Fairwinds West Hills Completes Huge Remodel

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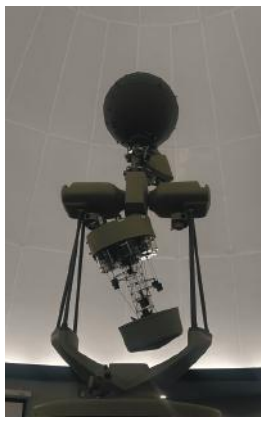
Soraya Brings Beethoven to the Stage

See page 7

CSUN Reopening Planetarium Stars Show to the Public



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North Valley News

Volume 2, Number 24 February 15, 2024

Serving Porter Ranch, Northridge, Granada Hills & Chatsworth

News in Brief

Lost and Naked Hiker Rescued in Chatsworth

The Fire Department rescued a lost and naked hiker Monday night. Other hikers heard calls for help at Jeffrey Mark Court near Devonshire Street around 8:44 pm and called 911. LAFD responded by ground and air and located the source of the cries - a naked man sitting in the brush. They hoisted him from the remote area and took him to a helicopter landing area. The hiker was then taken to a local hospital with minor injuries.

What Is an Atmospheric River? Next One Comes in Saturday

With the record setting rain Southern California recently experienced, there was much talk on atmospheric rivers. So, what exactly are they? Atmospheric rivers are regions of moisture in the sky (think rivers in the sky) that the Earth's atmosphere carries from the tropics near the equator to the poles. When these atmospheric rivers reach land, they release the massive amounts of moisture they hold, producing extreme snow and rain. Atmospheric rivers are a major factor in the formation of clouds and thus, have a significant influence on air temperatures and various components of the climate. While there is another atmospheric river anticipated to hit this weekend, it will be less severe than the one that just hit Los Angeles.

Aliso Canyon Health Research Study Meeting February 20

The UCLA Health Team in charge of the Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study will have their third community meting on Tuesday, February 20 from 6 to 7:30 pm. The study examines short- and long-term effects of the disaster, and routine emissions on the health of communities in proximity to the Aliso Canyon underground gas storage facility.

Throughout the study, UCLA will share preliminary findings with the community. At this meeting, UCLA will present preliminary findings from analyzing birth records. Topics will include analysis methodology, preliminary findings and potential health implications.

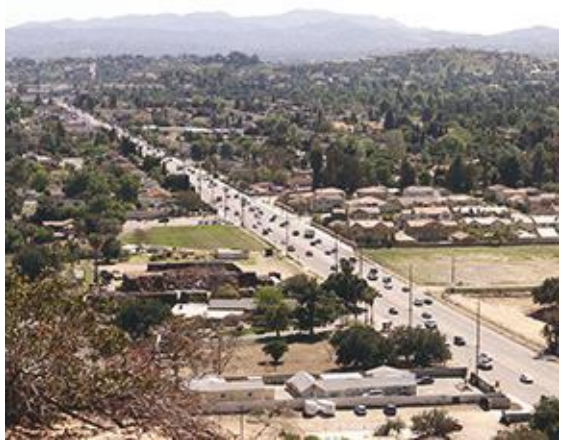
The in-person meeting will be held at the Double Tree Hotel, Roma Hall, 9777 Topanga Canyon Blvd. in Chatsworth. To register and attend on Zoom visit https://alisostudy.ucla.edu/events/meeting-3/.

CalTrans to Undertake Massive Topanga Cyn Blvd. Overhaul

Caltrans has announced a project to repave Topanga Canyon Boulevard (State Route 27) and upgrade curb ramps, pedestrian push buttons, traffic signals and bus pads in the San Fernando Valley and through the unincorporated area of Topanga. The work zone spans more than 18 miles on State Route 27 (SR-27) from Pacific Coast Highway in Topanga to Devonshire Street in Chatsworth.

The project will include the following:

- More than 60 lane miles of Topanga Canyon Boulevard will be repaved.
- The project will upgrade curb ramps and crosswalks to current ADA standards. There will be enhancements to ADA elements that include 26 traffic signals, 235 repaired and replaced curb ramps, and nearly 30 pedestrian push buttons.
- Upgrade approximately 40,000 linear feet of guardrail.
- Additionally, the project will add more than 20 landscape control locations, nearly 50 transit stop improvements and two bicycle drainage gates.



Residents and businesses located near the highway are advised to anticipate noise, vibrations, and dust associated with construction.

Work will occur during the daytime and nighttime and a schedule will be released at a later date. Closures are weather-permitting and subject to change. Motorists should expect delays and are advised to use alternate routes during construction hours. Additionally, motorists can view current traffic closures before they leave for their destination by visiting the Caltrans Quickmap. Residents and businesses located near the freeway are advised to anticipate noise, vibrations, and dust associated with construction activities.

Valley Cultural Announces Summer Concert Line-Up

The Valley Cultural Foundation has announced the line-up for the free 2024 Summer Concerts on the Green Season. All concerts begin Sunday afternoon at 5:30 pm.

The series kicks off June 16 in Warner Park with Linda & Friends - tribute to Linda Ronstadt.

June 23 brings The Soul Juice Band to the Park, and June 30 Strange Days tribute to The Doors rocks the stage.

It feels like the first time... that Foreigner Unauthorized tribute to Foreigner will perform on July 14.

Twisted Gypsy Fleetwood Mac tribute band will play on July 21, and Red Corvette tribute to Prince comes to the park July 28.

The Bon Jovi tribute band Wanted will rock the park August 4, followed by The Fabba Show on August 11 with their ABBA playlist.

Red Corvette plays tribute to Prince on July 28.

Swifties will love Blank Space's tribute to Taylor Swift on August 18, and Aeromyth tribute to Aerosmith closes the season out on August 25.

There will be a July 4 Extravaganza event with fireworks, but no talent has been named yet.

The Valley Cultural Foundation produces the concert series, as well as the Movies in the Park and their annual Taste of the Valley food and wine fest scheduled for April 18 at Topanga Social.

For more information on the concert schedule or upcoming events visit valleycultural.org.

COMMUNITY

Community Calendar

CHATSWORTH: Enjoy an afternoon of bingo with the Chatsworth Women's Club at 21000 Plummer Street. Reservations are $25 a person and can be made with Bonnie at 747-237-7751.

ONLINE: The City of Los Angeles will present a free webinar on FAFSA and students loan on Saturday, February 24, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The expert-led webinar will teach students how to navigate the world of financial aid and provide information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the College Scholarship Service Profile and More. Register at bit.ly/FAFSAandLoans.

GRANADA HILLS: Join the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society on Tuesday, February 20, at 9 am for a mid-week bird watching walk in beautiful O'Melveny Park in Granada Hills. The Audubon Society offers this free guided birdwatching and nature walk on the third Tuesday of every month. Meet in the parking lot at 17300 Sesnon Blvd.. Bring binoculars if you have them, water and appropriate shoes. For more information, call Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 or email carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org.

PORTER RANCH: Save the date for the Los Toros annual Charity Golf Tournament on Monday, April 15. Register now and play golf for a cause. The tournament supports the Chatsworth Kiwanis and their scholarships and children's programs. For more information visit chatsworthkiwanis.org or call (818) 489-6421.

CHATSWORTH: Join the Chatsworth Library for a Thursday matinee and enjoy the film No Time to Die - another in the Bond franchise. The film will be screen on Thursday, February 22, at 1:30 pm. Enjoy the movie, popcorn and spring water. The library is located at 21052 Devonshire Street.

WOODLAND HILLS: United Chambers of Commerce is taking reservations for their State of the County lunch and board installation on Thursday, March 21, at 11 am. Supervisor Kathryn Barger of Los Angeles County's Fifth District and Supervisor LIndsey Horvath of Los Angeles County's Third District will be guest speakers. The event will be held at the Woodland Hills Country Club, 21150 Dumetz Road. Register at unitedchambers.org.

PORTER RANCH: The Porter Ranch Library present "LA Made Presents: Robot Building and Other Animatrics" on Saturday, February 24, at 12 noon. Overview and demonstration of full-size entertainment robots and animatronics. Live speaker with multiple examples of robots, materials used to make robots, and the description of different processes to make robots. The audience will learn how robots and animatronics are made with props and photographs as well as explain 3D modeling and printing, fabrication, and puppeteering of the creations. Paul Thompson is an artist with 30+ years of experience in the entertainment industry and 25+ years of experience teaching make-up artistry to adults. The library is located at 11371 Tampa Avenue.

People in the News

District Attorney Candidate Forum Missing Gascon, But Not His Critics

The United Chambers of Commerce held their District Attorney Candidate Forum on February 13.

The forum was well-attended by local residents and community leaders. However, one major player was missing.

Current Los Angeles District AttorneyGeorge Gascon was a no-show in the slew of candidates who took to the stage to discuss their goals for the office should they win. Many comments were about how Gascon has failed in the job.Audience response was mixed. Debra Archuleta, Jonathan Hatami, Maria Ramirez and John McKinney appeared to have been most well-received, based on the audience reaction. Dan Kepelvitz stirred up the crowd and actually was booed several times. Security was tight at Shepherd Church where the meeting was held.

Attending the UCC District Attorney Candidate Forum at Shepherd Church in Porter Ranch were above, front row from left, candidates **Maria Ramirez,Jeff Chemerinsky, Debra Archuleta, Dan Kapelovitz** and **David S. Milton**, far right Los Angeles City Councilman John Lee. Back row from left, KABC's **Frank Mottek**, who moderated the event, candidates **Nathan Hochman, Craig Mitchell, Eric Siddall, John McKinney and Lloyd Masson** and far right **Mike Stafford**, United Chambers Vice Chair. The event was sponsored by the United Chambers of Commerce.

Premier America Credit Union, headquartered in Chatsworth, has welcomed **Jason Wolkove**, above, as its Chief Technology Officer. As CTO, Wolkove will spearhead the team that drives member-centric innovation and creates integrated solutions. Wolkove brings over 20 years of technology leadership experience to Premier America and its 100,000 members, having led enterprise-wide innovation initiatives at notable institutions such as CIBC and Scotiabank (Toronto, Canada). He has designed and delivered best-in-class cloud solutions and led large scale, multi-national teams focused on contact center strategies. Wolkove led the integration of the J.P. Morgan Chase card portfolio for Scotiabank and was responsible for one of Canada's largest migrations to IP Voice for their Contact Centers.

"I will definitely beat Mr. Harvard Egghead, Brad Sherman. I'm just glad Taylor Swift isn't running."

Mr. Harvard Egghead

Brad Sherman (D)

California 32nd District

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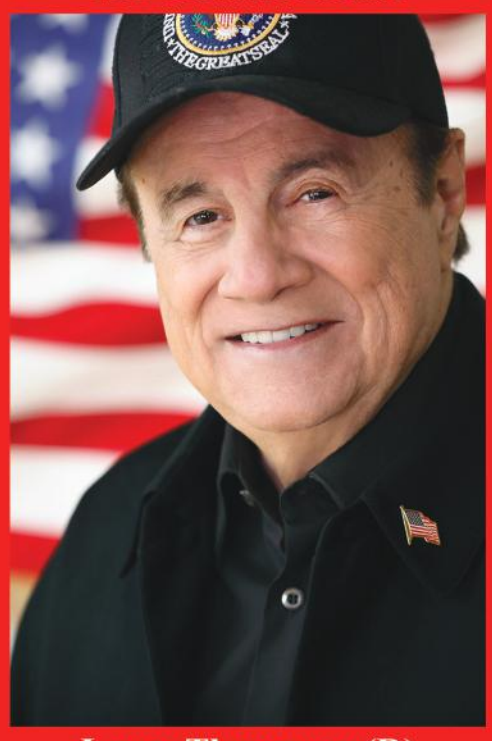
Bell Canyon
Beverly Glen
Brentwood
Canoga Park
Chatsworth
Encino
Malibu
North Hills
Northridge
Pacific Palisades
Reseda
Sherman Oaks
Studio City
Tarzana
Topanga
West Hills
Winnetka
Woodland Hills

Mr. Common Sense



Larry Thompson (R)

LarryThompsonForCongress.com

Paid for by Larry Thompson For Congress

VIEWPOINT

• Remember if you lose a sock in the dryer it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.

• I am the beginning of the end, the end of every place. I am the beginning of eternity and the end of time and space. What am I? (answer is...e).

• After his divorce, Jones realized poker isn't the only game starting with holding hands and ending with financial loss.

• This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

• Borrow money from a pessimist, they don't expect to get it back.

• Artifical intelligence usually beats real stupidity.

• Your fingers have fingertips, but your toes don't have toe tips. Yet you can tiptoe but not tipfinger. Go figure?

• Richard Reichman sends in this possible bumper snicker: I have kleptomania but when it gets really bad I just take something for it.

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Word on the Street

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

Another hate crime. Another shooting. Wednesday was one for the books.

I love my job, but the days when we report this kind of news just make me sick.

There seems to be no reason for the Kansas City shooting at presstime. It was a celebration of the Super Bowl win, and time for joy and community. There were over one million people out in the streets to welcome the Chiefs back home. With only one killed it was a miracle, though still a horrible tragedy.

What happened in the L.A. City Council chambers, however, points to the ongoing and increasing antisemitism we are seeing here in our own community. When does it stop?

Who engenders this kind of hate? I go back time and time again to one of my favorite lines from the musical South Pacific - "You've got to be taught."

But who is fomenting this? Prejudice mouthed at home? White Supremacist groups? Social media?

There are groups fighting antisemitism. There are churches and temples and community organizations the Anti-Defamation League combating hate.

Locally the West Hills-based David Labkovsky project is going into our schools to teach about the Holocaust - and the lessons learned therein.

They are reaching children at their most impressionable ages. Teaching them through paintings done by David Labkovski what can happen when hate is out of control. Teaching them at a young age to be tolerant and understanding.

As they get older and latch on to social media, that's when they need to be taught how to filter what they read. What's real and what's fake news. It only gets increasingly harder at all ages as they are inundated with mass amounts of information on every screen they look at.

We just started the season of Lent, a time of reflection and prayer.

Let's make it a time to really reflect ourselves, to see what prejudices we hold, what grudges, what preconceived ideas about people and groups.

Because the end to hate has to start somewhere. Let it start with us. Let us not tolerate hate in any form. Let us wipe prejudice from our thoughts and words.

And let's teach our children to do the same.

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BUSINESS

How to Overcome Job Hunt Burnout

As the job search continues for unemployed Americans, a new national survey reveals a massive case of job hunt burnout.

The Insight Global survey, conducted among recently unemployed American adults actively seeking employment, found that a competitive job market, a lack of applicable jobs, low self-confidence and an inability to interview well are all contributing factors in job candidates' lack of success in securing employment.

Fifty-five percent of respondents have been searching for a new job for so long that they are completely burnt out, and many are willing to take drastic measures to save and make money in the meantime: More than two in five would live at home with their parents; the same amount would rather create an Etsy business or thrift flip than send out another blast of resumes, and of Gen Z respondents, 44% admit they would rather get a sugar daddy or sugar mommy than apply to more jobs.

"It's no wonder that so many unemployed Americans are feeling unmotivated – between several years of a volatile job market, headcount reductions, budget cuts, hiring freezes and a total overhaul of the way companies are running their businesses, it can feel downright impossible to get back on track," says Bert Bean, CEO of Insight Global, a leading national staffing company.

To beat job hunting burnout and get back in the game, Bean recommends the following tips:

• Rethink Remote: Of millennials surveyed, 21% feel they're still unemployed because they will only apply to remote job opportunities. To greatly expand your options, be open to hybrid and on-site work opportunities.

• Stand Out: Over a quarter of those seeking full-time work feel that there are no jobs available for their skill set or there is too much competition for available jobs. To stand out in the crowd, get creative. Whether it's creating an interactive resume, dropping by the office for a quick hello, or just not stopping until you hear back, doing whatever it takes to get your foot in the door improves your chances of success.

• Find Small Wins: Job hunting can be exhausting and disheartening. Find things you can accomplish that help you feel productive and remind you what it feels like to win again. It could be getting in shape, completing a 5K, journaling for a month, or making five new daily connections on LinkedIn.

• Don't Write Anything Off: Interestingly, 26% of men surveyed said they are still unemployed because the jobs they hear back from are beneath them. Leave preconceived notions like this at the door. Many companies offer opportunities for promotions and upskilling, so look past the specific outlined role and imagine future possibilities with that organization.

Fifty-five percent of respondents have been searching for a new job for so long that they are completely burnt out, and many are willing to take drastic measures to save and make money in the meantime.

• Reach for Resources: When trying to get back in the workforce, don't go at it alone. Companies like Insight Global can help you shape up your resume, brush up on interview skills, boost your confidence and connect you with companies and opportunities that fit the bill. Leverage events like the Be The Light tour, Insight Global's free-to-attend mobile career center in select cities around the country. Accepting help from professionals will put you in a better position for landing a job. To learn more, and for additional tips and resources, visit insightglobal.com.

"While searching for employment that fulfills your professional goals can feel overwhelming, changing the narrative and thinking about the market in new ways can connect you with additional opportunities and position you to succeed," says Bean.

(Statepoint)

VICA Endorses Councilman John Lee

Councilmember John Lee's re-election campaign has announced the endorsement of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA), highlighting Lee's commitment to economic growth and local business support.

"VICA is proud to endorse Councilmember John Lee. When it comes to jobs and the economy, Councilmember Lee is an absolutely critical voice at City Hall. He is a champion for policies that make Los Angeles more competitive, help local businesses thrive, and grow our economy," said Stuart Waldman, President of VICA.

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COMMUNITY

VOTE MARCH 5

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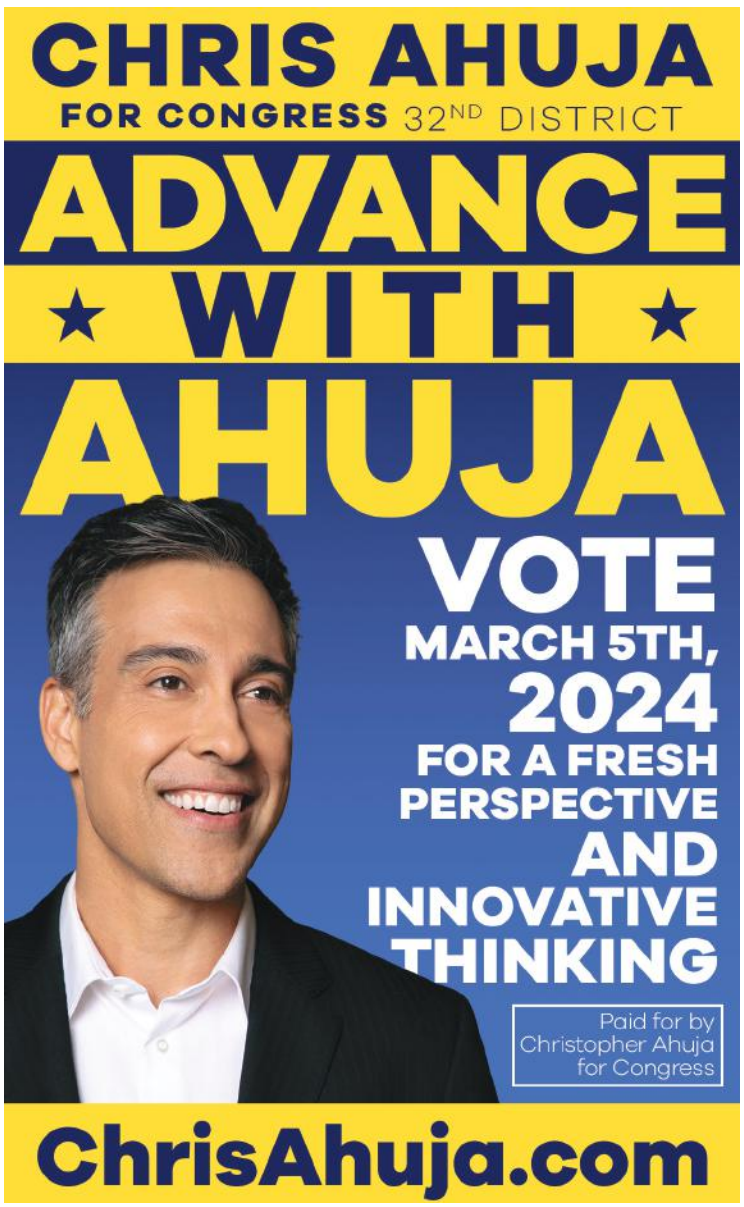
Federal, State, County and Local Election



Candidate for Congress Larry Thompson.

Candidate Statement

Larry Thompson for Congress... May Sanity Prevail

I am Larry Thompson. I am running for Congress in CA 32. I'll be quick. Are you undecided about voting for me or Brad Sherman? I ask you to consider the following:

Our great country is dangerously divided with insane confusion, anger, and fear. Sherman has been in Congress for 28 years, and here we are. I'm your new experienced option. I'm your Sanity Man.

Sanity means taking back for PARENTS the input and control of their children's education.

It means closing the damn BORDER now. Follow this one simple fix. Open borders cause undocumented immigrants to enter our country and put pressure on housing, social services, schools, police, wages, prices, more crime, less hospital care, more sex trafficking, more pollution, more arguing, crowding, and of course the enormous flow of FENTANYL that is killing our citizens. Our government also needs to send a consistent message of strength and diplomacy to the world to insure PEACE.

Sanity means standing tall with ISRAEL and Jews worldwide. Period.

Being very tough on CRIME. We need to support our men and women in blue and prosecute criminals according to the letter and spirit of the law.

The party is over. Lower all TAXES and eliminate some. Stop printing money and lower the NATIONAL DEBT by a "minimum" of 10% each year until it's paid off.

Raise the HOMELESS up off the streets with compassion. House and treat them in our existing, closed, mental institutions, drug addiction facilities, and veteran homes. Strongly suggest to all religious organizations to co-sponsor our Good Samaritan efforts.

We need additional tax incentives for our FILM INDUSTRY to be more competitive and stop film productions from leaving our state...or country.

We should carefully move into the future with BITCOIN and Crypto and not try, as Sherman has, to put the technology genie back into the bottle.

So, you can see I am running to awaken, organize, and UNITE the dissatisfied Democrat and canceled Republican voters. As a Republican, I want them, along with the No Party Preference voters, to no longer feel alone, defeated, and scared. I want them to have courage, stand up, and join me and those who share their values and vision of our country.

I want EVERYONE to simply use Common Sense with Common Civility to find Common Ground to solve our Common Issues.

For more about me and my campaign please visit: www.LarryThompsonForCongress.com.

All statements are the personal opinions of the candidates who submitted them and do not reflect those of Valley News Group.

Campaign Coverage

Andreas Farmakalidis Candidate for LAUSD District 3

Andreas Farmakalidis, a renowned music educator and business owner, will be on the ballot for LAUSD District 3 School Board.

As an independent candidate, Farmakalidis brings a fresh perspective and a passionate commitment to revitalizing music and arts programs in schools. With a proven track record of success and a vision for a brighter educational future, Farmakalidis aims to provide every child with a well-rounded education. Farmakalidis is not just an exceptional educator and business owner; he is also an accomplished movie composer, having contributed music to several renowned films.

His talent and dedication earned him a prestigious Spotify and Hollywood Music Award. Beyond music, Farmakalidis enjoys cooking, specializing in Greek and Cypriot cuisine. He is happily married to Alexis Lopez, a former American Idol finalist, and together they embrace the joy of parenting their two-year-old daughter, Mavis. Known for his unwavering hard work, dedication, and passion, Farmakalidis has always championed causes that are close to his heart, especially education.

With a diverse and vibrant community in LAUSD District 3, Farmakalidis recognizes the unique challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. His commitment to this district is rooted in the belief that every child, regardless of their background or circumstances, deserves a high-quality education that equips them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life.

"I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of education in the lives of young people and the broader community," says Farmakalidis. "It is our responsibility to invest in our schools, teachers, and students. By ensuring safe and welcoming learning environments and providing necessary resources and support to our educators, we can achieve equity and inclusivity in our educational system. Every child should have a fair

(Continued to page 15)

Natalie Stutzman will conduct Beethoven and Dvorak at The Soraya.

The Atlanta Symphony Brings Beethoven to The Soraya

The Atlanta Symphony, under the direction of conductor Natalie Stutzmann, will bring a program featurng Beethoven and Dvork to The Soraya on Saturday, March 9.

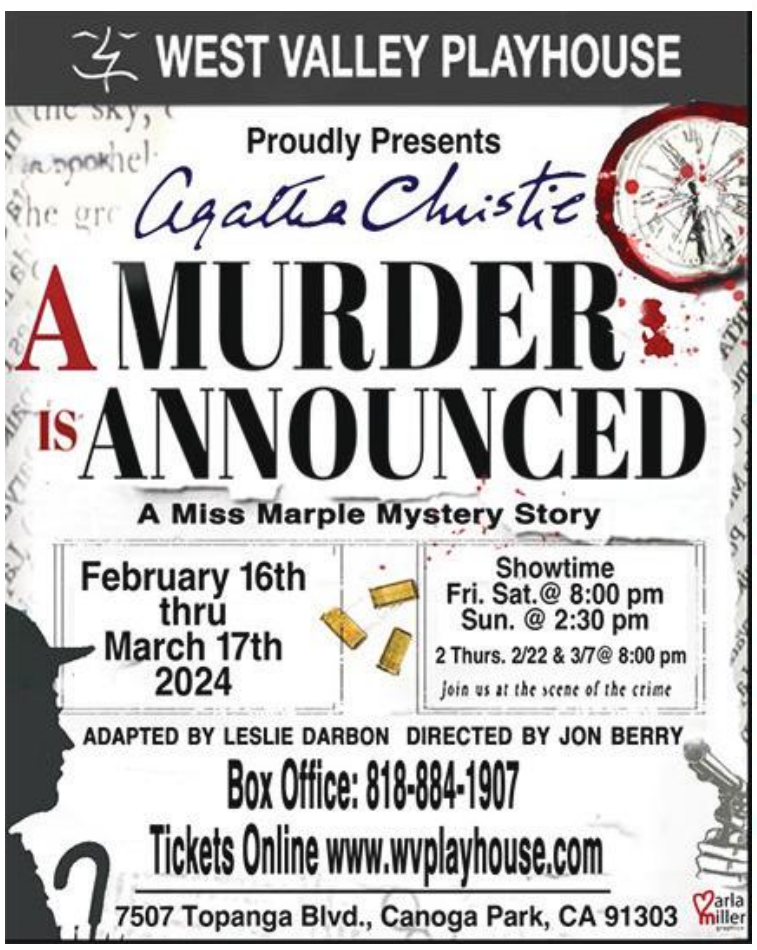
Nathalie Stutzmann broke the gender barrier at the very pinnacle of classical music when she became only the second woman in history to lead a major American orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

Now the orchestra's Music Director, leads Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 73, Emperor, known for being one of Beethoven's most demanding works, featuring Van Cliburn gold medal award-winning pianist Haochen Zhang. The concert also features Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 in E minor, From the New World.

Proclaimed "probably the most important conductor of our time" by Die Süddeutsche Zeitung, Stutzmann made big news in the opera pit in 2023 with her spectacular debuts in Wagner's Tannhäuser at the Bayreuth Festival. BR Klassik observed having "never experienced such a standing ovation at a pit debut in Bayreuth," while Oper Magazin described Nathalie as a true possessor of "the Bayreuth gene," Abendzeitung München "a revelation" and Die Süddeutsche Zeitung "a wonder." She also made "a splashy debut" and "the coup of the year" for The New York Times with her unanimously acclaimed double debuts at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for The Performing Arts (The Soraya) is an award-winning, state-of-the art 1,700-seat theatre opened in January 2011 as the Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC). Since its inaugural season, The Soraya has presented over 500 artists and companies across the genres of music, dance, theater and film and is a highly in demand location for filming and rental events.

Tickets to the Atlantic Symphony performance range from $49 to $149. For tickets and a full schedule visit thesoraya.org. The Soraya is located a 18111 Nordhoff Steet in Northridge.



VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

Black History Month Celebration at Museum of the SFV

Pacoima Historical Society and The Museum of the San Fernando Valley will host a Black History Month celebration on Sunday, February 25, from 11 am to 4 pm.

The event will feature visual and oral histories of African Americans in the San Fernando Valley through speakers, art and music.

The Museum of the San Fernando Valley is located a the historic Rancho Cordillera del Norte, 18904 Nordhoff St. in Northridge. For more information call (818) 347-9665 or email info@theuseumsfv.org.

Callum Turner and Austin Butler star in WWII series.

Masters of the Air Sputters A Bit, When it Should Soar

By Katie Sterling

Callum coverage seemingly continues during this week's newest entertainment review but, this week flips from the water to the sky! In his latest project post *The Boys in the Boat*, Callum Turner trades in his oars for aircrafts as part of the 100th bomber group in Apple TV's latest, *Masters of the Air*.

This nine-part series set during World War II is intended to complete the trilogy of previously produced war stories from Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks. Following the epic productions of *Band of Brothers* and *The Pacific*, *Masters of the Air* is the first to tackle the saga from the perspective of those that fought in the sky.

Those tuning into the series are abruptly introduced to Major John "Bucky" Egan (Callum Turner) and Major Gale "Buck" Cleven (Austin Butler) as they are toasting each other and deep in conversation about what dangers lie ahead of them. It's not your typical slow intro into a war series, and I actually had to double check that I hadn't accidentally started the series on a later episode. However, you quickly learn that this series makes frequent use of disjointed scene jumps when not focusing on the crux of the show's narrative: the air scenes.

Navigator Major Harry Crosby (Anthony Boyle) joins the duo and the audience soon learns the narrative will be driven by his voiceover and his first-person perspective tales on being a part of the 100th bomber group, also known as the "Bloody Hundredth" for how often this division experienced major tragedies.

What follows (thus far, in the three episodes already dropped) are your typical wartime stories: navigating missions, questioning morality and bonding with your fellow brethren. It's at times equally fascinating and fairly dull, missing that certain essence that previous Spielberg/Hanks collaborations shined with.

However, some of the strongest scenes are those that, unsurprisingly, take place in the air as the men embark on their missions against the Nazis. While the airstrikes are of course faked, you don't want them to necessarily look fake and it's best if you take in those graphics with a grain of salt. What really shines in those moments are the interactions between the various members of the squad and their respective duties while airborne. History buffs will already know how the various cogs of the machine work in tandem, but the actors thrive in portraying their characters with equal parts pride, fear and partnership. They perfectly embody the vulnerability of being miles above the ground and how their small part of the plane lends itself to such a bigger picture. It's these scenes that make *Masters of the Air* worth watching, seeing as how when the narrative is back on solid ground, it tends to drag; the literal highs and lows of the show one could say.

It's at times equally fascinating and fairly dull, missing that certain essence that previous Spielberg/Hanks collaborations shined with.

With only a third of the episodes dropped, there are plenty more opportunities for this series to shine, but as of yet, *Masters of the Air* is quite simply an average wartime saga. While the series is certainly backed by big names, *Masters of the Air* delivers a captivating storyline, but dare I say, never quite reaches the heights it intends to.

Masters of the Air is currently streaming on Apple TV.

Murder Mystery Opens at Playhouse

Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced*, a Miss Marple mystery, opens February 16 at the West Valley Playhouse. Directed by Jon Berry, the show runs through March 17.

Tickets are available at wvplayhouse.com, by calling (818) 884-1907 or at the box office, 7507 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Canoga Park.

The Reel History of the Valley

By Martin M. Cooper

The Saturday Matinee Saga

Throughout the San Fernando Valley, and indeed across America, the squirming of little bodies gradually began to cease; lights dimmed; children's conversations slowly faded away; and the crunching of popcorn and rustling of candy wrappers filled the auditorium…it was time for the Saturday matinee.

The Panorama Theatre (1949-2001), near Van Nuys Blvd. and Nordhoff St., offers a perfect example of the Saturday kiddie matinee, featuring several cartoons, a feature film (usually a Western filmed in the San Fernando Valley), and the much-anticipated latest chapter of the serial.

1914's The Perils of Pauline was the most popular of the silent era serials.

Other Valley theaters with Saturday kiddie matinees: the Encino Theatre's (1949-1976) Saturday matinees often featured games for prizes; The Lankershim Theatre (1947-1991) became a Pussycat Theater and then a Spanish-language house; and the Reseda Theatre (1948-1988).

Part of the Saturday mid-morning allure was "The Club," with theater managers printing and distributing membership cards, offering prizes to club members, and discounting such items as the indispensable decoder ring or machine-signed autographs of their favorite serial stars.

Much as youngsters enjoyed the overall experience, including a few hours of freedom from parental oversight, it was the weekly serial that many film exhibitors felt brought the kids in for what were called kiddie matinees.

Most of the serials were Westerns, science fiction or detective films. Jungle-themed serials were also popular, as were slapstick comedies. One of the first serials was 1914's *The Perils of Pauline*, produced by William Randolph Hearst in 20 episodes. Sadly, the original is a lost film; the only existing version is a nine-chapter French condensation released in 1916. In 2008, the Library of Congress' National Film Registry selected *The Perils of Pauline* as "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant."

But serials really came into their own with the advent of sound. From 1929 to 1956, the heyday of film serials, more than 225 multi-episode adventure pictures kept youngsters coming back week after week for their Saturday thrills.

Most of the serials were produced by Universal Columbia, Mascot, and Republic studios. Republic acquired Mascot, leaving the serial field to the other three studios. Perhaps considering the genre to be beneath them, these major studios never produced a sound serial: MGM, Warner Bros., 20th Century-Fox, and Paramount.

Just a few of the more memorable titles: *Jungle Menace* (Columbia, 1937); *Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars* (Universal, 1938); *The Phantom Creeps* (Universal, 1939); *The Green Hornet Strikes Again* (Universal, 1940); *The Valley of Vanishing Men* (Columbia, 1942); *G-Men vs. the Black Dragon* (Republic, 1943); *The Purple Monster Strikes* (Republic, 1945); *The Monster and the Ape* (Columbia, 1945); *Don Daredevil Rides Again* (Republic, 1951); and *Adventures of Captain Africa* (Columbia, 1955)

What red-blooded American boy or girl could miss these big screen adventures?

The storylines were often quite inventive…and confusing. For example, this is the plot of *The Iron Claw* (Columbia, 1941) as synopsized in the book *To Be Continued…* by Ken Weiss and Ed Goodgold: "Culver Benson, after quarreling with his two brothers Anton and Roy over the division of a huge fortune in hidden gold, is murdered by the mysterious 'Iron Claw.' Newspaper reporter Bob Lane and Patricia Benson, Anton's niece, investigate.

"*The Claw* makes several attempts on Pat's life for reasons that Bob can't quite understand. To add to the confusion, two other outlaw gangs as well as the greedy Benson brothers are also after the gold. In the end, however, Bob unmasks The Claw, locks up the crooks, and reveals that Pat is the heiress to the entire hidden fortune."

Each week more than casual interest was focused on the last scene, when our hero is shot, about to be pushed over a jungle waterfall, or crushed by an alien being. Somehow, the following week, at the last second, our hero ducks behind a wall shielding him from the baddies' bullets, grabs a convenient branch that saves him from the roiling waters, or slips through the fingers of the malevolent being from another planet.

Commando Cody held the exalted rank of Sky Marshal of the Universe. This 12-chapter Republic Studios serial released in 1953 was one of numerous space-themed movie serials.

The sole imperative of the serials was simple: the good guys are saved, rewarded, or betrothed, while the bad guys are destroyed or rendered impotent.

In fact, there's a clear familial relationship among early comic books, Saturday morning serials, episodic radio dramas, and today's "comic book" programs ranging from *Indiana Jones* to *The Mandalorian*.

It must have been quite a letdown for mid-century youngsters, coming into the midday reality after spending several hours in the presence of cowboys, space venturers, spy catchers, and heroes with supernatural powers on a Saturday morning.

Universal released Don Winslow of the Coast Guard in 1943, a timely World War II patriotic serial. After Pearl Harbor, Naval Commander Winslow is assigned to ferret out fifth columnists on the mainland. He learns that The Scorpion, a fascist sympathizer, is in the pay of the Japanese and is planning to lay the groundwork for a Japanese attack on the U.S. West Coast.

Martin Cooper, President of Cooper Communications, supervised public relations for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences for 10 years; held executive positions with Disney and Universal Studios; and served as Chairman of the Board of the UCLA Film & Television Archive. An award-winning author, he has written four books, two of them on the SFV and is currently researching his next book on the Valley.

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Fairwinds West Hills Completes Huge Remodel

The newly remodeled grand entry and staircase at the senior living community.

Fairwinds West Hills recently completed a major remodel of all their common areas, including the living room, dining room, gyms, salon, activities room, hallways and outdoor spaces.

Everything was updated in a cream and teal decor, with comfortable seating, new lighting and new pictures.

A grand reopening was held on Valentine's Day attended by residents and their families, local leaders and residents who enjoyed cocktails, lunch and live music and learned about the community and its amenities and reputation for "five star fun."

Fairwinds is located at 8138 Woodlake Avenue. Call (818) 254-8119 for more information.

Fairwinds General Manager Elvis Gutierrez, above, left, with Sales Director Joe Flores.

The "bistro" dining room.

A delightful outdoor gathering space.

Fairwinds offers its residents a wide choice of living arrangements, from studio apartments to a two-bedroom deluxe unit. The beautiful building set among gardens and a walking path offers a large community room where the Wii tournaments, opera lectures, book club and more take place, residents gather with family and friends and a full schedule of activities is held.

The monthly rent at Fairwinds includes all the niceties of a hotel - with weekly housekeeping and linen service, cable TV, all utilities except for phones, and three meals daily in the elegant dining room. Meals are offered from a full menu each seating with wait service. There is a full service salon on site, as well as a library, computer room and laundry facility.

GOOD FRIENDS.
GOOD FOOD.
GOOD TIMES.

Being together has never meant more. And Fairwinds – West Hills gives residents enriching and soul-filling social connections—from a warm and caring staff, to daily group events, and friend-making moments. All tailored to each individual, in the safest environment possible.

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What is the Burnt-Toast Theory?

We've all experienced minor inconveniences in life. We've all burnt our toast at one point or another. These problematic, and oftentimes petty moments, have led to the burnt-toast theory.

So, what does it mean? The burnt-toast theory is the idea that something as small as burning your toast could actually end up saving your life or allowing something better to happen. A small, unexpected derailment in your schedule or routine can have bigger effects than simply the inconvenience of "burning your toast."

Essentially, the burnt-toast theory promotes the idea that everything happens for a reason. Burning that piece of toast may have delayed you five minutes, thus missing your usual bus, which momemts later ended up in a car accident. Although burning your toast was a minor inconvenience, the end result was something of far greater value.

While the above example is on the extreme side, theorists claim that it is really more of a metaphor for "not sweating the small stuff." The burnt-toast theory offers a mental tool to get back on track when something goes wrong and not let the minor inconvenience derail you moving forward. It's about practicing gratefulness, and not annoyance.

Courtney Morgan, LPCC and founder of Counseling Unconditionally, a mental health therapy practice, states that the burnt-toast theory "helps us resist spiraling when we run into an obstacle, as it helps us make meaning of hurdles we may experience."

The theory is that by practicing gratitude for the moment of inconvenience, it allows you to be more intentional moving forward with both your thoughts and your actions. It's a matter or persisting through setbacks and coming out stronger when faced with a challenge.

Well, sometimes easier said than done to practice this mindfulness in the moment, experts suggest starting a gratitude journal or declaring one thing you were grateful that happened earlier that day.

Therefore, when inconveniences inevitably occur, you can approach them with a bit more grace and realize the setback may be a gift, rather than a burden.

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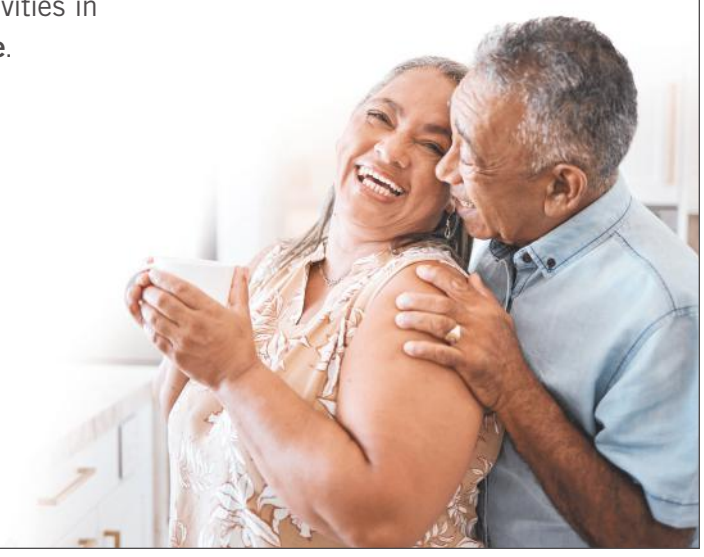

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REAL ESTATE

Neighborhood Council Meetings

Northridge East Neighborhood Council will meet on Wednesday, February 21, at 7 pm.

This meeting will be held on Zoom.

For meeting agenda and Zoom link visit nenc-la.org.

Northridge South Neighborhood Council will meet Thursday, February 22, at 7 pm. The in-person meeting will be held at Northridge Middle School, 17950 Chase St. Visit northridgesouth.org.

Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will meet on Thursday, March 7, at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at Granada Hills Charter, 10535 Zelzah Ave.

Visit ghsnc.org

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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

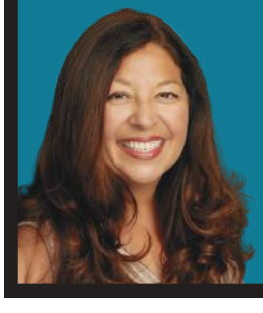
Save some money from every paycheck for your home fund and get help from a professional to explore down payment assistance options.

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.



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

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PINNACLE ESTATE PROPERTIES, INC.

Renting vs. Buying: The Script Has Been Flipped

By Beau Wirick

When you tell someone you rent, they sometimes reply with, "Isn't renting a house just flushing money down the toilet?" My answer is, "Potentially." You are putting money into someone else's pocket instead of accumulating net worth for yourself. But the question is, compared to what? When you compare what you're paying for rent to what you would pay to buy a house in this high-price, high-interest-rate environment, I see toilets on both sides of the fence.

I will say that this would be a different conversation if it was pre-2022 when prices and interest rates were substantially lower. But for my wife and I, the stars just never aligned for a home purchase during the good ole days. Banks don't really like giving actors 30-year loans since you never know when your next paycheck will arrive. When we started new careers, every lender I spoke to needed to see two years of tax returns before they would consider approving us for a mortgage. In 2022, we were finally ready to buy a house - just in time for the steepest interest-rate-hike regimen the Federal Reserve has ever embarked upon.

We were living in Tennessee at the time, and we were about to put an offer down on a beautiful little house. This would have been a horrible decision, because at the time, I didn't know that I would be moving back to California, six months later, to work for Morton Wealth. But even though I didn't know the future, something inside me couldn't do it. The math just "didn't math." Now that we're back in California, and interest rates are substantially higher, the math is "mathing" even less.

The average price of a home in California is about $750k, which makes my stomach drop slightly.

But the price of a home isn't the only factor that makes purchasing expensive. First-time buyers usually have to borrow around 80% of the home price through a mortgage. With interest rates around 7% today, you would have to pay nearly $4,000/month in principal and interest to buy an average home in California. That's after spending $150k on the down payment, not including property tax, homeowner's insurance, or potential HOA fees.

So how much would you be "flushing down the toilet"? If you assume a property tax rate of 1%, maintenance costs of 1% of the home value, and $200/month for homeowner's insurance (which seems harder to get in California with each passing month), you're flushing $1,450 down the toilet each month. But then you break down that $3,991 mortgage payment into interest and principal. Over the next seven years, 84% of your monthly payment ($3,360 on average) will be "flushed down the toilet" in interest payments if you're not able to refinance in the meantime.

Sure, you can write off the interest on your personal income tax, so let's say you're only flushing 2/3 of it down the toilet. That's about $2,250/month spent on after-tax interest, added to the $1,450/month spent on property tax, insurance, and maintenance. Congratulations, you're a homeowner! You're flushing $3,700/month down the toilet to live in an average home.

Compared to what? The average rent in California is $2,750/month. Just to be clear, this is NOT normal. The monthly costs of buying vs. renting are usually quite close to one another, though it varies by region.

In the Greater Los Angeles/Orange County area, it will cost you 115% more per month to buy an average house than to rent. That's more than twice as much. The only other time in history we saw anything like this was during the housing bubble of 2005–2006.

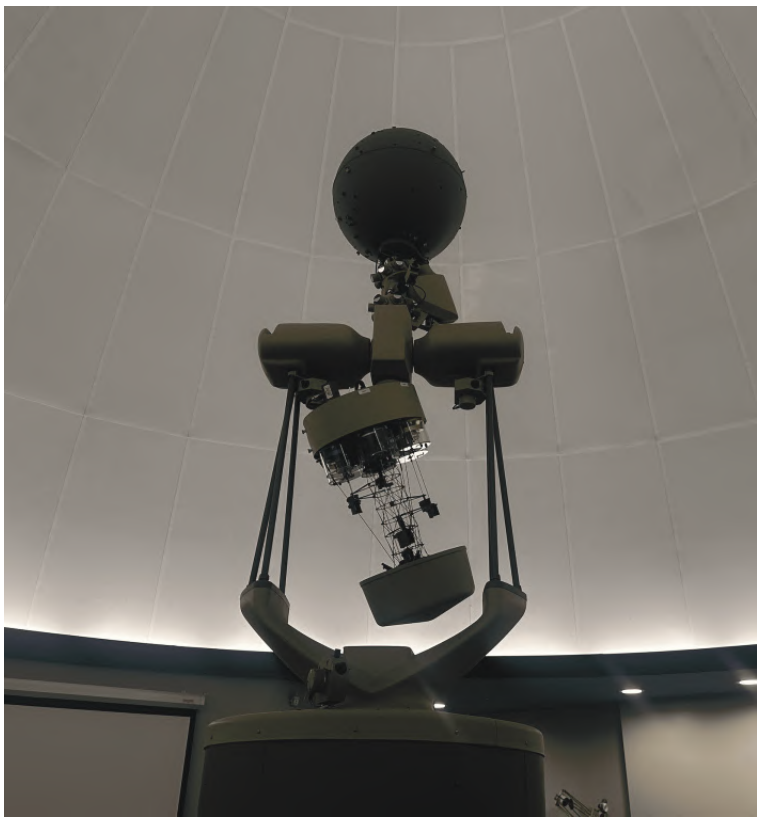
When you compare what you're paying for rent to what you would pay to buy a house in this high-price, high-interest-rate environment, I see toilets on both sides of the fence.

Don't get me wrong, real estate is a good investment. It's one of the asset classes that we spend a lot of time and effort on for our clients. But just like any other investment, the price that you pay matters. And right now, the price I would pay for a primary residence is just too high.

If you're renting, like I am, you can keep your down payment, spend far less every month than you would if you bought, and invest the difference in other assets with better valuations. And when something breaks (say, a toilet), you can just call your landlord.

Disclosure: Information presented is for educational purposes only and is not intended as financial or investment advice. Consult with your financial advisor before implementing any transactions and/or strategies concerning your finances. Although information contained in this report is from sources deemed to be reliable, Morton makes no representation as to the adequacy, accuracy or completeness of such information

Beau Wiric is a Wealth Advisor with Morton Wealth. He can be reached at bwirick@mortonwealth.com or (818) 222-4727.



The Spitz 512 Star Projector used by CSUN's Planetarium.

CSUN Reopening Planetarium Stars Show to the Public

The reopening of California State University Northridge's planetarium offers visitors a chance to look up at the stars and track the constellations, something not everyone can do in a big city like Los Angeles.

This February, the university's Donald E. Bianchi Planetarium is again hosting star shows for the public for the first time since the COVD-19 pandemic closed the program in 2020. CSUN's Department of Physics and Astronomy is hosting shows on Fridays this month, on February 16 and February 23, at 6 pm and 7:15 pm.

Debbie Klevens in the Department of Physics and Astronomy said anyone familiar with previous shows will notice some changes in the new offerings.

"They're using all the same equipment, it's just that the hosts are different," Klevens said. "It's more refined. The host has a bright personality, so she gets everybody going and excited about the show."

"Star Shows" offer a basic introduction to the stars, providing a tour of where familiar stars are located, as well as a look at some interesting constellations.

The show includes overlay projections of famous constellations and a discussion about the historical lore surrounding those constellations, including stories that have been passed down through generations originating with tales from ancient Greece.

The show also offers information about the planets and their annual motions, sharing insights on how to find stars, constellations and planets in the night sky. The projector that we have is a Spitz 512 Star Projector," said Tanner Rosenberg, an instructional support technician in the physics and astronomy department. "It's totally analog. There's a bulb in the center of a big ball that projects stars onto our 40-foot dome.

"It can do more than just show the stars," Rosenberg continued. "It can show some of the coordinate systems we use in the sky, the path the sun takes, how the planets and sun move throughout the year and how the stars move throughout the day and night, providing a visual perspective of what the sky would look like from different points on the Earth."

The Department of Physics and Astronomy is hosting its grand reopening shows this month, but is also openingthe planetarium doors for education purposes. Department officials hope that CSUN students, along with members of the greater community, will use the planetarium as a resource, and are inviting private groups or schools to book appointments to view planetarium shows free of charge.

"When I was a kid, I didn't get to go to a planetarium show," said Rosenberg. "I got to go to science museums and things like that though, and that was really inspirational for me to see. We'd like the planetarium to bring in community members and inspire them."

Admission for the February shows is free. Doors open 15 minutes before the show and seating is limited.

Those interested in scheduling a group visit, email planetarium@csun.edu or visit csun.edu/science-mathematics/physics-astronomy/planetarium.

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REAL ESTATE

Help Clean CD12 With Volunteers Cleaning Communities

Volunteers Cleaning Communities and members of CD12 will be cleaning pine needles and debris from Devonshire Street to the 405 Freeway on Saturday, February 24.

This will all be done in a two-hour period from 9 to 11 am.

Volunteers will be assigned a street and partners to work with as you clean both sides of the assigned street going east and west - ridding the curb and sidewalk of all pine needles and trash.

Bags will be tied with top flaps and then placed near the curb against a pole for easy pick up, in a red zone if there is one.

Meet at 9 am at Mason and Devonshire and look for volunteers in yellow vests.

Volunteers Cleaning Communities is a north valley grass roots non profit whose goal is to clean valley streets, illegal dumping sites, abandoned homeless encampments, an adopted section of the LA River (between Owensmouth and Winnetka), Sepulveda Basin (Haskell Creek) and various train tracks.For more information on the clean up call Jill Mather at (818) 519-7567.

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Mayor Bass and LAPD Release End of Year Crime Statistics

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore announced crime statistics this week for the City of Los Angeles in the year 2023.

"We know that many in our city do not feel safe, which is why we are working urgently to address and prevent crime," said Mayor Karen Bass. "After a series of flash robberies, we launched an organized retail taskforce to address why some Angelenos feel unsafe in our shopping centers. Since the inception of the task force, there has been a 33% reduction in flash robberies and the task force has affected 128 arrests, of which they've recovered 15 firearms, and recovered more than $150,000 in stolen property. We know that there is much more work to be done and we will continue our work to ensure all Angelenos feel safe."

The following was released by the Los Angeles Police Department:

Homicides

In 2023, there were 327 homicides, which was a 17% reduction in homicides as compared to 2022.All geographic bureaus within the LAPD saw a reduction in homicides.

Operations - South Bureau experienced the largest decrease at 23% fewer homicides in 2023 as compared to 2022.

The homicide clearance rate citywide average was at 76% with Operations - West Bureau leading the department at a 95% clearance rate. Operations - South Bureau had an 81% clearance rate followed by Operations - Valley Bureau at 80% and Operations- Central Bureau at a 64% clearance rate.

Violent Crimes

Citywide violent crimes showed a 3.2% decrease in 2023 compared to 2022; however, Citywide Part 1 Crimes showed a 1.9% increase from 2022. Citywide, there was a decrease of 10% (-127) in victims shot in 2023 compared to 2022.

Operations - Central Bureau had the largest decrease of 14% (-65) in victims shot in 2023 compared to 2022.

A catalyst to this decrease in shooting victims was in part to 8,154 firearms seized by the LAPD. The LAPD identified 1,232 of those seized as "ghost guns." This is 474 fewer than the 1,706 ghost guns identified in 2022, a decrease of 28%.

Property Crimes and Thefts

The Citywide property crimes statistics showed a 3.5% increase in 2023. Motor vehicle thefts increased by 2% as compared to 2022. The Organized Retail Theft Task Force made 128 arrests in Los Angeles. During those arrests, LAPD recovered 15 firearms and more than $150,000 in stolen property. The Task Force has contributed to a 33% reduction in flash robberies.

Since the inception of the task force, there has been a 33% reduction in flash robberies and the task force has affected 128 arrests, of which they've recovered 15 firearms, and recovered more than $150,000 in stolen property.

Traffic

The majority of crashes that caused fatalities are attributed to irresponsible and illegal acts behind the wheel. Driving under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or some other intoxicating substance, driving at speeds which are inherently unsafe, and driving while distracted by texting or other means are all too often the causes of these traffic crash-related deaths.

Felony hit and run traffic crashes resulting in a death increased by nearly 23%.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI)-related crashes resulting in death increased by 32% percent.

Traffic crashes where a pedestrian was struck by a vehicle resulting in a death increased by almost 13%.

Other Important Statistics

36% decrease in homeless related homicides in 2023 from 2022.

10% reduction in Part 1 crimes involving houseless individuals. Part 1 crimes include criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault and burglary.

26% decrease in gang related homicides in 2022, and 33% decrease in gang related homicides in 2021.

Join the North Hills West Neighborhood Council

The North Hills West Neighborhood Council is looking for North Hills West stakeholders who want to help shape the future of their community. You can join the board or attend the monthly meetings to find out what's happening in your community and weigh in on local decision-making. Monthly meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 PM / New Horizons 15725 Parthenia St, North Hills. If you would like more information and a Board member application, visit nhwnc.net.

Farmakalidis for School Board

(Continued from page 6)
shot at achieving their dreams."

Furthermore, Farmakalidis is dedicated to fostering strong partnerships between schools, parents, businesses, and the broader community. Recognizing that collaboration and engagement are essential to address the unique needs of the district, he aims to create opportunities for learning, growth, and success for all. In addition to his commitment to academic excellence, Farmakalidis firmly believes in the importance of the arts in education.

He envisions a District 3 where every child has access to a comprehensive arts education, regardless of their background or neighborhood. By investing in music, visual arts, theater, and dance programs, and providing students with the necessary tools and resources, Farmakalidis aims to inspire creativity, foster innovation, and provide a powerful means of self-expression. The arts play a crucial role in developing critical thinking skills, enhancing cultural awareness, and building empathy by exploring diverse perspectives.

"I am running for LAUSD District 3 because I believe that, with the right leadership, we can make our schools even better, provide our children with a brighter future, and strengthen our community as a whole," says Farmakalidis. "Together, we can work towards a brighter, more equitable future for all our students."

In the upcoming election, LAUSD District 3 voters have a choice to make. Farmakalidis stands out as the only candidate who prioritizes bringing music and arts back to schools, recognizing the profound impact they have on students' development and growth.

The stakes are high in this election.The right candidate can shape the future of education in LAUSD District 3, ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education and the opportunity to thrive. Andreas Farmakalidis's proven dedication, commitment, and passion make him the ideal candidate to lead the way.

For more information on Andreas Farmakalidis and his campaign, please visit www.lausd3.com Follow him on social media @afarmakalidis.

All statements are the personal opinions of the candidates who submitted them and do not reflect those of Valley News Group.

THE SORAYA

STRIKE A Chord

Sat Mar 9 | 8pm

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Nathalie Stutzmann, Music Director and Conductor
Haochen Zhang, Piano

$49 to $149

Nathalie Stutzmann broke the gender barrier at the very pinnacle of classical music when she became only **the second woman in history to lead a major American orchestra**. In a program featuring Beethoven and Dvořák, Stutzmann—the orchestra's music director, leads Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 73, *Emperor*, known for being one of Beethoven's most demanding works, featuring **Chinese prodigy pianist Haochen Zhang**.

Nathalie Stutzmann

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Haochen Zhang

TheSorayaStage | TheSoraya.org