel to one of Jupiter's moons, Europa. The mission is to penetrate Europa's ice surface and find the ocean beneath and search out possible life forms.

During March 12, 13, and 14, the beautiful, thin crescent Moon will be back in the low night sky and near the bright planet Jupiter which is a great sight!

Monday, March 25, brings us the famous "Full Worm Moon." This full Moon was known by native Indian tribes as a sign that spring was coming. They noticed earthworms would reappear at this time in the dirt. After 10 pm a "penumbral lunar eclipse" starts. A penumbral eclipse occurs when the Sun, Earth, and the Moon are *imperfectly* aligned. The Moon will only get slightly darker. After midnight the Moon will be partially covered.

The Woodland Hills Library will host a special talk on March 16 about the upcoming "Total Solar Eclipse."

DAWN PATROL: The bright planet, Venus, will make its curtain call in March. It will be easy to spot at 5:35 am until 6:10 am. Then it will go behind the Sun and disappear. In August, Venus will return to the evening sky.

Vandenberg SFB has been launching many rockets in the northwest each month. Frequently, the launch times and dates change at the last minute. Check their website for updated information.

If you are traveling to Las Vegas, make sure to drive by the "Sphere." It is a new 20,000-seat entertainment arena that was constructed for $2.3 billion! To drive by and view the outside, ever-changing light show is free. Very often the planets are realistically highlighted. It is a lot easier to see Jupiter projected on the "Sphere" than it is to hitch a ride on the "Europa Clipper!"

When not stargazing, Neill Simmons is a Wealth Advisor with LPL Financial in Woodland Hills. If you have any astronomy or financial questions, he may be reached at (818) 936-2626 or neill.simmons@lpl.com.

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REAL ESTATE

Neighborhood Council Meetings

Chatsworth Neighborhood Council will meet on Wednesday, March 6, at 6:30 pm. For agenda and meeting link visit chatsworthcouncil.org..

•••

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will meet on Wednesday, March 13, at 6 pm at Castlebay Elementary, 19010 Castlebay Lane. For agenda visit prnc.org.

•••

Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will meet Thursday, March 7, at :30 pm at Granada Hills Charter High, 10535 Zelzah. Visit ghsnc.org.

•••

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council will meet on Tuesday, March 5, at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at St. Euphrasia School Auditorium, 1176 Shoshone Avenue.

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It's Coyote Mating Season - Be Aware!

We just celebrated Valentine's Day, but be aware that the season of love for coyotes runs January through March, and the animals are on the prowl looking for a mate.

Male coyotes can become louder, howl more and become more aggressive during this time of year. Coyotes are attracted to and can mate with unspayed or unneutered domestic dogs. Unspayed female dogs in season can attract male coyotes, and unneutered male dogs can be lured away by the scent of a female coyote in her ovulation cycle. Additionally, male dogs can be lured by the female coyote's scent and killed by male coyotes.

Know that clever coyotes learn the daily schedules of people and their pets. If you let your dog out every evening at the same time, chances are a coyote may be well aware of your routine.

Cautionary tips year round, but especially during mating season:

-Never feed coyotes as that lures them into the neighborhood.

- If you have a bird feeder and seeds fall to the ground that can attract smaller mammals - a food source for coyotes.

-Keep unattended cats and dogs indoors or in closed runs at night.

- Accompany your leashed pet outside.

- Yell, clap hands, blow a whistle and make yourself look larger if you have a close encounter with a coyote.

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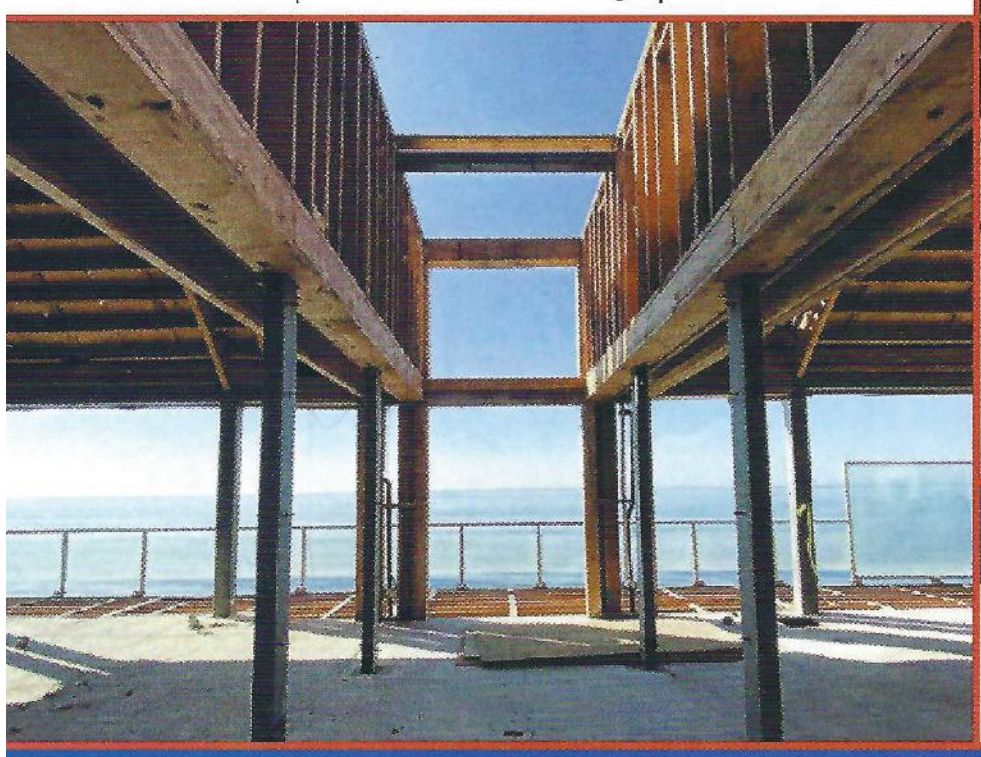

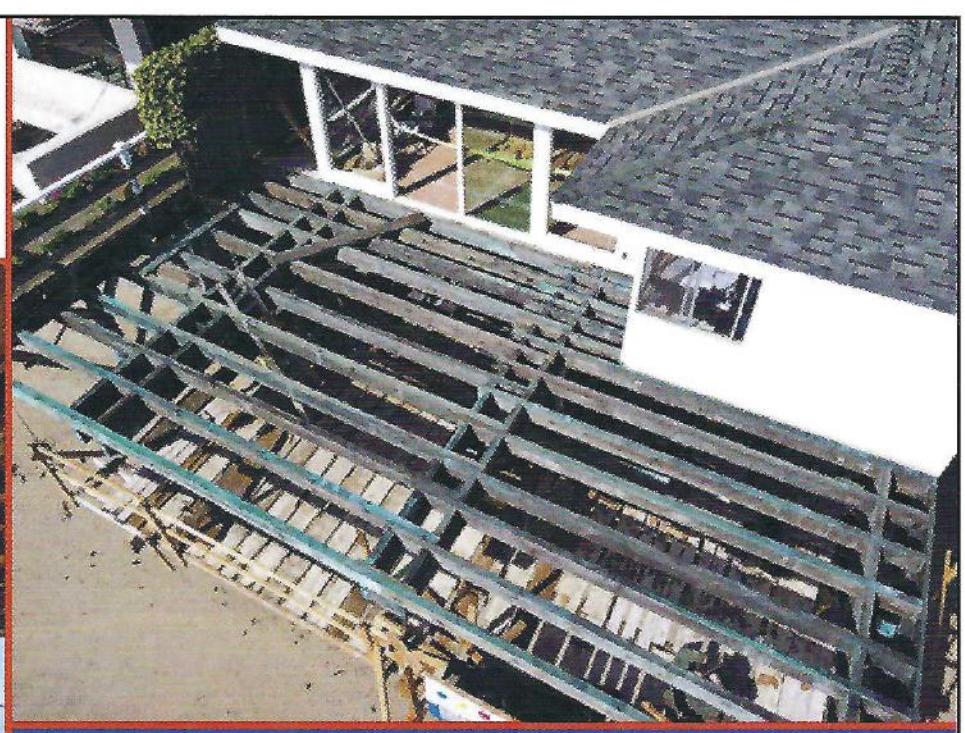

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The State of Valley Real Estate

By Cindy Libonati

Everyone wants to know what's happening in the real estate market. We don't have a crystal ball but based on solid research and sources, I would like to share some information and expectations with you.

Locally in December of 2023 according to our local Southland Regional Association of Realtors, there were 495 new listings, 1,273 active listings and 369 pending sales. The average days on the market were 29 days and at that pace we only have 2.3 months of inventory to sell. To give perspective, six months of inventory has always been considered a "normal" market.

What happens in the not-too-distant future when all the current potential sellers, those sitting on the sidelines, realize that the interest rates will be in the range that could make sense to give up their "pandemic" rates of below and just above 3% and make their move? That will mean there will be more houses and condos to sell and buyers who are out in large numbers will have choices. Not to say prices will drop, they may soften a bit, but when buyers have choices, there aren't the frenzies that we have seen recently.

Los Angeles County is expecting to see 9% appreciation this year and Ventura County, according to California Association of Realtors, is expecting a rise of property values of 18%!

It is impossible to time the market. Sometimes you get lucky, but you don't want to overthink making a decision that benefits you and your family, or your needs and reasons to move.

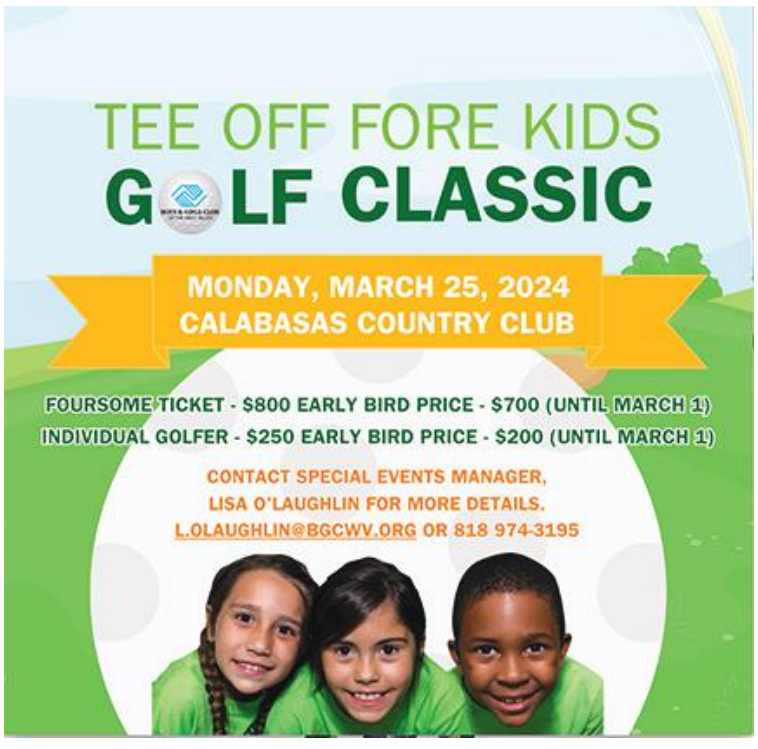
If you are contemplating buying a property, you can refinance it later, but you can't buy it at today's price later. If you are considering selling a home or condo, you would be a big fish in a small pond, and that soon could be changing. Pricing is key. No one is going to overpay so properties that are priced well are selling at, and many times above, the asking price. Buyers today are savvy. They have seen everything, so they know the market well.

Los Angeles County is expecting to see 9% appreciation this year and Ventura County, according to California Association of Realtors, is expecting a rise of property values of 18%!

- Cindy Libonati

Rents are high and that is encouraging many to buy instead of rent, or to give up their rental to own. I have been raised in the many years I have sold real estate that owning real estate is the basis of wealth. Look around, it's true. This isn't the time to wait... the real estate market is strong, and it leads the economic growth in any community. You don't want to be left behind!

Cindy Libonati is an agent with Sotheby's International Realty (DRE#00582036). She can be reached with questions about this article at (818) 421-4468.



Achieving Your Homebuying Dreams in 2024

Planning to buy a home this year? Here's what to focus on:

Improve Your Credit

Your credit score impacts your mortgage rate and future home loan. Monitor your credit and work on improving it by paying off devts.

Plan for Your Down Payment

Save some money from every paycheck for your home fund and get help from a professional to explore down payment assistance options.

Get Pre-Approved

Pre-approval from a lender helps you know how much money you can borrow for your home loan. That way, you can start figuring out your budget.

Decide What's Most Important to You

Make a list of things you want in a home and decide if they're Must-Haves or just Nice-To-Haves. Then, talk to your agent about it before starting your search.

Pros | Cons

Let's connect to so you have expert advice on how to reach your homebuying goals this year.

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