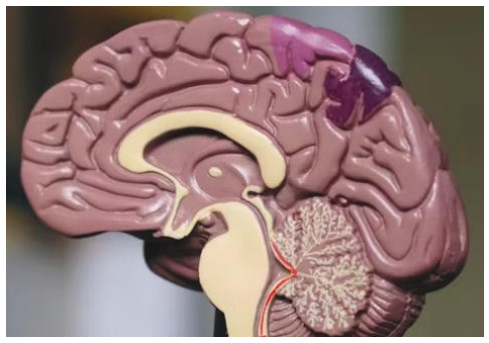
Move Over Summer! Halloween Horror Nights Coming to Universal

See page 13



Oral Health and Dementia

See Page 10

Is Your Ready Bag Ready to Go in an Emergency?

See page 13

North Valley News

Volume 3, Number 11 August 15, 2024

Serving Porter Ranch, Northridge, Granada Hills & Chatsworth

News in Brief

Beat the Heat at "Cool LA" Event

Seniors - beat the heat and stay safe! On Monday, August 26, from 9 am to noon, LADWP, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez and the L.A. Department of Aging are hosting a free event to give away free portable air conditioners. You must be a current LADWP customer age 60+ and must be enrolled in LADWP's EZ-SAVE or Lifeline program. The event will be held at Alicia Broadous-Duncan Senior Center, 11300 Glenoaks Blvd, Pacoima. Bring government issued ID with name and date of birth and DWP bill. RSVP required at ladwp.comheatlrelief2024 or by calling (213) 367-9016. You can also enroll on site at the event for EZ-SAVE.

Councilman Lee Leads Charge on Banning After-Market Cartridges

The City of Los Angeles is considering a bold step in the global effort to address the environmental challenges posed by plastic waste. Building on the city's longstanding commitment to sustainability, Councilmember John Lee introduced a motion that would prohibit the distribution and sale of aftermarket single-use clone compatible printer cartridges in Los Angeles. Single-use clone compatible printer cartridges are "knock-offs" or "counterfeit cartridges" that are primarily manufactured overseas and are a significant but often overlooked contributor to environmental waste and pollution. An estimated 70% of printer cartridges end up in landfills, with clone compatible cartridges making up the majority.

"It is incumbent upon the City of Los Angeles to continue paving the way forward on environmental issues," said Councilmember John Lee. "As the representative of the community in which the Sunshine Canyon Landfill is located, I fully recognize the importance of minimizing the impact of waste on our neighborhoods. Banning aftermarket clone cartridges is a simple way to keep building on our environmental achievements and bring attention to an issue that has gone unaddressed for too long."

In a statement about the potential ban, Sean Levi, founder and CEO of Planet Green, a Chatsworth-based company at the forefront of ink cartridge remanufacturing, said, "It is crucial for the City of Los Angeles to lead the charge in banning aftermarket compatible printer cartridges. Chatsworth was once the center of the printer cartridge remanufacturing industry, providing jobs for thousands of Angelenos. Now, compatible printer cartridges have decimated this once-thriving circular economy and are contributing to the global plastic waste crisis."

Local Councilmembers and LAPD Address Recent Crime Spree

As a response to the increase of crime in the West Valley lately, specifically Encino, a group of local officials held a Zoom meeting last Thursday to discuss details of the situation and answer questions from concerned community members. Attendees included Councilmember Blumenfield, Councilmember Raman, Celine Cordero, Deputy Chief of Staff from Mayor Bass' office, Emada Tinigiredes, Deputy Chief and Commanding Officer Operations for the LAPD, Alan Hamilton, Deputy Chief of Detectives for the LAPD and Ruby Flores, Deputy Chief Commanding Officer of the Valley Bureau.

While the Zoom began with reassurances from all that resources are directly being diverted into this issue, talk quickly turned to the specifics of the crimes. Given that the burglars involved have all been wearing dark clothing and gloves, it has been difficult to obtain fingerprints or discern identifying features that can aid in their arrest. The home robberies have not been linked to one specific crew, but rather are believed to be the work of multiple crews who have targeted areas such as Encino, Tarzana and Woodland Hills.

Details were also given on the difference between a burglary, a home invasion and a hot prowl. A burglary occurs when the resident is not home and a theft occurs, a home invasion is when suspects use force as a weapon to make their way into a home and a hot prowl is when the resident or individuals are within the home and the burglars gain entry usually through a side door or open window. Citywide, there have been 38 hot prowls, five in the West Valley.

While there are no defining factors that link the targeted houses, police relayed that burglars have been tending to use the same methods to approach the homes. Most notable are the use of wifi blockers that cut power to security cameras, which not only cause the intended cameras to not work, but also to take time to reboot once reconnected. Given this issue, police have suggested that those looking to have security measures installed utilizing both wireless and hard-wired systems. Additionally, many homeowners only install a camera at the front door when you should be placing them at the back and sides of a house. Police also stressed the importance of having good lighting around the home, checking the perimeter of your house at night and seeing what spots are being missed. For a full list of crime prevention tips, visit lapdonline.org/more-crime-prevention-tips.

Police relayed that burglars have been tending to use the same methods to approach the homes. Most notably are the use of wifi blockers that cut power to security cameras.

While two individuals believed to be tied to some of these burglaries were recently arrested, local leaders stressed the importance of staying vigilant. Creating a community network and talking to your neighbors was highlighted as perhaps the most important step you can take.

(Continued to page 11)

COMMUNITY

Community Calendar

CHATSWORTH: The Chatsworth Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce is hosting their annual "State of the Community" luncheon on Friday, August 30, from 11:30 am to 2 pm. Councilmember John Lee will serve as MC, and the keynote speaker will be U.S. Senator Alex Padilla. Invited (not all confirmed) guests include Mayor Karen Bass, Senator Henry Stern, Congressman Brad Sherman, Congressmember Mike Garcia, Assemblymember Pilar Shiavo, L.A. County Sheriff Robert Luna, LAPD Devonshire Captain Kathleen Burns, LAPD Deputy Chief Jaime Moore and several candidates for public office. RSVP to chatsworthchamber.com.

GRANADA HILLS: LAFD Station 87 and the American Red Cross are holding a blood donation drive on Saturday, August 24, from 8 am to 2 pm. The drive will be held at 10124 Balboa Blvd. To register visit redcrossblood.org.

CHATSWORTH: The Chatsworth Library will screen the movie *Knives Out* on Thursday, August 22, at 1:30 pm. Watch a detective investigate the death of the patriarch of an eccentric, combative family. Join them for fun and food courtesy of Friends of the Library. The library is located at 21052 Devonshire Street.

CANOGA PARK: Enjoy a New England lobster fest at the Canoga Park Elks Lodge on Saturday, August 24, at 6:30 pm. Dinner of a whole lobster or Landlubber steak includes clam chowder, corn on the cob, New England potatoes and Boston cream pie for $45 lobster, $40 steak. The Elks Lodge is located at 20925 Osborne Street. To register visit elks.org/2190 and click "2024Lobster Fest" or call (818) 998-2190.

ONLINE: The Valley Economic Alliance will present "Money Mastery: Financial Planning for Creating & Accelerating Wealth" on Wednesday, August 28, from 10 to 11 am. The program will feature Amber McNeil, award-winning financial advisor from Northwestern Mutual. Register at thevalley.networkforgood.com.

PORTER RANCH: Visit the certified farmer's market at The Vineyards at Porter Ranch, Sundays from 9 am to 2 pm. Certified California Farmers Markets will bring together local vendors to Porter Ranch to bring fresh food and fun experiences. Please be kind to each other and the environment – don't forget to bring reusable shopping bags!Although they love them, other than service animals, pets are not allowed at the Farmers Market because it violates county health codes. The Vineyards is located at 20065 Rinaldi Street.

GRANADA HILLS: The Granada Hills Library will be hosting mini therapy horses on Saturday, August 24, at 3 pm. Come find out how these "hooved angels" are used as therapists for crime and abuse victims. The library is located at 10640 Petit Avenue. For more information call (818) 368-5687.

WOODLAND HILLS: There will be no "blank space" in Warner Park this Sunday as the Taylor Swift tribute band takes the stage. Blank Space is recognized as the unparalleled champions of Taylor Swift tributes, and has become the heartbeat of Swiftie nation, charming audiences across the country and earning its place as a staple in the world of tribute bands. The concert begins at 5:30 pm at the park with emerging artist Abigail Fierce, and Blank Space at 6:30 pm. The park is located 5800 Topanga Canyon Blvd.

GRANADA HILLS: American VFW Post 2323 will hold a Texas Hold'Em tournament on Saturday, August 17, from 6:30 to 10:30 pm. Doors open at 4 pm. It will be held at 17522 Chatsworth Street. Tickets are $65; $75 at the door. Buy-in includes games, taco dinner and prizes for finalists. For information contact Commander Brad Klimovitch at (818 606-7531.

UNIVERSAL CITY: Registration is now open for VICA's Leaders Forum on Friday, September 13. Join VICA and Metro Department Heads at the event at the Sheraton Universal. Tickets are $75 per person; free to VICA Business Leader members. For tickets visit vica.com.

WEST HILLS: West Hills Neighborhood Council is holding a public hearing on the Chaminade expansion on Wednesday, August 28, at 9:30 am. The public hearing will be held virtually and will allow for remote public comment. Visit westhillsnc.org for Zoom or phone link.

People in the News

Fairwinds West Hills celebrated their 23rd anniversary with a celebratory casino and cocktails party for residents, guests and community leaders. The theme "double down on life" was apropos for the five-star senior living community. 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.

Shown above celebrating are, from left, **Rafa Vahos, Joe Flores, Nery Gonzalez , Bruno Ramirez, Kim Thomas, Jason Dent, Elvis Gutierrez, Carrie Jones** and **Adrian Mendez.**

The San Fernando Valley Climate Reality Project (SFVCR) has announced that their new Chair is **Sharon Ungersma**, right. Ungersma joined the chapter in September 2020 as Digital Communications Coordinator. With a Bachelor's in Physics from Harvey Mudd College in Claremont and a PhD in Applied Physics from Stanford, Ungersma brings a scientific background to her climate advocacy, while focusing strongly on the importance of community action. "SFVCR's goal is to make climate education and advocacy accessible to all residents of the Valley," says Ungersma. "It's not that people don't care about climate change; people care a lot! But they feel powerless, or they don't know what they can do personally that will help or make a difference. Our job is to help our communities understand what's needed and how to take action."

Students in the News

Shailyn Dorado of West Hills, has been named to the spring 2024 Deans list at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Charles Scott Schmerzler and **Elisabeth J. Schmerzler o**f West Hillsm were named to first honors at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Lorelei E. Thornton of North Hill was named to first honors at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Xander Kravec of Bell Canyon received his degreed from Miami Univertsity in Oxford, Ohio.

CHATSWORTH PORTER RANCH CHAMBER of COMMERCE
Where Membership Matters
√ Touch Base Tuesdays
√ Link Luncheons
√ Chamber Board Meetings
√ Ribbon Cuttings & Networking
Join Today! Call 818.341.2428

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power in partnership with the L.A. City Department of Aging and L.A. City Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, CD7 present

L.A.'S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE
LA DWP POWERED BY EQUITY

COOL LA
HEAT RELIEF FOR SENIORS

An event to help seniors beat the heat and stay safe!

Monday, August 26, 2024 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Alicia Broadous-Duncan Senior Center, 11300 Glenoaks Boulevard, Pacoima, CA 91331

Sign up at LADWP.com/HeatRelief2024 or call (213) 367-9016 to sign up

RSVP
SCAN HERE
SPACE IS LIMITED SO SIGN UP NOW!

FREE portable room air conditioners for those who qualify, while supplies last.
Visit LADWP.com/HeatRelief2024 for details.

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
LA CITY COUNCILWOMAN, 7TH DISTRICT
LA DWP COOL LA Beat the Heat & Stay Safe
CITY OF LOS ANGELES Department of Aging

Sign Language interpreters, Assistive Listening Devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting or event you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language interpreters, five or more business day notice is strongly recommended. To request accommodation, please call 213-367-4502. TDD: 800 HEAR DWP (800 432-7397).

VIEWPOINT

English Channel

From the late Rodger Sterling...
English Channel offers the best of editor Rodger Sterling's columns that ran continuously in the local papers since 1968.

• Danielle McGinnis, bless her heart, has this thought for life's betterment: Be kind to someone today. Boost another's self esteem. Help a friend. She adds, if you don't - the elastic will break and your underpants will fall down among your ankles.

• If a man is bald in front, he's a thinker. If he's bald in back, he's a lover. If he's bald both front and back, he thinks he's a lover.

• Sanders was a golf buff. His wife was crazy about auctions. Both parties talked in their sleep and an overnight guest told of being awakened in the night by a loud cry of "Fore" from the golfing husband. "Four and a quarter!" yelled the wife - and then quiet reigned again.

• Seen on the marquee of a valley church: "God answers all his knee-mails."

• No one is so old that he does not think he could not live another year. Cicero said it a loooong time ago - and then he died.

• Here's a newspaper joke proving we can take a hit. A cannibal chief had captured a man near his camp and asked him, "What is your profession?" The man replied, "I was editor of my weekly newspaper." "Good," smiled the cannibal chief, "tomorrow you will be editor-in-chief."

• Hey, didja hear of G.K. Chesterton's view of journalism? Said Chesty, "Journalism largely consists on saying 'Franklin Jones is dead,' to people who never knew Franklin Jones was alive!"

Valley News Group
Warner Center News · Valley Vantage · Las Virgenes And Calabasas Enterprise · North Valley News · Encino Enterprise

PUBLISHER
Kathleen Sterling
EDITOR
Katie Sterling
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Connie Hein
BUSINESS EDITOR
Miri Rossitto
HEALTH EDITOR
Janey Rifkin
EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD
Dan Brin
Joyce Fletcher
Martin Cooper
Rickey Gelb
Brad Rosenheim
Miri Rossitto
Richard Sherman
Scott Silverstein
John Walker
Diana Williams
Dennis Zine
PHONE 818.313.9545 FAX 818.302.1417
Email: ValleyNewsGroup@gmail.com
22025 Ventura Blvd. #303 Woodland Hills CA 91364
www.valleynewsgroup.com Facebook.com/valleynewsgroupwoodlandhills
Valley Vantage, Warner News, Calabasas Enterprise and Encino Enterprise are published weekly by Kathleen Sterling. Opinions expressed in articles are those belonging to the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Publisher or its advertisers. Submissions are welcome and must include name, address and phone. All submissions become the property of the Publisher. Valley Vantage is a legally adjudicated newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles by Superior Court Decree No. SFC 858.

Word on the Street

It is moments like these that sustain me.

Moved to tears by Rachmaninoff under the stars at the Hollywood Bowl.

Enjoying a concert at Warner Park with friends.

Sharing a glass of wine with girlfriends on the patio.

And always, always, family dinners crowded around the table with everyone talking at once.

During good times and bad times it is the moments and people in your life that sustain you.

We've all had them. Times when you are at your lowest, when things look bleak, when your problems cloud your perspective.

So I try to start my day looking forward. I've written this before, but it's a prayer I say each morning that my dad kept at his bedside through four kids and four cancers.

"Lord, thank you for this day. Thank you for the sleep that has refreshed me. Thank you for the friends and family that sustained me. Lord, this day is full of promise and opportunity - let me make the most of it. This day is full of challenges and obstacles - let me overcome them. Let me be more like you."

Religious of not, the prayer holds a lot of truth for us all.

I start each day knowing it isn't going to be perfect. It will be full of successes, problems, ideas and issues.

The trick is to first get out of bed and face whatever life is going to throw at you. And sometimes, boy, there are some real curve balls.

In dealing with some of the biggest challenges I've ever faced in my life - Rodger's death, my parents' passing, losing two best friends, betrayals, back problems - I've relied on those closest to me.

And they've come through.

Even now, when facing a crisis, there are those family and friends I can call at any time of day or night, with any crisis or concern.

And they'll come through - with a call, a visit, a dinner, a hand, a hug.

And at the end of the day, it's those people, those moments you should reflect on.

You actually made it through another day. You made it through the big and small crises, the problems, the issues. Reflect on those that sustained you, and take that and pay it forward tomorrow. As the prayer said, let me be more like you - more loving, more giving, more understanding.

Give back what you have been given from those you love.

There is strength in friendship. There is beauty in the world. There is peace in holding both close in your heart and mind.

Valley Vantage • Calabasas Enterprise
Warner Center News • Encino Enterprise • North Valley News

Find All Papers Online at
ValleyNewsGroup.com
@valleynewsgroupwoodlandhills @valleynewsgroup

Need to Pick Up a Paper? Visit These Merchants

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

Get a Free Subscription!

Email valleynewsgroup@gmail.com and say "REGISTER ME!"
with which paper you want to receive.
You'll get the paper Thursday night in your email!

VALLEY VANTAGE/WARNER CENTER NEWS • CALABASAS ENTERPRISE
ENCINO ENTERPRISE • NORTH VALLEY NEWS
CALIFORNIA NEWS PUBLISHERS ASSN

BUSINESS

Buy-Sell Agreements, Business Succession, and the New Supreme Court Ruling

By Janice L. Miller, Esq.

In a recent decision, the U. S. Supreme Court changed the landscape of estate tax planning with its unanimous verdict in Connelly v. United States (No. 24-146 U.S., June 6, 2024). The case, centered on buy/sell redemption obligations funded by life insurance proceeds and a company's estate value, impacts how business owners nationwide manage their succession planning.

The Court determined that "a corporation's contractual obligation to redeem shares is not necessarily a liability that reduces a corporation's value for purposes of the federal estate tax." (23-146 Connelly v. United States (06/06/2024) (supremecourt.gov)). In a buy/sell agreement where a corporation holds the obligation to redeem an owner's share upon their passing, the value of the life insurance proceeds must be included in the value of the business at the time of death.

With the court's decision, family-owned and closely held businesses must now examine and rethink their succession planning.

With the court's decision, family-owned and closely held businesses must now examine and rethink their succession planning.

Understanding Buy-Sell Agreements

A buy-sell agreement is a legally binding contract between co-owners of a business that stipulates conditions under which an owner's share of the business may be sold or transferred. These agreements maintain stability and continuity within the business, particularly in circumstances such as the death, disability, or retirement of an owner. Key elements include, but are not limited to:

Triggering Events: Defining common triggering events (i.e., death, disability, retirement, divorce, or an owner's desire to sell their shares) in a buy-sell agreement is essential.

Valuation Methods: Specify how the business will be valued at the time of the triggering event. Some valuation methods include fixed price, formula-based valuation, or third-party appraisal.

Funding Mechanisms: Adequate funding to execute the buyout must be in place.

Transfer Restrictions/ Dispute Resolution: Outline any restrictions on transferring ownership to external parties, ensuring existing owners maintain control over who becomes a co-owner. Including a dispute resolution mechanism, such as mediation or arbitration, helps resolve future conflicts.

Business Succession Planning

Business succession planning involves preparation for the transfer of business ownership and management in the event of an owner's exit. Effective succession planning ensures the business continues to operate smoothly. A clear succession plan aligns with the long-term vision of the business, ensuring future leaders uphold the company's values and objectives. It identifies potential risks and develops strategies to mitigate them, guaranteeing the business' resiliency during transition.

Implications of the New Supreme Court Ruling

The recent Supreme Court ruling introduced significant changes including:

Valuation Adjustments: The ruling provided new guidelines on how business valuations should be conducted, particularly in the context of tax assessments. Business owners must ensure their valuation methods comply with these new standards to avoid disputes and penalties.

Tax Treatment: Changes in the tax treatment of business transfers may affect the funding mechanisms used in buy-sell agreements. Life insurance policies and other funding tools must be reviewed to ensure they remain effective and tax-efficient under the new ruling.

(Continued to page 10)

VICA to Host Meeting With Metro Heads

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) will host a Leaders Forum featuring the heads of L.A. Metro.

The event will be held on Friday, September 13, from 8:30 to 11 am at the Sheraton universal, 333 Universal Hollywood Drive.

Cost is $75 per person and free to VICA Business Leaders members. Non-members can register by emailing yoko@vica.com. Participants include Metro COO Conan Cheung, Chief Planning Officer Ray Sosa, Chief Program Management Officer Timothy Lindholm and Chief Customer Experience Officer Jennifer VIdes Hirsch.

Valley Industry and Commerce Association is Southern California's most influential business advocacy group devoted to advancing the economic interests and opportunities of its members through effective legislative correspondence, civic leadership representation and conscious community engagement.

THERE'S A BRANCH IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Chatsworth
10324 Mason Ave.
(Trader Joe's Shopping Center)
(866) 740-5328

Logix smarter banking®

Porter Ranch
19765 Rinaldi St, Suite B
(Ralphs Shopping Center)
(866) 788-5328

Equal Housing LENDER

Click, call or fly over ▪ lfcu.com ▪ (800) 328-5328

NCUA Federally Insured by NCUA

*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 8/5/2024 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.

COWE COMMUNICATIONS

Graphic Design that Delivers

YOUR SUCCESS STORY STARTS WITH A **CONVERSATION.**

BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN YOUR MESSAGE AND YOUR AUDIENCE, NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE.

Whether you are nurturing a growing business, leading a non-profit, or steering public opinion, you need more than just design - you need results.

LET'S GET TO WORK CALL COWE NOW

800-527-3646

COWE.COM

VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

Move Over Summer, Universal Gets Ready for Spooky Season with Horror Nights

Universal Studios' Halloween Horror Nights is quickly approaching and bringing with it a slew of brand-new haunted houses for fans to delight, and shriek, in! For the first time this year, there will be two haunted houses based on recent blockbusters: *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* and *A Quiet Place*.

The all-new *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* haunted house brings the latest installment of the global *Ghostbusters* franchise to life as well as iconic ghosts, creatures and characters from the beloved classic series in authentic haunted houses that capture the horror and humor for which the films are known. As guests venture through the haunted houses, they will find themselves in the sinister world of the supernatural, from Ray's Occult Books shop to the Ghostbuster's new high-tech lab and containment facility to the dank New York City sewer system. Fans will embark on this petrifying journey alongside the Ghostbusters, encountering iconic ghosts who slime and nefarious villains who are out for revenge – all while trying to escape an army of ghastly creatures bent on cracking bones and turning their veins into rivers of ice.

Mirroring the silence in the *Quiet Place* films, the haunted houses will embrace unique sound design, special effects and the adept performances of the scareactors to convey the ominous sense of dread depicted in the films. Consequential to the storyline, Halloween Horror Nights will incorporate the use of American Sign Language (ASL) for the first time ever within the *A Quiet Place* haunted houses to capture the authenticity of the films. The snarls of the larger-than-life predators will follow guests at every spine-chilling turn, and guests must remember: if they hear you, they will hunt you.

These two blockbuster haunted houses will join additional original houses to Horror Nights including Universal Pictures' Classic Monsters in "Universal Monsters: Eternal Bloodlines," Insidious: The Further based on the latest film in Blumhouse's terrifying film series, "Monstruous 2: The Nightmares of Latin America" a sequel to the hit 2023 haunted house, *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Legacy of Leatherface* haunted house, "The Weeknd: Nightmare Trilogy" haunted house and "Dead Exposure: Death Valley" an original concept house with petrifying radioactive zombies.

Horror fans will encounter multiple scare zones throughout the park.

Additionally, fans can return to the world of Blumhouse via the Terror Tram, while "The Purge: Dangerous Waters" returns to the WaterWorld venue, taking visitors on a fiery, rock-fueled adventure while they fight to survive the night.

Rounding out the slate, horror fans will encounter multiple scare zones throughout the park. When exiting the "Monstruos 2: The Nightmares of Latin America" haunted house, visitors will encounter "Luchadores Monstruosos," an all-new scare zone. As they begin their terrifying night at Halloween Horror Nights, fans will first need

(Continued to next page)

The Reel History of the Valley

By Martin M. Cooper

Listen Up, It's Rick Avery!

The first thing you say to Rick Avery when you're interviewing him is…nothing!

You just sit back and listen, and he shares the most fascinating stories as one of the world's most successful and talented movie stunt people.

You also listen because Avery is a 7th Degree Black Belt Kenpo Karate winner of multiple championships; a former USA Masters Boxing World Champion; a martial arts weapons expert; and a Certified Expert Marksman for all firearms.

Avery came into his profession by way of karate, police work, and just plain luck.

He owned a karate school in Santa Barbara and met someone who had a similar school in the San Fernando Valley, who said Avery needed a skill. "He taught me some basic driving skills for a couple of years, and I decided to sign up for the Santa Barbara Police Department.

"In those days, the only requirements were to have 32 teeth, be six feet tall and a have a high school diploma. I had two of the three requirements, being a lot less than six feet, but I was admitted anyway… and was the number one cadet out of 400 applicants.

"One rainy night in 1978, while on motorcycle patrol, I pulled up to a white Jaguar whose owner had reported a vandalism," says Avery. "It turned out to be John Travolta. He asked for a recommendation for a bodyguard and I handed him my card. I didn't hear from him for a year. Then, out of the blue, he contacted me and asked me to be in charge of his personal security."

Rick Avery, a filmic Renaissance man.

Avery continued: "After I had been working for him for some time, John said 'You're having dinner with me;' we had dinner, and evidently someone had told him I had expressed interest in being a stuntman. He said, 'Why didn't you tell me you wanted to become a stuntman...' and I owe my whole career to him."

Rick Avery, completely engulfed in flames, in the John Landis-directed film, Innocent Blood (1992).

Avery's first film as a stuntman was *Blowout* in 1981. His best-known films include: four *Batman* movies, *American Sniper, Dunkirk,* and *Charlie Wilson's War.*

Just a few of the well-known names for whom Avery has risked life and limb for have been Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman, and John Travolta, with whom he retains a close friendship.

His most challenging stunt: In *Blues Brothers 2000*, in which he did 54 car crashes, jumps and rollovers in two and one-half days…all real, not computer graphics. At the time, his stunts set the *Guinness Book of Records* for most cars wrecked in a feature film.

The Bronx-born Avery now lives in Granada Hills. He has been a Valley resident since 1982, and is obviously as busy as ever, as a stunt person, stunt supervisor, documentarian, boxer, writer, film director, helicopter pilot, martial arts expert, and half a dozen other avocations and projects. During his 45 years as a professional, he has directed 15 film units, two feature films, and has worked on more than 400 motion pictures and been a stunt driver on more than 60 television commercials.

Avery's favorite story: He was doubling for Dustin Hoffman in 2004s *Meet the Fockers*. His scene was a barroom brawl. He was to back up from a close-up camera, flip over a table, and have the table fall over him. "Well," Avery recalls, "I backed up, hit the table hard…and nothing happened. It's my first stunt on the shoot and it's absolutely quiet…and then Hoffman loudly declaims, 'Well, f___, I could have done that!' The second take went perfectly."

He produced and edited a moving documentary, *Raiders Remembered*. The 46-minute film tells the story of the daring James Doolittle aerial bombing raid on Tokyo in the early days of World War II. Introduced by Senator John McCain, who spent five-and-one-half years in a Vietnamese prison camp, the film features the remaining airmen who took the war to Tojo on April 18, 1942, just four months after Pearl Harbor. The film earned an Honorable Mention at the New York Film Festival, is available on YouTube, and is definitely worth watching.

In 2022, President Joe Biden awarded him the Presidential Golden Volunteer Medal "for continued service to strengthen our nation and communities through voluntary service through the martial arts."

His autobiography, *A Life at Risk*, has been a best seller, and he's currenting penning another book, all while currently working on a DiCaprio film.

When asked how long he plans to continue doing stunt work, Avery replies, "Until the phone stops ringing."

Avery obviously doesn't take himself too seriously; the bottom line of his website (rickavery.net) reads, "All a Stuntman has at the end of a career is…Memories, friends and 8x10s."

During his 45 years as a professional, he has directed 15 film units, two feature films, and has worked on more than 400 motion pictures and been a stunt driver on more than 60 television commercials.

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. He is a Fernando Award Honoree and Past Chairman of VICA. An award-winning author, he has written four books, two of them on the San Fernando Valley. He is currently researching his next book, the history of motion pictures in the Valley.

Difficult to tell the difference: Robert De Niro is on the left and Rick Avery on the right, in The Comeback Trail (2020), starring De Niro, Tommy Lee Jones, and Morgan Freeman.

VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

Next Up at Playhouse: A "Musical Knockout"

The next production at the West Valley Playhouse is what Director Jon Berry calls, "a musical knockout."

With a concept by Berry and Marla Peppy Miller, written by Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves, *Saving the Mystic* will premier August 23 and run through September 22.

The West Valley Playhouse is located at 7507 Topanga Canyon Blvd. in Canoga Park. For tickets visit wvplayhouse.com or call the box office at (818) 884-1907.

Become a Docent at the Museum of the SFV

Have you always wanted to be a docent? Learn more about the history of the San Fernando Valley?

The museum is holding docent orientations on September 14, October 12 and November 9 from noon to 1 om and 1 to 2 pm.

Come learn what is involved in being part of the valley's only museum featuring its culture, people and history.

For more information visit themuseumsfvnow.org.

Gin Blossoms to Headline Sagebrush Cantina's Music, Food and Fun Festival

The Sagebrush Cantina in Calabasas is back with their third annual Music, Food and Fun Festival on Saturday, October 19, kicking off at 6 pm!

Headlining this festival will be the Gin Blossoms who will bring their fusion of pop, melodic rock, folk and country to the Sagebrush stage. The band consists of Bill Leen, Jesse Valenzuela, Robin Wilson, Scott Johnson and Scott Hessel.

From their breakout album through today, Gin Blossoms have sold over 10 million records and are one of the most in demand 90's live artists who began at the end of the grunge era.

Special guests throughout the evening will include the band Fastball, who combine a fondness for melodic, Beatles-inspired pop with the alternative aesthetic of late-'90s mainstream rock. Members include guitarist/vocalist Miles Zuniga, bassist/vocalist Tony Scalzo and drummer Joey Shuffield.

Musician/actor Chris Stills, who brings his own blend of 1960s-inspired rock, folk and blues, will also take the stage.

To wrap up the lineup, Alison Porter, season 10 winner of *The Voice*, and pop, rock and country artist will also perform.

Don't miss a night of great music, delicious food and tons of fun! For tickets, visit sagebrushtickets.com.

Sagebrush Cantina is located at 23527 Calabasas Rd. in Old Town Calabasas.

Playhouse Hosts Save Our Stage Fundraiser

Jon Berry, Director of the West Valley Playhouse, is hosting a "SOS" Save Our Stage fundraiser on Sunday, August 25, at 5 pm. Enjoy jukebox music, hors d'oeuvres, drinks and more. Tickets are $60 per person.

There will also be a special matinee of their show, *Thank You, OK, Next* at 2:30 pm that Sunday. The play is a "musical knockout" with story concept by Jon Berry and Marla Miller, written by Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves. It's on stage August 23 through September 22, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 2:30 pm. If you purchase a ticket to the matinee August 25, it's just $25 more to attend the after-show SOS party.

The West Valley Playhouse is located at 7507 Topanga Canyon Blvd. in Canoga Park. For tickets visit wvplayhouse.com or call the box office at (818) 884-1907.

Halloween Horror Night at Universal Studios

(Continued from previous page)

to escape a troop of chainsaw killers in "Chainsaw Punkz," then dodge a gothic inspired royal court of the dead in "Skull Lordz." The menacing "Murder of Crowz" will flock to a new dedicated space, including mama crow debuting at the nest.

Adding to the scares, guests also can experience select theme park attractions open during the event, including "Jurassic World—The Ride," The Wizarding World of Harry Potter™ highly immersive land featuring "Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey™" and "Flight of the Hippogriff™," "Transformers™: The Ride-3D," "Revenge of the Mummy—The Ride" and "The Simpsons Ride™." Those purchasing select tickets will have same day access to the interactive land SUPER NINTENDO WORLD™ from 7 to 10 pm. (subject to change).

Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios Hollywood begins on Thursday, September 5 and continues select nights through Sunday, November 3.

A variety of Halloween Horror Nights ticket options for Universal Studios Hollywood are now available, including General Admission, Universal Express, After 2 PM Day/Night, the Early Access Ticket, which provides access to select haunted houses beginning at 5:30 pm (subject to change), in advance of the scheduled 7 pm event opening time, the premium R.I.P. Tour and popular passes, Frequent Fear Pass and Ultimate Fear Pass, which enable guests to experience the scares again and again.

For more info, and tickets, visit universalstudioshollywood.com/hhn/en/us/tickets.

Valley Students Can Still Submit FAFSA and CADAA Forms For College Through Nonprofit's Free Clinics

Our Voice: Communities for Quality Education, a nonprofit that advocates for high-quality public education, is leading four free clinics in the San Fernando Valley to help recently-graduated high school seniors, and college students fill out and submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA) forms in time to receive funds for college this fall. Participants will receive a $25 gift card.

The National College Attainment Network (NCAN) says the graduating class of 2023 left $4 billion in untapped Pell Grant funds by not completing the FAFSA. California is the state with the highest amount of financial aid remaining at $493 million.

With the submission deadline quickly approaching on September 3, 2024, students need to know that they can still apply and receive aid in time to attend college this fall.

The in-person clinics will be held on Sunday, August 18, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm, Sunday, August 25, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm, Saturday, August 31, 10:30 am to 2:30 pmn Sunday, September 1, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm.

They will be held at Birmingham Veterans Hall, 6543 Corbin Avenue in Woodland Hills. There is free parking in front.

An online clinic will be held Saturday, August 24, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. The Zoom link is https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83736690684?pwd=CquB8nbaKbQaIrpPFS3tjTN71vWcvz.1.

Our Voice: Communities for Quality Education is a nonprofit organization that uses 21st Century technologies to empower Latino and Indigenous immigrant families so that they can actively participate in the betterment of public education. Our Voice is pleased to partner with Southern California College Attainment Network (SoCal CAN) to make these financial aid clinics available to students and families in the San Fernando Valley. For a list of financial aid clinics throughout L.A. County and to book a virtual appointment, visit: https://letsgotocollegeca.org/finaidhelp/.

Students need to know that they can still apply and receive aid in time to attend college this fall.

How to Recognize and Prevent Drowning

Following the recent news out of the international CrossFit Games of competitor Lazar Dukic dying while surrounded by people, experts are warning of the non-obvious signs someone is drowning. While Dukic was a competitive athlete, nearly 40 million Americans do not know how to swim and there is a shortage of lifeguards that only add to the problem.

Drowning has long been known as a silent killer because typically individuals in the midst of drowning are unable to call for help. When someone aspirates or chokes on water, it causes an involuntary closing of the throat called laryngospasm. This spasm can block the airways, not allowing an individual to breathe, let alone call for help.

When someone is drowning, they are oftentimes difficult to spot because their head is barely above surface and titled backwards attempting to get air. For an observer, at that angle, it may be almost impossible to see a body struggling, especially in choppy water.

In frantically trying to keep their head above water, an individual may move their arms in a climbing motion, but their legs might not move at all. They look as if they are climbing an invisible ladder in an attempt to get above the water.

If you notice someone drowning, the first instinct is to jump in and help, but if you don't have the proper skills, the situation could be perilous for both individuals. If the person is conscious, the first action item is to throw them any kind of flotation device to hang on to. If you can't reach them or the water conditions are dangerous, alert a trained lifeguard and/or dial 911.

Once they are safely out of the water, tilt their head back, lift their chin and turn them on their side to evacuate any water potentially inhaled. If they are unconscious, start CPR until help arrives.

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.

Fairwinds – West Hills. A place to be you.

FAIRWINDS
WEST HILLS
— A LEISURE CARE COMMUNITY —

8138 Woodlake Ave | West Hills, CA 91304
818-254-8119 | fairwindswesthills.com

REAL ESTATE

Go Bird Watching in O'Melveny Park

Join the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society for a mid-week bird watching walk in beautiful O'Melveny Park in Granada Hills on August 23 at 9 am.

. 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 Boulevard.

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. Visit sfvaudubon.org.

Supreme Court Ruling on Buy/Sell Contracts

(Continued from page 5)

Legal Compliance: The ruling emphasizes the need for buy-sell agreements and succession plans to be meticulously drafted to comply with updated legal standards.

The new Supreme Court ruling introduced important considerations for business owners engaged in buy-sell agreements and succession planning. By understanding the implications of the ruling, business owners can ensure their plans are both legally compliant, and aligned with their long-term goals. To navigate this evolving landscape and secure the future of the business, consult with legal and financial experts in the industry.

Disclaimer: This article is not meant as legal advice. It is solely for educational purposes.

Sources:

Cox, P. Ardino,S. Caswell, J. (2024). Supreme Court Decision Shakes up Valuation Issues. Nixon Peabody. https://www.nixonpeabody.com/

Breed, R. (2024). Estate Planning Implications of the Supreme Court Decision on Using Life Insurance to Fund Buy-Sell Agreements. TBH&R. https://www.tbhr-law.com/

Griswold, D (2023). Drafting an effective buy-sell agreement. Wolters Kluwer. https://www.wolterskluwer.com/

Symonds, C. (2024) Business Succession Planning: A Step-by-Step Guide. Factorial. https://factorialhr.com/

Janice L. Miller Esq. is the managing partner of Miller Haga Law Group, LLP in Calabasas, CA. She is a highly recognized legal advisor, published author, noted speaker, and panelist with over 25 years of experience as an innovative general counsel in business, real estate, entertainment, and intellectual property.

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Cindy Royall Libonati
Serving my real estate clients since 1976.

818.421.4468
CindyAgent.com
CindyAgent@aol.com

Your Local Area
Professional Realtor ®
#1 Selling Agent
Calabasas Brokerage

DRE#00582036

Operated by Sotheby's International Realty, Inc. Real estate agents affiliated with Sotheby's International Realty, Inc. are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Sotheby's International Realty, Inc.

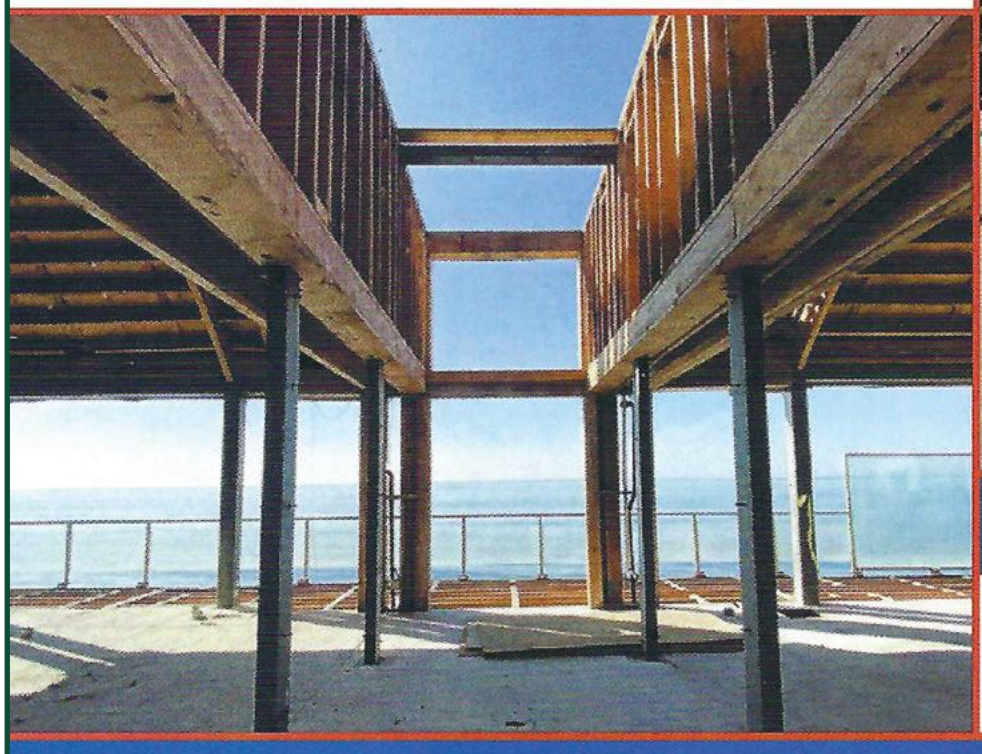
RETIRED COUPLE
HAS $1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE*

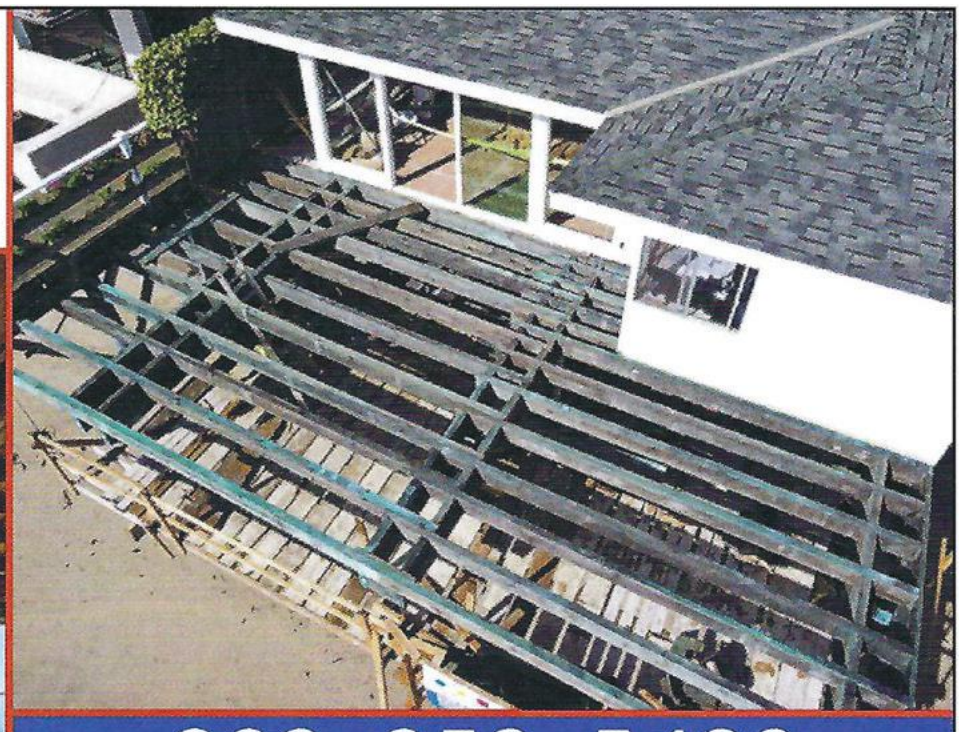
V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY
Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING
Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker
WWW.VIPLOAN.COM *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217
Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

ALPHA STRUCTURAL INC.
LIC. #663409 www.alphastructural.com info@alphastructural.com





323-258-5482

#1 Design / Build Firm In SoCal
For Over 30 Years!

Engineering / Design | Permit Acquisition | Construction

• Landslide Repairs • Foundation Repair • Balcony Repair
• Hillside Decks • Spall Repair • Drainage

Is Your Grab-N-Go Bag Ready for an Emergency?

By Brian Cameron

Last week's 5.2 earthquake near Bakersfield is a reminder that emergencies can happen without warning. The nonprofit Emergency Preparedness in Calabasas, a Fire Safe Council (EPIC-FSC) reminds residents that having your Grab-N-Go Bag ready and being prepared can make all the difference.

Take a moment now to ensure your Grab-N-Go Bag is stocked and accessible if you must leave immediately. Having one at home, in your vehicle, and at your workplace is a good way to be ready wherever you are when an emergency strikes.

How to Make a Grab-N-Go Bag

Here's a checklist of the basic items to include in a Grab-N-Go Bag. Feel free to customize yours to suit your individual needs.

Food and Water: Pack ready-to-eat food and enough water (two quarts/half a gallon per person daily, doubling this amount in hot conditions or for cleaning/hygiene).

Communication Tools: Include a phone, battery charger (both AC outlet and car types), and extra batteries.

Radio and Flashlight: A small battery-powered or hand-crank radio and flashlight(s) with extra batteries.

First-Aid Kit and Medications: A small first-aid kit and any personal medications you may need.

Personal Toiletries: Toothbrush, toothpaste, and other personal hygiene items.

Glasses or Contact Lenses: An extra pair of glasses or contact lenses.

Seasonal Clothing: Appropriate clothing for the season and an emergency blanket.

Pets: Food and water for three days and medications if needed.

Cash: Small bills for any immediate purchases or needs.

Pen and Notepad: For taking notes or leaving messages.

Manual Can Opener and Disposable Utensils: To open canned goods and for eating.

Face Masks: N95 masks to protect against dust and smoke.

EPIC also encourages neighbors to download the free EPIC-FSC app on Apple and Google Play.

Having one at home, in your vehicle, and at your workplace is a good way to be ready wherever you are when an emergency strikes.

The app ensures all crucial information is permanently stored on your phone, making it accessible even if power or Internet connectivity is lost.

Key features of the EPIC-FSC App Include:

Preparedness Checklists: Convenient checklists to ensure your survival kits are complete, with guidance on what to acquire.

Family Communication Plan: Designate a contact person outside the state and establish a rendezvous point for family members.

Emergency Actions: Learn and practice essential actions to take during emergencies, outlined in practical terms within the app.

Post-Emergency Guidance: Access critical advice for communication and safety measures post-disaster, even if traditional communication channels are down.

How-To Tutorials: Learn crucial skills such as turning off gas leaks or opening garage doors without power, and understand safe water sources (note: pool water is not safe for drinking due to chemicals).

For a complete checklist and other important emergency documents, visit epic-fsc.com/resources.

Brian Cameron is one of the founders of EPIC-FSC in Calabasas.

LAPD Addresses Crime Spree

(Continued from page 1)

Look out for one another and notice when something is amiss in the neighborhood. The old adage "if you see something, say something" was highlighted by the various officers in attendance. If you see something suspect, especially hidden cameras like those found in recent months, alert police immediately.

Police officers are on call to respond to all reports, but must do so in the order of priority and time sensitivity. It may take a bit longer than anyone feels comfortable with, but they stressed that they will respond.

The West Valley Bureau have significantly increased their patrolling via cars, mounted officers and air support, in addition to uniformed and plain-clothed officers. Routes have been designed to specifically navigate areas of concern and many officers have even been seen walking door-to-door talking with concerned residents.

Chief Flores stressed that the goal of the LAPD, as well as local leaders, has been to focus on "reducing crime and reducing the fear of crime."

For certain minor incidents, you can file a report online via the Community Online Reporting System (CORS) at lapdonline.org/file-a-police-report or call the LAPD non-emergency line at 877-ASK-LAPD. To submit a tip to law enforcement anonymously, you can do so online at lacrimestoppers.org/how-it-works or by calling 1-800-222-8477. As always, if a crime is currently occurring, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Those interested in watching the entirety of the Zoom, can visit cd4.lacity.gov/encino-burglaries.

Save the Date for Pioneer Days

Save the date for Chatsworth Historical Society's 32 annual Pioneer Days.

The festival for all things pioneer - from panning for gold to a blacksmith and woodcarvers, will be held Sunday, October 6, from 11 am to 6 pm.

Tours of the Chatsworth Museum will also be available. The event will be held at Homestead Acre, 10385 Shadow Oaks Drive. For more information visit chatsowrthhistory. com.

FREE Concerts at Warner Park

Valley Cultural Foundation

SEASON SPONSORS

amazon · Bob Blumenfield Councilmember · Gaspar Insurance Services · Golden Globe Foundation · Wells Fargo

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Blank Space The Taylor Swift Tribute 6:30pm

Emerging Artists Showcase

Abigail Fierce

Opens at 5:30pm

ValleyCultural.org · 818.888.0822

Warner Park · 5800 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Woodland Hills

PRESENTING SPONSOR: GASPAR INSURANCE SERVICES

FEATURED SPONSORS: Old New York Deli & Bakery Co. · Valley News Group (Winnetka Current · Valley Vantage · Calabasas Enterprise · North Valley News · Encino Enterprise) · Wilcox Sound & Communications · Marriott Warner Center Woodland Hills · DCA Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles · Bob Blumenfield Councilmember

Lineup subject to change.