Princess Kate's Diagnosis Shines a Light on Women's Cancers

See Page 10

Nighttrek Report: What to See in the April Sky

Page 13

UCLA Buys West Hills Hospital; Renamed UCLA West Valley Medical Center

See Page 12

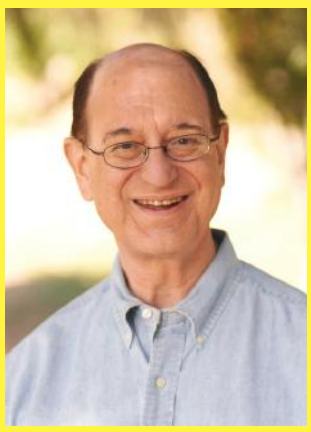
North Valley News

Volume 2, Number 27 April 4, 2024

Serving Porter Ranch, Northridge, Granada Hills & Chatsworth

News in Brief

Congressman Brad Sherman to Host Town Hall



Congressman Brad Sherman will hold a Telephone Town Hall on Thursday, April 11, from 7 to 8 pm. The Congressman will make opening remarks and then answer questions on any issues facing Congress. To participate call (855) 920-0548 any time during the Town Hall. RSVP at bradsherman.house.gov/townhall.

How Do You Steal $30 Million?

Heads are shaking over the recent heist in Sylmar where thieves made off with $30 million in cash Sunday night. Burglars were able to enter the building - and the safe where the money was stored. They broke through the roof of the Gardaworld building on Roxford Street. It is unclear how they avoided the alarm and breached the secure building. It is also unclear why there was no guard protecting the business, owned by a Canada-based security company. Speculation is that it was an inside job, as few people would have known the large sum that was kept in the safe. The LAPD and FBI are both investigating the theft, which could be the largest cash heist in L.A. history.

Beloved Valley Deli Closing Its Doors

Weiler's Deli West Hills closed its doors for good on Thursday, March 28. Owner Simon Mesriani told *Valley News Group* that after the pandemic business suffered. His landlord increased the rent, and like many businesses post-COVID, it was just too difficult to keep the restaurant, located at 22323 Sherman Way, open. Mesriani, aged 71, also said he decided to call it quits because the restaurant business is seven days a week, 10 hours a day. "There is life after a restaurant," he joked, "I'm starting a new chapter." He also said that "All good things come to an end. I love all my loyal customers who've come to said goodbye, and love and appreciate my wonderful staff." He wanted to let readers know that Frank's Weiler's Deli, owned by his brother and located at 21161 Victory Blvd. at Variel Avenue, was still open and going strong.

Celebrate Day of the Horse Sunday in Chatsworth

If you have never attended "The Day of the Horse" event, you are in for a fun-filled afternoon learning about the importance of the equestrian community to Chatsworth. If you have been to the event before, then you will experience some new additional activities that will make the event even more fun for you, your family and friends.

Everyone will have the opportunity to experience horsemanship demonstrations throughout the day, be treated to complimentary food (hamburger or hot dog and chips) and beverages (as it lasts), learn how to line dance, enjoy s theater showing Western movies made in Chatsworth, and choose from various activities like horseshoes, cornhole, painting a wooden horse, pin the tail on the donkey, decorate a stick horse, etc.

There is no registration for the event – just come and enjoy – Sunday, April 7, from 11 am to 3 pm at Ride On Therapeutic on Topanga Canyon Blvd. There is no parking at Ride On. There will be a shuttle from the north end of the Chatsworth Train Station (across the street from Ralph's Market) that will take you to and from the event.

This free event is sponsored by the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council and Councilman John Lee's office CD12.

More information is available at chatsworthcouncil.org.

PHOTO: JERRY ENGLAND

Celebrate all things equestrian on Sunday!

Blockfest Returns April 13 to "Main Street"

Chatsworth Blockfest community celebration returns to the North Valley on April 13. The Chatsworth Porter Ranch Chamber, Councilmember John Lee, PCW Ultra and the Chatsworth Kiwanis bring the annual free festival to Devonshire Street - the "main street" of Chatsworth.

From 10 am to 6 pm enjoy food, drinks, music and fun for the whole family.

Featured will be a margarita and beer garden, kids zone, live music, food trucks, live professional wrestling, games, a ComicCon fest, art and photo ops.

Over 150 vendors will showcase a variety of merchandise and services to view and purchase.

The main stage will have a DJ starting at 10 am. From 10:15 am to 12:45 pm Ransomed will play 45-minute sets. From 1 to 3 pm enjoy Goldstein Party of 5, and at 3:30 Old Dawgs, New Tricks takes the stage.

Chatsworth Porter Ranch Chamber President, Nicholas Montaño added, "This is a great way to celebrate our local community, bringing families and Chamber members together to support local businesses and non-profits. We want to build on last year's success, making it bigger and better."

The festival will take place on Devonshire at Eton and DeSoto.

For more information on the event, a complete schedule and list of vendors visit chatsworthchamber.com/blockfest.

COMMUNITY

ATTENTION!
High School Seniors &
Current College Students

The GELB Charitable Foundation is now accepting Scholarship Applications for FALL 2024

$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION IS BASED UPON:

- STUDENT'S FINANCIAL NEED
- COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
- COMPLETED APPLICATION
- STUDENT MUST BE ATTENDING A UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL in the San Fernando Valley

* See Application for additional required documents

Submit completed applications between May15th and June 1st
Transcripts by June 21st

SCAN ME!

Download an application at www.gelbgroup.net/community

Rickey & Robbi Gelb Charitable Foundation, Inc.
6200 Canoga Ave., Suite 201 Woodland Hills, CA 91367 818-377-2277
Request an Application: scholarships@gelbgroup.net

20TH ANNUAL
DAY OF THE HORSE
APRIL 7, 2024 11-3PM
AT RIDE ON THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP
10860 TOPANGA CANYON BLVD
THEME: WILD HORSES OF CHATSWORTH
FREE TO THE PUBLIC

VARIOUS HORSEMANSHIP EXHIBITIONS, VENDOR BOOTHS,
FREE FOOD ON PREMISES! (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)
CRAFTS FOR THE YOUNG-AT-HEART

PARK AT THE CHATSWORTH TRAIN DEPOT
A BUS WILL TAKE YOU TO AND FROM THE EVENT - NO PARKING AT RIDE ON

*** NON-EVENT ANIMALS ARE NOT PERMITTED ***

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.CHATSWORTHCOUNCIL.ORG

CHATSWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

THE CHATSWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
CD12 COUNCILMEMBER JOHN LEE
AND
RIDE ON THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP
PRESENTS THIS 20TH ANNUAL EVENT

JOHNLEE
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 12

Community Calendar

GRANADA HILLS: Granada Hills Charter High School will hold a free college fair on Saturday, April 6 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Speak with representatives from colleges around the world. There will be a series of workshops set at 9 am, 9:50 am and 12:40 pm. Granada Hills Charter High is located 10535 Zelzah Avenue. Register at ghctk12.com/college-fair.

CHATSWORTH: Planned nighttime closures of Topanga Canyon Boulevard have been pushed back as Caltrans plans a construction project on the San Fernando Valley thoroughfare. The closures will allow crews to install bus pads throughout the Valley, according to Caltrans. No work will occur from April 3 through April 12. Portions of the southbound lane will be closed Monday through Friday from 7 pm to 6 am beginning April 15. The lane will reopen at 6 am each morning. The construction will impact the following intersections of Topanga Canyon Boulevard: Mayall Street, Lassen Street, Plummer Street, Prairie Street, Nordhoff Street, Gresham Street, Parthenia Street, Chase Street, Roscoe Boulevard and Strathern Street.

NORTHRIDGE: The 22nd annual Victory for Victims Walk and Run to benefit the Center for Assault Treatment Services will be held on Saturday, April 13, at Hansen Dam. CATS provides forensic medical evidentiary examination and interviews for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking and is part of Dignity Health Northridge Hospital. To register for the walk/run visit supportnorthridge.org/V4V2024.

PORTER RANCH: Volunteers Cleaning Communities will be cleaning the area at Tampa and Rinaldi on Saturday, April 6, from 8:30 to 10:30 am. Volunteers should meet at the Jack in the Box parking lot just south of Rinaldi on the east side of Tampa and look for leaders in yellow vests. For more information on this and other cleanup volunteers opportunities visit volunteerscleaningcommunities.com.

GRANADA HILLS: Take a bird watching walk in O'Melveny Park on Tuesday, April 16, from 9 am to noon. Join the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society 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.

VALLEYWIDE: The Gelb Scholarship Foundation is offering $1000 scholarships to students who are attending a university, college or trade school in the San Fernando Valley. Scholarship consideration is based on the student's financial need and community involvement. Applications must be submitted between May 15 and June 1. For more information and applications visit gelbgroup.net/community.

GRANADA HILLS: The Granada Hills Library will hold a book sale on Saturday, April 27 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm in their Community Room. The library is located at 10640 Petit Avenue. All proceeds support the library!

NORTHRIDGE: Discover a fresh connection with the works of William Shakespeare at Northridge Library on Saturday, April 6, at 3:30 pm. Librarians will use Shakespeare's quotes, monologues, sonnets, swordplay, and even a bit of music, to explore his exciting contributions to drama, writing, and language. They will also discuss his insights into the big, messy experience of being human. After, join them for a talk-back session with the cast. The library is located at 9051 Darby Avenue.

GRANADA HILLS: The Granada Hills Chamber is producing a Farmers Market starting April 12 at Chatsworth Street and Yarmouth. The market will be held Friday nights from 6 to 9 pm. For more information visit granadachamber.com.

PORTER RANCH: Kiwanis Club of Chatsworth and Los Toros Mexican Restaurant are hosting an annual golf tournament on Monday, April 15, at Porter Valley Country Club. Play golf for a cause - all proceeds benefit Kiwanis' projects in the area. For more information email chatworthkiwanis.org or call (818) 489-6421.

People in the News

Dr. Chander Arora

Jenna Hauss

Tisha Janigian

Commander Morales

Tammy Scher

Inspirational Women of the Valley Named

In one of the Valley's most important awards programs recognizing women leaders of the San Fernando Valley, the United Chambers of Commerce's (UCC) board of directors has announced its 2024 10th Annual Inspirational Women honorees.

The United Chambers Inspirational Women Awards annually recognize women of outstanding achievement who have inspired others with their individual stories and accomplishments

Established by the United Chambers and UCC member Vahid Khorsand in 2015, the comittee seeks nominees who have not always been in the spotlight or who have not been previously acknowledged - women who could be described as low profile or behind the scenes workers who have overcome unique challenges in finding ways to serve their communities.

The Inspirational Women awards recognize women not only for their successes but for how they have inspired others, served as mentors and, through their contributions, made the San Fernando Valley a better place. Honorees are selected from a wide array of industries including, but not limited to, business, social services, health care and medicine, education, community advocacy, arts, government and non-profit.

The 2024 nominees will be honored at a luncheon May 9 at the Hilton Woodland Hills. For tickets visit unitedchambers.org.

Dr. Chander Arora, a distinguished professional with wealth of experience spanning more than two decades in the healthcare industry, currently serving as the Program Director of Biotechnology at LA Mission College.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Arora impacted global women's health initiatives by collaborating with the World Health Organization in Geneva. She has been involved in various international projects, showcasing her dedication with positive impact at a global scale. She has secured significant grants, including one from the Department of Labor. She pursued for advancements in the area within LACCD, establishing LA Mission College as trailblazer with the recent approval of a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomanufacturing.

Jenna Hauss has spent the past 18 years working with older adults, and is dedicated to the continued growth of enhancing community-based services to best meet the demands of the San Fernando Valley's most vulnerable populations, encouraging intergenerational connections to promote healthy aging and age-friendly communities.

Hauss has worked as a Social Worker and leader through a variety of clinical and community-based settings. In 2018, Jenna became the Director of Strategic Initiatives & Community Based Services at ONEgeneration, supporting the strategic vision and growth opportunities that led to expanding resources that address the valley's most pressing issues, including affordable housing, food insecurity, and access to mental health support. Her most recent transition to President and CEO in 2021 comes with an extensive history at ONEgeneration.

Tisha Janigian is the single mother of two teenage boys and the President and Founder of the nonprofit SHE IS HOPE LA whose mission is to envision a world where single mothers are universally empowered, societal and institutional barriers to their success are dismantled, creating an equitable landscape where single mothers and their families thrive. Their mission is to break the cycle of instability by empowering single mothers and their children, guiding their journey from survival to a state of enduring success. Janigian is also the Broker Owner of SHE IS

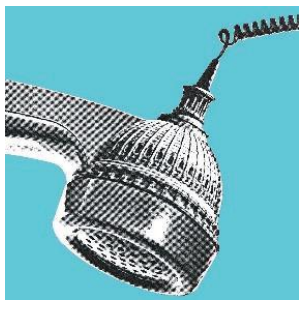
(Continued to page 7)

Congressman Brad Sherman

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

THURSDAY ✦ APRIL 11, 2024

7:00 – 8:00 pm



A Telephone Town Hall operates like a large conference call, where you will hear Congressman Sherman's opening remarks and then ask questions on any issue facing Congress.

To Participate call (855) 920-0548 any time during the Town Hall. RSVP at: BradSherman.house.gov/TownHall

VIEWPOINT

• Did you hear that Boeing has a new company slogan? It's, "When one door closes, another one opens!"

• Fun fact from our waiter friend! Did you know that "tips" actually stands for something? That extra money we put on top of our bills breaks down to mean: "to insure prompt service."

• Arson? Oh, you mean crime brulee?

• Regular reader Steven Bercsi begs the astute question, "Before we work on artifical intelligence, why don't we do something about natural stupidity?"

• Sign seen at a local deli that had us in stiches! "Cured Meats: A salami takes his first steps since the accident. A prosciutto learns to forgive."

• A yawn is an honest opinion expressed openly.

• Michelle Goldwater complains that the evening news is where they begin with "Good evening," and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

• One of our buddies asking for a loan - and getting denied - wondered aloud "Why is it that a fool and his money never appear when you need a handout?"

• Do you know why there are no Jim Jones jokes? Ans> The punchline would be too long.

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Word on the Street

By Kathleen Sterling

Forty-two years ago I couldn't have imagined that *Valley News Group* would have five papers under its wing, and that the community would have grown to what we see now.

When I started *Warner Center News* in 1982, the Marriott was a cornfield, The Promenade was the premiere mall and no one over the hill had heard of Warner Center.

But it grew into its own, and the papers grew along with it.

I've seen the old Harry Warner Ranch give way to a condo complex. The cornfield turn into a hotel. Rocketdyne torn down. The Village created. The pavilion in the park that hosts the free concerts erected. Gemco became Target. Saks became AMC.The Pussycat Theatre became the Madrid. All big changes.

Westfield owned everything. Now Kroenke does.

It's been an amazing journey. *Warner Center News* started as a monthly paper, but as Warner Center grew so did the paper.

There have been amazing highlights in this career...

I sat down one-on-one with President Gerald Ford when he visited the Marriott Hotel and asked to "put his dogs up" - his feet on a chair because he was so tired from the tour.

I have covered Bush 41 and Clinton - both of whom came to the valley.

Diego Rivera talked art at a Bob Voit-sponsored event I brought my mother the artist to.

I've interviewed locals and businesses and celebrities who had ties to the valley - everyone from Rick Steves to Stevie Nicks.

I've seen local luminaries come - and go... Norm Kravetz, Bob Voit, Rose Goldwater, Michael Miller, Clyde Porter - all who helped build Warner Center into what it is today.

We've worked with all the politicians - from Joy Picus to Laura Chick, Dennis Zine to Bob Blumenfield and Brad Sherman.

I've seen so many people do so many good deeds - from the Heart Run & Walk team to Rotary, Valley Women's Center, Haven Hills, Pacific Lodge - all the nonprofits that take care of those needing help right here at home.

Along with the highlights have been the lows. Struggling after the

Forty-two years ago I couldn't have imagined that Valley News Group would have five papers under its wing, and that the community would have grown to what we see now.

'94 earthquake when buildings literally fell into the street and business stopped for weeks. The 2008 Great Recession. Woolsey Fire. COVID.

The really tough stories. Suicides. Human trafficking. Bankruptcies. Deaths.

And we've covered it all.

I really must give a shout out to some of the people and businesses that have been with us since the beginning.

Realtor John Moriarty wrote a column in the very first edition - and has contributed more all these years.

Weiler's Deli on Victory believed in us and advertised in our first issue ... and has continued to advertise with us. Kudos to owner Frank Mesriani for still going strong.

Realtor Sherry Keowen came aboard as an advertiser in the early 90's and hasn't missed an issue yet.

Health Editor Janey Rifkin started writing for us in the early 90's and still contributes today... in her 90's!

And of course Katie Sterling came along in 1990, and started her newspaper career at the office at her own little desk, writing stories about school and kittens and more - great training for her job today as Editor of our Encino paper.

We've covered so many stories over 42 years I couldn't possibly remember them all. I'm in the process of binding each year's papers into books, so I can look back at all our stories with smiles, tears, laughter and pride.

And with all the stories I've covered, all the awards won, all the crazy times and wonderful times and sad times - it's the people I've met, written about, gotten to know, shared the good and bad times with, that are what I remember.

It's to the West Valley community - all the people that make us a community - the residents, CEO's, office workers, servers, valets, bank tellers, writers, dreamers and builders - that I owe it all to. Because without the community making news, we have nothing to report.

So as Bob Hope said, "Thanks for the memories!" ... and all the stories to come.

Need to Pick Up a Paper? Visit These Merchants

Northridge Library
Chatsworth Library
Nat's Diner
Brent's Deli
Ralphs Markets
Vons Markets
Albertsons
Logix Credit Union
Jon's Market
Starbucks Vineyard
IHOP
Soleil Hotel
Northridge Hospital
North Valley Chamber
Granada Hills Chamber
Handel's Ice Cream
PorterValley CountryClub
Knollwood Pharmacy
Los Toros
Ihop – Reseda
Whole Foods Cafe
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BUSINESS

Digital Dangers and Protecting Your Business

By Hormazd Dalal

Progress never stops. As the world becomes increasingly digital with the rise of AI and machine learning, it is clear we live in an era where technology governs every aspect of our daily lives. Businesses from all industries need to become more vigilant as threats to their company's stability and security are more prevalent than ever. Today, business owners must contend with safeguarding their businesses against perilous technological challenges such as rising cybercrime, ransomware attacks, and data breaches.

Rising Cybercrime: A Persistent Danger

The United States has seen a relentless surge in cybercrime incidents, including data breaches, ransomware attacks, and phishing schemes. These tactics pose significant risks to businesses across all sectors. In a recent article in USA Today, an FBI report predicted the cost of cybercrime would reach a massive $9.5 trillion in 2024. Phishing was the most reported type of incident, but investment fraud was the costliest, resulting in $3.3 billion in losses.

As a business owner, it's imperative to remain vigilant and proactive. Cyberattacks result not only in immediate financial losses but also in reputational damage and a loss of customer trust.

Ransomware Attacks: An Imminent Threat

Ransomware attacks have grown more frequent and sophisticated, targeting businesses, law firms, hospitals, and local governments. These attacks can paralyze your operations and force you into a financial and emotional crisis as cybercriminals hold your data hostage for exorbitant ransoms.

Data breaches: Safeguarding Your Most Valuable Ssset

In 2020, the U.S. experienced a record high in data breaches, with billions of sensitive records exposed. The healthcare, finance, and government sectors were prime targets. Data breaches not only result in financial losses but can also cripple an organization's credibility and trustworthiness.

Your business's data is a priceless asset that must be protected at all costs. Cyber threats loom large over businesses, safeguarding your data takes priority and data security is the key to success. There are many ways to protect your business and boost your cyber security.

Train your employees: Cyber-Vigilant Dmployees are Your Best Protection Against Information Security Threats.

Every employee should know proper email safety and usage, how to treat business information at the office and at home, and what to do if a cybersecurity breach occurs. Use regular communication and ongoing training to reinforce your cybersecurity policies.

Protect your endpoints: Firewalls Can Prevent and Deter Hackers and Stop Cmployees from Browsing Restricted Websites.

Install and update firewall systems on every company issued employee device: computer, smartphone, and networked device.

Hire a trusted IT solutions provider: Preventing, monitoring, and resolving data breaches is a necessary part of business operations. The peace of mind that comes with the knowledge that your business is protected by an expert in the field is invaluable. Having the right people keeping your business safe from ever-evolving cyber threats is the best solution.

Today's digital landscape requires protection from ongoing cyber threats. It is no longer an option but a necessity. Cyber security is the key to success. For your business to thrive, protecting your data is of the utmost importance.

Hormazd Dalal is the Chief Executive Officer of Castellan, Inc, a trusted managed IT solutions provider, located in Calabasas, CA. He can be reached with questions about this article at 818-789-0088 or via email at hormazd@castellan.net. You can also visit www.castellan.net for more information.

New "Ensemble" Apartments Opening August for CSUN Students

A new apartment complex catering to students at CSUN is on track to open for residents in August 2024, according to UrbanizeLA.

The project, built by West Los Angeles-based Symphony Development, is located on a 1.5-acre site at 9530-9546 N. Reseda Boulevard, where it replaced a post office and an adjoining parking lot.

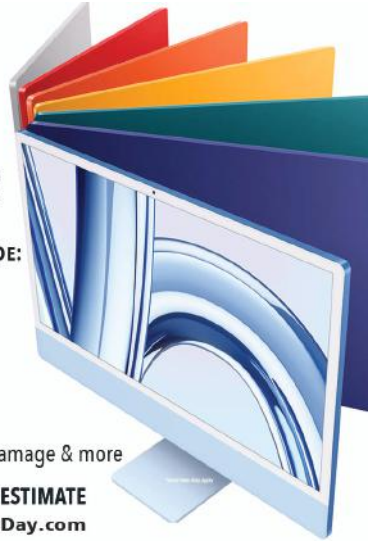
The new four-story building will feature 118 studio, one-, two- and four-bedroom apartments above roughly 5,700 square feet of ground-floor commercial space and basement parking for more than 200 vehicles.

According to the leasing website, prices for shared accommodations start at $995 per month, while private rooms begin at $2,250 per month.

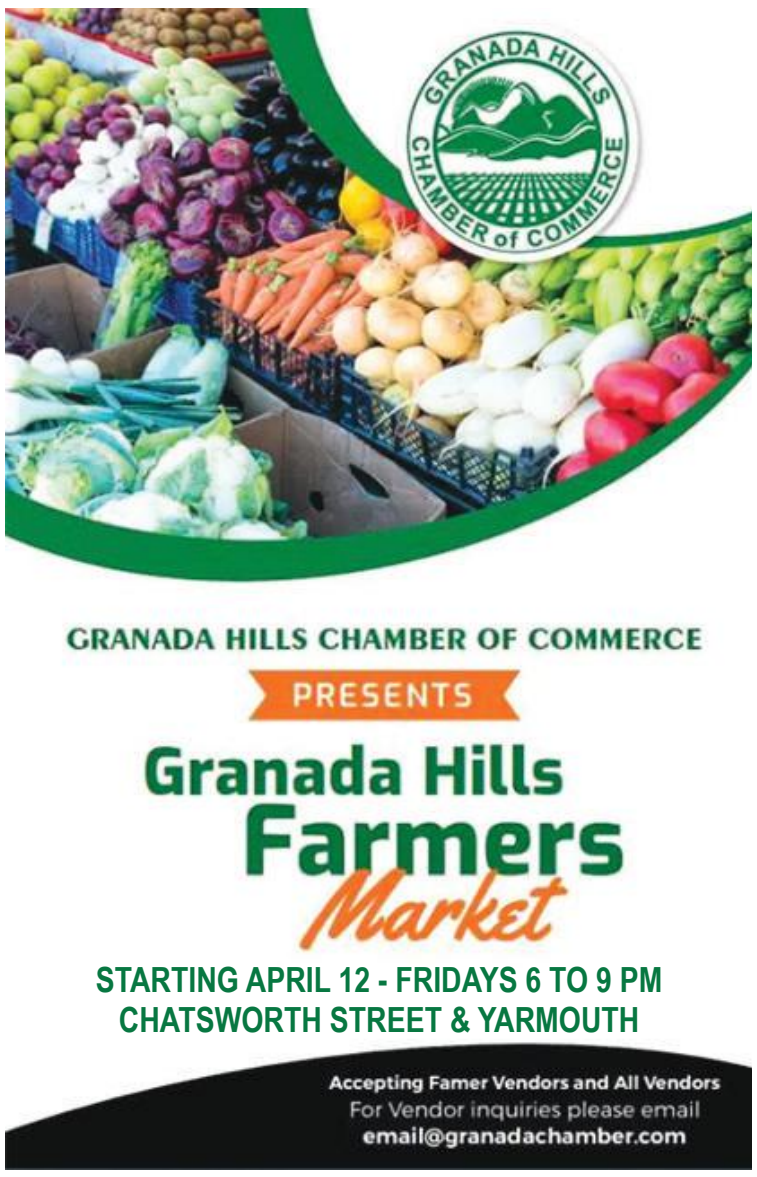
Steinberg Hart designed the apartment complex, named Ensemble, which is a contemporary low-rise structure featuring a central courtyard with a swimming pool, a paseo, a rooftop deck, and fitness rooms.

For more information visit ensemblenorthridge.com.

*New Vehicle Loans - As low as 5.99% APR (Annual Percentage Rate) is our best auto loan rate on approved credit and up to 125% financing on New Vehicle purchases and refinances from another institution, for a maximum 24-month term, and includes a 1% discount for Automatic Payment (AutoPay). Rate subject to increase if AutoPay is discontinued. Advertised rate and financing is based on creditworthiness and may not be available to all recipients; other conditions may apply. Additional rate and financing conditions apply for new auto and truck loans $200,000 and greater. Refinance of existing Logix loans excluded from this offer unless you take a $5,000 cash out (must meet our loan-to-value requirements) or pay a $249 fee. Actual interest rate offered may be higher and a down payment may be required depending on applicant's credit rating and other underwriting factors. In some instances, Logix may require borrowers to purchase Guaranteed Auto Protection on new and used auto loans. Maximum 17.99% APR. Monthly payments at 5.99% APR for a 24-month term are estimated at $44.32 per $1,000 borrowed. "New Vehicle" means the current and prior model year with less than 10,000 miles. Logix finances vehicles purchased through franchised dealerships only (those affiliated with a major brand such as Ford, Chevy or Toyota). Auto loans are available only in AZ, CA, DC, MA, MD, ME, NH, NV and VA. Logix membership required. Rate is accurate as of 4/3/2024 and is subject to change. **For qualifying borrowers. Borrowers may elect to defer the first payment due date for up to 90 days from loan funding date, subject to credit approval; interest will accrue during the 90-day payment deferral period. Logix Smarter Banking is a registered trademark of Logix Federal Credit Union.



VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT



CSUN Looking for Next Music Artist

88.5FM The SoCal Sound is looking for Southern California's hidden gem artist, and that could be you!

The public radio station, a service of CSUN and Saddleback College, is holding a competition to discover young and emerging artists — for a chance to be featured on air! Whether you're a singer-songwriter, a band or solo artist, the SoCal Sound is ready to hear from you.

To enter, you must be local to Southern California and must be a young emerging artist. Artists must submit a demo no later than Monday, April 8 by 11:59 p.m.

Each participant's submission will be featured on the station's Instagram, and listeners will weigh in via "March Madness"-style bracket voting on Instagram stories.

This competition offers a platform for young artists to gain exposure and recognition, and the winner will be featured as The SoCal Sound's local artist spotlight.

Submit demos to thesocalsound.org.

Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire Isn't Breaking Any Molds, But Has Fun With the Franchise

By Katie Sterling

There are theme songs that nestle themselves into our brains and never leave. In this case, you need only to bump into Valley local Ray Parker Jr. for certain opening chords to subconsciously start playing in your head. It's an answer to a question that we all know and thanks to the fifth film recently released in the franchise, we can all once again shout the response to "Who ya gonna call…?"

Ghostbusters has followed suit with what many iconic films (i.e *Jurassic Park, Scream*) have done by producing set "chapters" in the narrative's universe to not only maintain dedicated fans, but recruit new ones as well. The *Jurassic Park* trio of films was followed by the *Jurassic World* trio of films, while *Scream* introduced the idea of a "requel," a sort of remake/sequel to a series' original film. All of these films utilize similar narratives while incorporating a fresh batch of actors and pepper in enough nods to the original franchise to appease dedicated fans in acknowledging that we wouldn't be here now, if it weren't for what came before.

Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire is no different in that audiences are now getting the second film of what could be considered the second "chapter" of the *Ghostbusters* franchise. (We're going to ignore *Ghostbusters 2016* for now, given that the female forward remake seems to have been a one and done offset).

In the latest iteration, the Spengler family have moved to New York City after their antics in *Ghostbusters: Afterlife* and the realization that their estranged grandfather was a key player in the original Ghostbuster group. (While not completely necessary, I highly recommend watching *Afterlife* before *Frozen Empire*).

Having now adopted the responsibilities that this knowledge imparts, the family has moved back into the infamous firehouse and have become well-known city-wide for their new business venture. Yet, when the discovery of an ancient artifact that seems immune to all ghostbusting tactics unleashes an evil force throughout the city, this rag tag team is faced with their biggest task yet.

Thanks to another tactic utilized by these franchises, familiar faces join new ones and the combined knowledge of past and present are used to well, save the world. While diehard fans will no doubt be gleeful to see some original *Ghostbusters* make their return, the cast of this newest chapter is strong enough to hold their own and frankly, don't quite need any of their spotlight stolen. The Spegler family is, dare I say, perfectly cast and the foils between each character only strengthen the dynamic as a whole. As for the supporting characters, for which there are far more in this sequel, Patton Oswalt's quirky demeanor fits seamlessly into the narrative and Kumail Nanjiani is the ideal comic relief, truly stealing every scene he is in.

Ghostbusters is a film intended to be FUN and really, what idiot is going to argue about a film that incorporates a junk food-eating blob and a myriad of mini marshmallow men?!

Recent reviews have not been overall kind to this film, but when you've gotten to the point of producing the fifth or sixth iteration of a franchise, you've got to stop getting your protons in a twist!

Ghostbusters is a film intended to be FUN and really, what idiot is going to argue about a film that incorporates a junk food-eating blob and a myriad of mini marshmallow men?!

Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire, and fellow franchises, are designed to entertain dedicated audiences who, despite some bumpy spots along the road, are still showing up for their favorite characters and beloved universes. At the end of the day, they're not there to break molds, they're there to bust ghosts!

Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire is now playing in theatres.

Honorary Mayor Nancy Cartwright to MC North Valley Chamber's Heroes in Education

In a celebration of dedication, inspiration, and excellence, the North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce proudly announces the upcoming 5th Annual Heroes in Education Awards Celebration, set to take place on Wednesday, April 24. Adding to the excitement of this milestone year, the event will feature Honorary Mayor Nancy Cartwright, the Emmy-award-winning actress best known for her iconic role as the voice of Bart Simpson.

Nancy Cartwright

This event promises to be a momentous occasion, honoring 10 local leaders in education who have gone above and beyond to shape the future of our community.

Each year, the Heroes in Education event shines a spotlight on outstanding teachers, administrators, and parent volunteers whose unwavering commitment has left a profound impact on the lives of students. These individuals, nominated by students, parents, and administrators, have demonstrated exceptional dedication throughout the school year, inspiring those around them to strive for greatness.

Mayor Nancy Cartwright will be present to acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable achievements of these local educators. Anticipating the event, Cartwright conveyed her excitement, stating, "As someone who deeply values the power of education, I am proud to honor these heroes who are instrumental in creating a brighter future."

The 5th Annual Heroes in Education Awards Celebration is not only a chance to recognize the outstanding achievements of our educators but also an opportunity for the community to come together in support of education. By honoring those who dedicate their lives to shaping the minds of tomorrow, the chamber reaffirms their commitment to creating a brighter future for all.

Apart from honoring the award recipients, the North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce urges local businesses to contribute to the event's success. Contributions from community partners will assist in funding special materials for the award winners and facilitate a prize raffle for attendees, enhancing the excitement and festivities of the evening.

For the latest updates and ticket purchases, please visit www.nvrcc.org

Inspiring Women of the Valley Named

(Continued from page 3)

HOPE Realty, where she and her team of agents make a difference by donating a percentage of every real estate transaction to SHE IS HOPE LA.

Commander Elaine Morales is a 36-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department. She grew up in Rosemead, California, began her law enforcement career as a young Police Explorer and joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1988.

Commander Morales rose through the ranks of police officer, sergeant, lieutenant, working various patrol, investigative, administrative and community assignments throughout the City. Commander Morales was promoted to the rank of Captain in 2016 and her assignments included Central Division, the largest and busiest command in the City. During the last seven years, she also assumed command at Security Services Division, West Traffic Division, North Hollywood Division and Foothill Division. In 2023, she was promoted to Commander assigned to Operations-Valley Bureau, which has a population of roughly 1.8 million people and encompasses 226.47 square miles.

Tammy Scher first became involved in educational volunteering as the PTA Vice President when her daughter, Brooke, was in kindergarten.

In 2005, Tammy Scher helped create CHAMPS, an arts centered Charter High School in Van Nuys. She is currently the Kiwanis key club advisor to CHAMPS and is also the board secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Entertainment Industry Group, Los Angeles.

In 2018, Scher was elected Chair of the Board of the Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce. Due to the financial restraints of the pandemic, the Chamber had to let go of its staff. She helped save the chamber by taking the responsibilities of acting CEO for over a year, where she advocated for local businesses and their daily struggles of the covid restrictions.

Scher champions for shelter adoptions, especially of senior dogs. Tammy owns a successful wholesale e-commerce gallery, ForgottenTreasurez.com.

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VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

Tickets on Sale to Taste of the Valley at Topanga Social

Tickets are now on sale for the 21st Annual Taste of the Valley Food, Wine, Spirits & Festival, produced by Valley Cultural Foundation.

Attendees will enjoy delectable and taste-tempting items from more than 27 restaurants and specialty stores from Westfield Topanga Social. There will also be whiskey and beer tastings and more.

The event will take place on Thursday, April 18, from 5 to 9 pm at Westfield Topanga Social, 6600 Topanga Canyon Blvd.

Individual tickets are now on sale at $150 through April 18, and $175 at the door. All tastings are included in the ticket price. Tickets can be purchased at valleycultural.org or by calling Valley Cultural Foundation at (818) 704-1358.

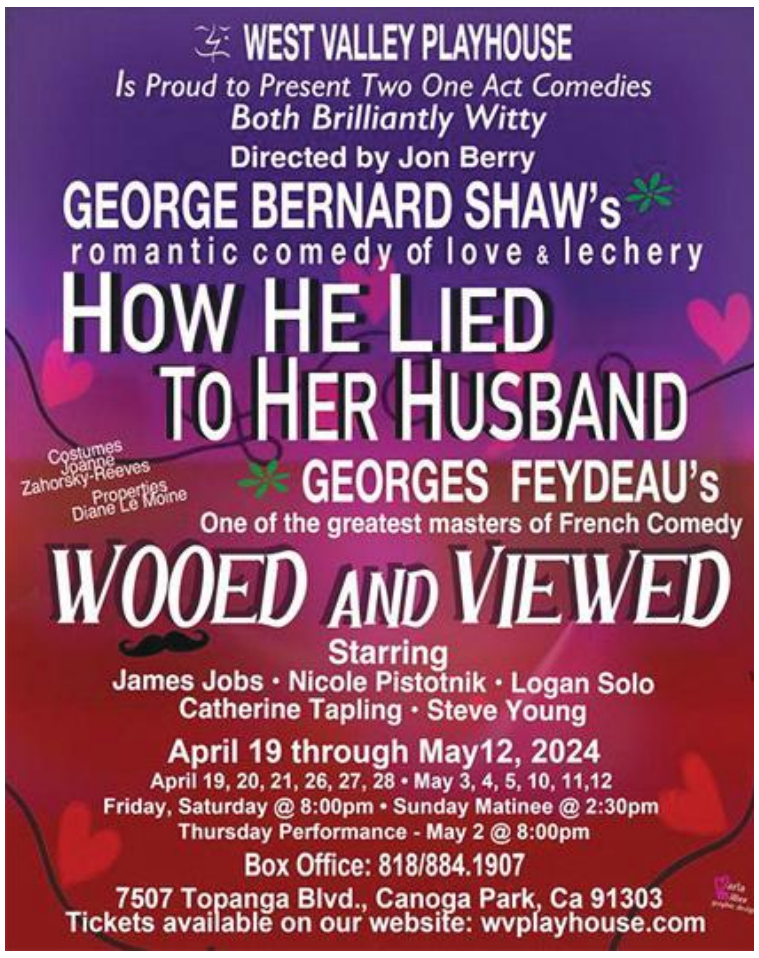
No one under the age of 21 is allowed in, and no strollers. All ticket purchases are final.

Celebrate Butterbeer Season at the New Florean Fortescue's Ice-Cream Counter at Universal Studios

For the month of April, Universal Studios Hollywood will be celebrating their first-ever Butterbeer season with traditional Wizarding World treats including Butterbeer beverages, fudge, potted cream and ice cream.

Florean Fortescue's, a new ice cream counter in Honeyduke's, will feature 10 decadent and savory soft serve ice cream flavors including Butterbeer, Banana, Chocolate, Mint, Orange, Vanilla, Toffee Nut, Granny Smith Apple, Pistachio and Toffee Apple. All flavors can be served in a waffle cone, a cup or a commerorative Florean Fortescue saucer.

Continuing the focus, there will also be Butterbeer fudge, potted cream, popsicles as well as cold, hot or frozen Butterbeer. For a limited time, guests can even get their Butterbeer in a collectible silver stein. With a flavor reminiscent of butterscotch and shortbread, every Harry Potter fan knows that no trip to Hogsmeade is complete without a Butterbeer treat! For more info, and tickets to Universal (including their upcoming 60th anniversary of the Studio Tram!) visit universalstudioshollywood.com



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69	179.64*
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71	189.38*
72	195.91*
73	202.44*
74	208.96*
75	218.70*
76**	229.32*
77**	237.38*
78**	245.88*
79**	254.61*
80**	264.32*
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82**	286.25*
83**	298.21*
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Plan G is the Medicare supplement plan we are recommending for our new and existing clients. Since January 1, 2020, Plan G has been the **richest plan** that those new to Medicare can enroll in. Because of this, we are systematically moving all of our clients to Plan G.

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L.A. County rate changes through 6/1/24. (Compilation of rates from 10 carriers) Rates subject to change. "F" Plans are only available to those eligible for Medicare prior to 1/1/2020. We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options. 5-10% couples discount available on some plans.
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Princess Kate's Diagnosis Shines a Light on Women's Cancers

Paulinda Schimmel Babbini and her late daughter Robin, who died of ovarian cancer at the age of 20.

British royal watchers notwithstanding, all obsessed with unfounded speculations, have been stunned with the recent announcement that Catherine, Princess of Wale - aka Kate Middleton - has cancer. Although no one outside the privacy of her family knows the diagnosis, the unexpected news is an all too familiar path for millions of women: vague symptoms, an office visit, tests, surgery and then a dreaded surprise finding of cancer.

It's timely for an all too important 'teaching moment' - certain women's cancers can present confusing symptoms but these are critically important clues that may signal an urgent need for a specialist's medical care. Ovarian cancer - usually hiding within the fallopian tubes - is just such a disease.

"Life can take any number of unexpected turns. Some joyous, some devastating and life changing. When my beloved daughter died at the age of 20 from ovarian cancer, it threw me into a world of loss and grief. Eventually I came to embrace a powerful life commitment," related Paulinda Schimmel Babbini.

Babbini grieved, grew stronger and in 2010 with the support of a small cadre of friends, founded a nonprofit 501c3 The Ovarian Cancer Circle/Inspired By Robin Babbini.

Robin was diagnosed at the age of 17 with advanced ovarian cancer. She completed high school and barely began her first year at UC Santa Barbara when the cancer recurred, despite all the available treatments and surgeries. Shortly before she died, only 20 years old, Robin told her mother, "This must be happening for a reason."

Indeed, to create a lasting purpose out of this colossal loss, Babbini decided to do far more than cherish memories of her beloved daughter. Summoning new courage and learning new skills, she committed herself to networking, community outreach, educating and fundraising to do battle against ovarian cancer.

"We must teach all women and girls, of all ages! Please, KNOW these symptoms!",pleads Babbini and The Circle team. The symptoms are: abdominal pressure, bloating, nausea, indigestion, feeling full but eating less, urinary frequency and constipation. It is essential to take note that if these symptoms persist over two to three weeks, go to a gynecologic oncologist.

The Circle's steadfast team of volunteers and donors commit to annual ambitious fundraising initiatives that support the esteemed UCLA G.O. Discovery Lab Gynecologic Oncology Cancer Research Lab. This past year the group passed the amazing $1 million milestone!

Recently The Circle presented a check for $75,000 to gynecologic oncologist, Dr.

The Ovarian Cancer Circle pleads with readers, "Know the symptoms."

Sanaz Memarzadeh, leader of the G.O. Discovery Lab team.

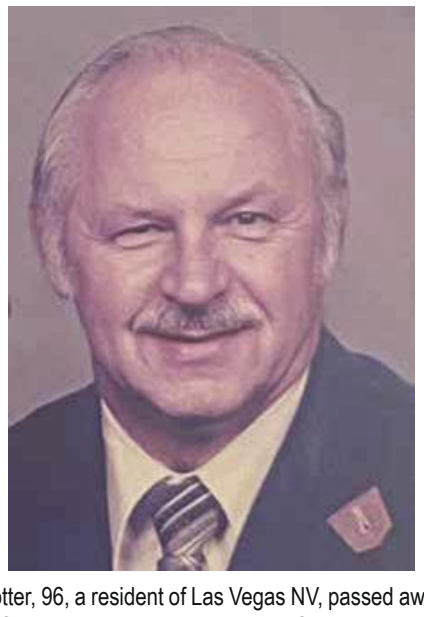
Knowledge is critically important. One of the biggest keys to the battle against ovarian cancer is finding a life-saving early detection test which doesn't yet exist. Remember – the pap smear does NOT detect ovarian cancer!

Reminds Babbini: "I firmly believe that if our family had known the signs and symptoms, Robin would be here telling her story herself."

The Circle and its devoted supporters and donors fight in loving memory of Robin, all loved ones who have lost their lives to this women's cancer, and on behalf of those very special survivors who have been successfully treated by remarkable doctors. The Circle's 14th annual fundraiser, "Teal There's A Cure" Luncheon & Boutique is Friday, May 3 at the Hilton Woodland Hills at 10:30 am honoring UCLA gynecologic oncologist, Dr.Sanaz Memarzadeh. To purchase tickets, donate or sponsor visit theovariancancercircle.org.

Edward A. Kotter

Died March 5, 2024



Edward A. Kotter, 96, a resident of Las Vegas NV, passed away March 5th, 2024. Born in Superior, Wisconsin, he attended Saint Patrick's Grade School and Cathedral High School in Superior before entering the military service. He served aboard the USS Pittsburgh and USS Rockwell in the South Pacific during WWII, and eight years in the US Navy reserve. He relocated to California, and went to Pierce and CSUN College. He worked in the missile industry for Rocketdyne, and was an engineer and engineering manager for Litton Data System for 26 years before retiring and lived in both AZ and NV. Edward was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Rosemary. He is survived by one daughter, Debra of Carson City, NV; three sons, John of Las Vegas NV, Jeffrey of Eagle Point OR, Jerard of Gresham OR, along with seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, and a sister Barbara in Superior, Wisconsin.

Mass was March 22nd at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Las Vegas. Burial will be held at a later date at Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 2309 N Cave Creek Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85024.

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Native Spirit Lodge Now Offering Drum Circles and Sound Baths

Native Spirit Lodge in Woodland Hills is now offering interactive group sessions of drum circles and sound baths.

Owner of the unique store, Greywolf, says that the drum circles are held every Saturday at 11 am. The free event is in a separate room set aside for that purpose with very comfortable chairs and 14 different types of drums and soundmakers.

"Drumming can relieve anxiety, frustration and worry and let you get back to your primal spirit and make you a stronger person," Greywolf told *Valley News Group*.

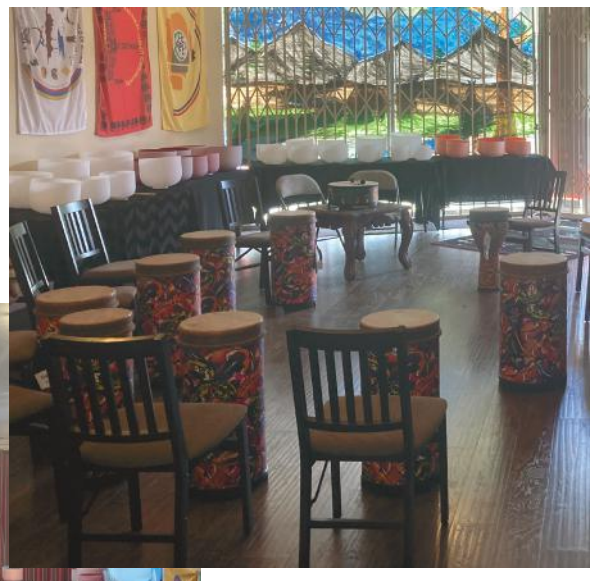
If you get hooked on drumming they also offer drums for sale. "We have the best prices in town," said Greywolf. "We can compete with Amazon because we buy direct."

Native Spirit Lodge also offers sound bath sessions. They have over 100 crystal bowls. Again there is no sitting on the floor on mats. Participants sit in comfortable reclining chairs for the sessions.

"This can relieve the stress of living in Los Angeles," laughed Greywolf. "And this will align your chakras. Some people say the singing bowls offer a very healing and meditative experience."

The Singing Bowl sessions are offered Fridays at 12 noon, Saturdays at 4 pm and Sundays at noon. The intimate room only holds six people and is usually booked so Greywolf advises booking early. Sessions are $20 per person. located at 22559 Ventura Blvd. at Sale Avenue. Store hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11 am to 7 pm, closed Mondays. There is ample free parking behind the store.

The large drum circle room, at right, and ready for a singing bowl session, below.



The large store offers a huge array of crystals, stones, bracelets, pendants, incense, books, sage and incense, salt lamps, tarot and oracle cards and more.

It is a definitive resource for Native American crafts, including dream catchers, pottery, wedding vases, beads, Kachina dolls, arrows, coup sticks, breast plates, chokers, rattles, and more.

They have the area's largest selection of tarot cards, oracle decks and semiprecious stones.

The retail store offers a huge variety of unique gift offerings, and the knowledgable staff can help you select the perfect item. Greywolf says, "Most of our items have a story behind them."

For more information about Native Spirit Lodge, its retail offerings, drum sessions or singing bowl sessions, or to schedule a school tour, visit nativespiritlodge.com or call Greywolf at (818) 703-7046.

Jay Leno to Honor Fire and Police Saturday at Grateful Hearts

The West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce's "Grateful Hearts" will be held at Warner Park (5800 Topanga Canyon Boulevard) this Saturday April 6, from 9 am to 4 pm.

There will be celebrity and first responder sightings all day, Comedian and car enthusiast Jay Leno will join the festivities and promises to "bring some cool stuff" to the car show at the park. A tour of Jay Leno's Garage will also be auctioned at the live auction. There will be a firefighters barbecue, LAPD officers serving tacos, LAPD and LAFD vehicles and demonstrations, LA Rams - Rampage and Cheer appearances, a Disaster Preparedness Fair, Play LA, Book Mobile, Heroes Read to the Kiddos, three bands including The Action Figures amd many great activities throughout the event.

Grateful Hearts is a fundraiser for LAFD Battalion 17 and LAPD West Valley and Topanga Stations. Funds generated from this community event help provide essential items for firefighters and officers which are not covered by LA City budgets.

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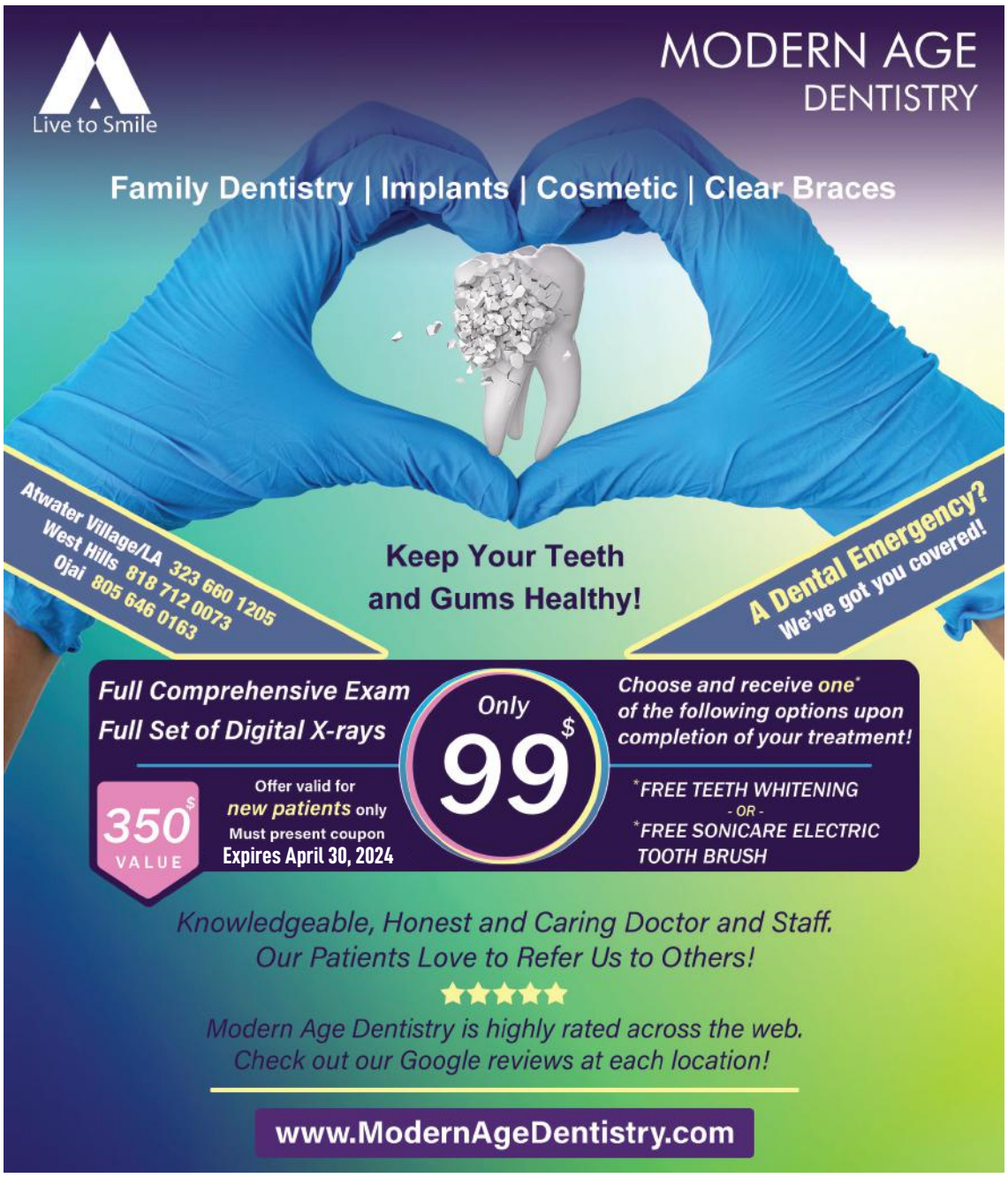

UCLA Buys West Hills Hospital; Renamed UCLA West Valley Medical Center

As *Valley News Group* was the first to report in our January 25 issue, UCLA Health has acquired West Hills Hospital and Medical Center and related assets from HCA Healthcare.

The transaction, which was finalized on March 28, will help address hospital inpatient capacity needs, allowing UCLA Health to provide world-class care to more patients across the region. The hospital has been renamed UCLA West Valley Medical Center.

"UCLA Health is focused on enhancing timely and equitable access to health care throughout greater Los Angeles, and this acquisition is an important milestone in our ongoing efforts," said Johnese Spisso, president of UCLA Health and CEO of the UCLA Hospital System. "We are pleased to welcome West Hills staff members as UCLA Health employees as we work together to serve the community. I thank HCA Healthcare leaders for their efforts in completing this transaction with us."

UCLA Health's immediate priority during the ownership transition is ensuring continuity of high-quality care for patients and a smooth transition as the hospital's operations are integrated with UCLA Health.

UCLA Health has retained the vast majority of health care professionals and support staff previously employed by HCA Healthcare at West Hills.

The acquisition includes the 260-bed community hospital with seven operating rooms and a free-standing ambulatory surgery center, about 21 miles northwest of UCLA's main campus in Westwood. The hospital sits on a 14-acre site, providing future opportunities to expand care. UCLA Health operates primary and specialty care clinics in and near the San Fernando Valley and across Southern California and the Central Coast.

UCLA Health will develop a comprehensive, long-term plan to upgrade the UCLA West Valley Medical Center property and optimize use of the additional capacity. The types of medical services offered at the medical center will remain unchanged while the strategic plan for expanded access is prepared.

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For more information visit or call:

supportnorthridge.org/V4V2024
(818) 785-4525

Nighttrek Report: What to See in the April Sky

By Neill Simmons

The highlight of April is the Tttal eclipse of the sun on Monday, April 8. Make sure you have the ISO certified eclipse glasses to view this event.

On that Monday morning at 10:06 am, the Moon will travel in front of the sun. The sun will be 50% covered at 11:22 am. After a few minutes the Moon will begin to recede and be completely gone from the sun at 12:22 p.m. In Southern California, this will be a partial eclipse.

The total eclipse starts its day in Mazatlan, Mexico and then travels up through Texas, Arkansas, across the states all the way to Pennsylvania and then to Montreal, Canada. The perfect path of totality is 115 miles wide. At the center line, the total eclipse time will be over four minutes in length.

One of the best places to see the eclipse in our area is at Woodland Hills Camera and Telescopes store at Topanga and Ventura. Farah Payan, the owner of the store, will set up a fabulous "Solar Telescope." It will be monitored by two knowledgeable astronomy specialists, Dallas and Simon, who will answer all of your questions and facilitate the eclipse viewing. This is a FREE event!

FUN FACT: When a solar eclipse happens, a lunar eclipse will happen two weeks before or two weeks after. We had our lunar eclipse on March 24.

On April 10 the bright planet Jupiter and the beautiful crescent Moon will be in the west just after sunset.

Comets frequently pass by Earth but many are too dim to spot. April 20, 21, and 22, a passing comet may be bright enough to see early in the evening in the west.

The Lyrid Meteor Shower is on the night of April 22. You might see an occasional meteor, but the Moon will be very bright so they will be hard to see.

The Full Moon of April has many names all over the world. NIGHTTREK likes the name "Egg Moon." This title is often used in April due to the beginning of the nesting season for birds and waterfowl.

The Big Dipper is always easy to see in the north. However, in

The highlight of April is the total eclipse of the sun on Monday, April 8.

April, Ursa Major is awesome as its bowl is upright. Take note that in July, the bowl will be low to the horizon.

April is a great time to spot the Zodiac constellation "Leo the Lion." Look for a giant backward question mark in the south. It is easy to see. This sickle shape grabs our eyes, and at the bottom is a super bright star named Regulus. Leo is mentioned in many books in ancient Greece.

Vandenberg SFB and Space X have been launching many rockets this year. In April, eleven rocket launches are planned to put Starlink satellites in orbit. Frequently, these launches are spectacular to witness, as the one launched on March 18, which lit up the sky. Space X's Starlink satellites are meant to carry large amounts of information to any point on Earth, even over the oceans and in extremely remote places.

Griffith Observatory is having a Star Party on Saturday the 13th from dusk to 10:00 pm. This is free event!

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

Neighborhood Watch Meeting April 9

LAPD Devonshire will hold a neighborhood watch meeting on Tuesday, April 9, at 6:30 pm.

Guest speaker LAPD Traffic Offer Dan Rizzo will talk about traffic concerns in the area, new traffic laws to be aware of, and problem intersections. He will also explain crime statistics for the Devonshire Division.

The meeting will be held at St. Euphrasia Catholic Church, 11779 Shoshone Avenue in Granada Hills. For information email 36560@lapd.online.

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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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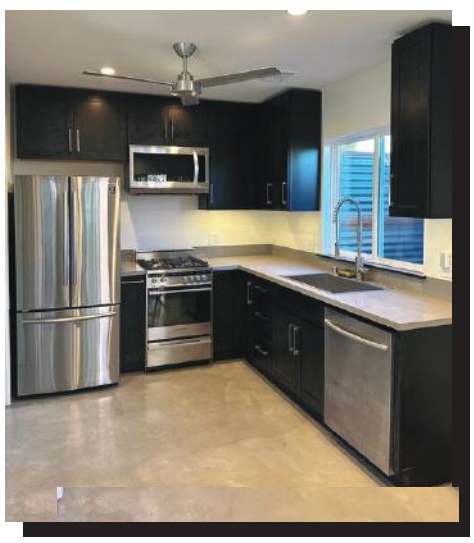

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CSUN Partners with Fernandeño Tataviam Band to Build Urban Forests in the Valley

California State University, Northridge is partnering with the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and the Tataviam Land Conservancy to battle the impact of climate change in disadvantaged communities throughout the San Fernando Valley by establishing "urban forests."

With the support of a $5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Urban and Community Forestry Program, university officials and tribal leaders plan to tap into the tribe's traditional ecological knowledge to establish tribal nurseries and workforce development programs that focus on growing and planting culturally significant native trees in low-income communities that are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution.

"As the caretakers of our native land in the San Fernando and Antelope Valleys, this grant will enable us to use our traditional ecological knowledge, in tune with current climate data, to bring back the forest and breathe new life into our communities," said tribal president, Rudy Ortega, Jr. "We will do this by engaging with our Elders, tribal citizens and other stakeholders to ensure that the trees that we plant are sustainable and resilient."

Crist Khachikian, a professor of civil engineering and construction management at CSUN and one of the project's leads, elaborated on the project's objectives. "Our efforts are geared towards enhancing the urban tree canopy," Khachikian said. "Which is essential for cooling our cities and mitigating the effects of climate change in vulnerable communities."

Khachikian stressed the importance of an inclusive approach. "Centering traditional ecological knowledge in our project allows us to pursue goals of equity, sustainability, and the creation of meaningful workforce development opportunities for marginalized youth," he said. "Through urban forestry, we are not just addressing the pressing need for climate mitigation but are also nurturing a sense of cultural pride and environmental stewardship among the next generation."

We all coexist in a large urban region that is their ancestral home and encompasses CSUN's campus, a region that is also particularly susceptible to urban heat island effects, while also presenting sizable urban reforestation opportunities."

While CSUN is taking the lead in the project, in close collaboration with the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, communication studies professor Daisy Lemus emphasized that the project is designed to be collaborative — drawing not only on the skills and knowledge of tribal members and faculty, students and staff in disciplines across the university, but also on the talents of members of local governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations.

"This deliberate cooperation among the parties involved is a direct result of CSUN's sense of stewardship of place and strong alliances with key partners such as the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians," Lemus said. "We all coexist in a large urban region that is their ancestral home and encompasses CSUN's campus, a region that is also particularly susceptible to urban heat island effects, while also presenting sizable urban reforestation opportunities."

The Tribal Nursery and Tree Planting Project's goals include establishing a tribal nursery of culturally appropriate and sustainable species; developing a regional network with partnerships that promote the benefits of native trees in the region; planting 750 trees in disadvantaged communities while engaging the community members in tree planting and maintenance education; and creating and implementing a nursery training program that includes academic workshops and symposia that focus on workforce development. The project's organizers also hope to leverage the created partnerships to promote knowledge sharing to increase workforce awareness and skills in urban forestry.

"What's exciting is that we're breaking down silos, not just on campus but in the region, in a collaborative effort to deal with the impact of climate change today and environmentally plan for the future," Khachikian said.

Neighborhood Council Meetings

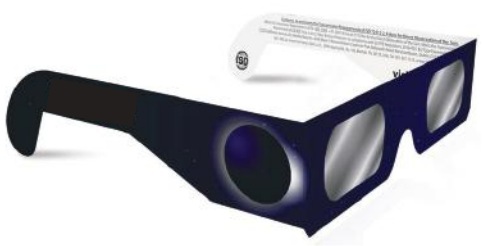
Northridge West Neighborhood Council will meet on Tuesday, April 9, at 6:15 pm.

The meeting will be held on Zoom. For agenda visit northridgewest.com.

The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council meeting set for Wednesday, April 10, at 6 pm has been cancelled.

For updates and net meeting visit prnc.org/meetings.

Tips to Help Safely View the Upcoming Solar Eclipse



A solar eclipse occurs when the moon blocks any part of the sun. On April 8, virtually everyone across the country will have the chance (weather permitting) to see at least a partial solar eclipse. In the San Fernando Valley, the eclipse coverage will reach a maximum of 48.9% at approximately 11:12:20 AM PDT.

While the solar eclipse is a fun and educational opportunity for everyone, there are precautions you should take to help maintain your eye health while safely viewing this spectacle. Looking at a solar eclipse without proper protection may cause serious eye damage, including blurry vision that can last months, or even permanent problems such as "eclipse blindness."

To help avoid that, here are tips from prevent blindness to help safely view the solar eclipse:

Get protected. It is unsafe to look directly at the sun at any time and during a partial or total solar eclipse, other than if you are in the path of totality during the brief total phase.

Proper eclipse viewing glasses, which are heavily tinted – much more so than regular sunglasses – can enable you to see the moon track across the orb of the sun until it creates a total eclipse, revealing the sun's corona.

Avoid fakes. Use certified solar eclipse glasses, specifically ones that have been reviewed by the International Organization for Standardization, and look out for fake viewers that may be sold.

Don't add other devices. Even while wearing approved solar eclipse glasses, it's important not to look at the sun through a camera, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device. Doing so may concentrate the solar rays and damage the filter, enter your eyes, and potentially cause serious injury.

Use caution during the moment of totality. If you are planning to watch the eclipse from along the 13-state path of totality, eclipse glasses should be worn during the entirety of the partial eclipse phase and may only be removed once the moon completely blocks the sun.

Once the sun reappears, glasses should be replaced.

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