



The Gazette.

Your Guide to the Old Town Newhall Arts and Entertainment District.

5 CENTS

OCTOBER 2009

YEAR 15, NUMBER 4



CANYON THEATRE GUILD

“Phantom” will charm and haunt theater-goers every weekend through Halloween at the Canyon Theatre Guild’s Playhouse in Old Town Newhall.

Phantom Invades Newhall Playhouse.

Operatic Specter a Tragic Character
in Canyon Theatre Rendition.

This Halloween, theatergoers can experience the thrill of “Phantom” at the Canyon Theatre Guild’s Playhouse in Old Town Newhall.

This haunting tale, based on the 1910 novel by Gaston Leroux, has been adapted for stage and screen in many variations.

This particular phantom, as conceived by Maury Yeston and Arthur Kopit, presents the haunting story of “Phantom of the Opera” with a different approach. Here, the phantom is not a monster, but a tragic character who – despite his outward imperfections – is good, deep inside.

This phantom has a family and even a sense of humor. We care about this phantom in a different way: He is a character you will cry for.

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Festival of the Arts: Plan Your Visit for Maximum Enjoyment.

The Santa Clarita Festival of the Arts, sponsored by Lockheed Federal Credit Union, will highlight a spectrum of artistic talent in Old Town Newhall on October 3 and 4.

This exciting two-day festival will be held along Main Street between Lyons Avenue on the north and Fifth Street on the south.

This year’s festival highlights the process of art. All weekend long, you can watch street painters, visual, multimedia, and alternative artists create works of art, from conception to the final masterpiece.

To extract the most creativity from your time as a weekend artist, you should formulate a plan.

* Beat the crowd. Arrive early on Saturday or Sunday morning to stroll down Main Street to see more than four hundred street painters working on their masterpieces. Watch as

the street transforms into a gallery of traditional Italian paintings to contemporary paintings.

* Sit and relax. Make yourself comfortable at one of the intimate stages near the street painters to listen to duets and soloists. Or, if you are in the mood for some alternative music, relax by the dirty car guy as he removes dirt to discover a piece of art on the back of a car.

* Demonstrate your skills. Try out your skills on our dance floor with salsa, hip hop, meringue or line dancing. Experience the ten-minute theatre productions, poetry readings and literature readings. Watch the production of acrobatic entertainment. This grand-scale spectacle of unique physical movement through arts will capture your breath.

* Bring the kids. Enjoy creative and educational activities

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The Old Town Newhall Gazette.

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LEON WORDEN, Editor and Publisher.



From The Mailbag.

The Thrill of Finding Beale's Cut.

Editor:

The greatest thrill of my life was turning a corner while walking in a ravine, and finding Beale's Cut, after seeing it in westerns when I was a kid. I was born in Minnesota and moved to California in 1970. We would explore California every weekend. There is no other state like it, and I will forever miss it. p.s. Are there any plans to dig out Beale's Cut?

Jeanne Sterling Hough,
Lakewood, Colo.

Editor's note: Located between Sierra Highway and the 14 Freeway, Beale's Cut was a 90-foot-deep wagon road through the Newhall Pass. It partially collapsed in the 1997-98 El Nino storms. The only "plan" is to deed the property to the City of Santa Clarita as open space when the former Newhall Refinery property to the south is redeveloped. There is no plan to dig it out. It's problematic: Dig it out, and the walls might collapse and kill somebody in the next El Nino mudslide. Reinforce it with concrete and rebar, and it would not be authentic. Leave it as it is, and it's not historically correct. At present, Beale's Cut is on private property. Access is forbidden.

Let's Go Wireless in Old Town.

Editor:

My family lives in Newhall. We had an idea of supplying wireless Internet to all areas of Old Town Newhall on Main Street. This would allow everyone (students, business people, etc.) to surf the net as they sit at a sidewalk cafe on Main Street. Just a thought.

Bob and Cindy Hazard,
Newhall.

Newcomer Finds Us Friendly.

Editor:

I've lived hered for almost a year and am just now learning the

streets! People have been very nice and positive so THANKS!

Madeline Wiley,
Castaic.

Welcome to town! — Ed.

Making a Discovery.

Editor:

On a walk today, the husband and I just discovered Johnson Park. I had to get online to learn more about it!

Stacey Taylor-Kane,
Canyon Country.

Editor's note: Johnson Park is seven-tenths of a mile beyond the historic oil town of Mentryville in Pico Canyon. For information visit Mentryville.org.

Old Town Website Brings Memories.

Editor:

My parents taught in the elementary schools in Newhall and Saugus for 25 years, beginning in 1954. I grew up in Newhall, Saugus, and Canyon Country. I am VERY excited to find out about your web site. Thank you.

Mayris Fox,
Jacksonville, Ark.

From One Saugus to Another.

Editor:

I was born and grew up in Saugus, Mass., visited Saugus, Calif., and Newhall back in the late '40s.

Alden Trenholm,
S. Hamilton, Mass.

Fond Memories of Gene.

Editor:

I was born in 1929, and, of course, western movies were our favorite movies. I was born in Chicago and listened to Gene Autry's singing on the Barn Dance. We were disappointed when he left the Barn Dance to go to Hollywood. He sure had a beautiful voice, and we looked forward to hearing him sing on Saturday nights. Of course then, we could see him at the movies so that made up for it.

Jane E. Bailey,
Denver, Colo.

'I've lived hered for almost a year and am just now learning the streets! People have been very nice and positive so THANKS!'

— Madeline Wiley

The Gazette.

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Celebrating Progress on Streetscape Project.

By PHILIP C. ELLIS,
CHAIRMAN, NEWHALL
REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

The community gathered at Market Street and Main Street in Old Town Newhall on Thursday, September 3, to celebrate the completion of phase one of the streetscape project.

This phase includes major improvements such as pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, street lighting, street furniture, and landscaping on two blocks of Main Street, from Sixth Street to

Eighth Street.

It was truly a celebration of the transformation of Old Town Newhall. Residents, business owners, and community leaders were excited and proud to see the big changes.

This is merely the beginning of ongoing revitalization efforts which will transform Old Town Newhall into an Arts & Entertainment District.

If you have not had an opportunity to see the new streetscape, please make a stop in Old Town Newhall.



Message From
The Chairman.



“This is merely the beginning of ongoing revitalization efforts which will transform Old Town Newhall into an Arts & Entertainment District.”

We Like the New Look!

Community leaders, residents and officials from the City of Santa Clarita gathered in Old Town Newhall on September 3 to celebrate the completion of the first phase of the streetscape improvement project. The first phase includes pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, street lighting, street furniture, landscaping and other major improvements. The improvements can be found on two blocks of Main Street, from Sixth Street to Eighth Street. The new streetscape represents one early step in the overall and ongoing revitalization efforts to transform Old Town Newhall into a thriving arts and entertainment area.





Every Third Thursday

Future dates: Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19 and Dec 17.

5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**MAIN STREET
OLD TOWN NEWHALL**

Join us for a free self guided tour of alternative art venues in Old Town Newhall on the third Thursday of every month from 5 PM to 9 PM.

Take a stroll down Main Street enjoy wine tasting and hord'houerves while you check out original works of art at local downtown venues. Visit participating shops and meet local artists both visual and performing arts. Meander over to Veterans Plaza . Arrive early and check out the Farmers Market on Market Street!

Our mission is to open the doors of Santa Clarita's visual arts community by creating approachable and accessible art and cultural venues that encourage the community to connect and celebrate expression and diversity.

Join us and strengthen the arts community of Santa Clarita.

www.thirdthursdaysscv.org

Grants Available to Small Newhall Businesses.

There are more than 3.4 million small businesses in the state of California, according to a 2008 report by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy.

Santa Clarita, like many cities throughout the state, is home to thousands of these companies, which employ anywhere from one to five to five hundred workers.

In fact, every company within the Newhall redevelopment area is a small business. These businesses are the backbone of the local economy, providing services, products, innovations and new job opportunities.

The Santa Clarita City Council recognizes the important role small businesses play in the city's economy. In April, the council approved a "21-Point Business Plan for Progress," which included a grant program for small businesses in the Newhall redevelopment area.

The program will provide \$5,000 grants to twenty qualifying businesses in the redevelopment area. The objective is to foster business growth, expansion and retention through a partnership with the Small Business Development Center at College of the Canyons.

Grant winners are expected to meet with representatives from the SBDC to complete business counseling sessions as determined necessary by the center.

The city believes in providing grant funding to companies actively using business resources such as those available free of charge through the SBDC, because these companies enjoy a higher probability of success in the marketplace than those that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9.

Art Classic Returns to Hart Hall.

The Santa Clarita Artists' Association is pleased to announce the return of its annual gala fundraiser, the Art Classic.

Nearly two hundred pieces of original art by local and regional artists will be displayed and professionally judged. Musical entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and beverages will provide an elegant backdrop to the display.

The twentieth anniversary Art Classic will be held at Hart Hall on Sunday, October 18, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

As part of the association's community outreach program, the artwork will also be on display for free public viewing on Saturday, October 17, from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Santa Clarita Artists' Association was formed in 1989 by local artists to share their expertise and enthusiasm for art. The association has grown to more than one hundred members and has a broad range of talent from hobbyists to professionals. Our mission is to promote the visual arts in Santa Clarita by "Making Visual Art Visible" through exhibits and displays of artwork.



Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation &
 The Santa Clarita Artists' Association



PROUDLY PRESENT



The Gala Art Exhibit of the Season

Join us for an afternoon of Fine Art & Music Entertainment
 Complimentary wine and beverages, hors d'oeuvres and desserts
 Award-winning Fine Art on exhibit and available for purchase

Sunday, Oct. 18th, 2009 1-5pm

Hart Hall
 located in William S. Hart Park
 24151 Newhall Ave., Newhall, CA
Dressy Attire

Free Art Preview
 Oct. 17th, 1:30-5pm
 for the community—students,
 clubs, organizations
 handicap accessible

Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door
 Order tickets today at www.santaclaritaartists.org or call 661-244-7689

Sponsorship opportunities available

'Back to School' At Newhall Community Center.

Homework Help Available at City-run Facility.

From The City of Santa Clarita.

Summer has ended. Schools are back in session. Parents are breathing a collective sigh of relief.

With a new school year come homework, book reports and spelling tests. Helping children understand new concepts and keep them motivated can be just as challenging for parents as it is to keep kids busy over the summer.

Fortunately, the City of Santa Clarita's Newhall Community Center offers homework help, reading classes, and other education-related activities as part of its after-school programming for high risk, low-income youth.

The Community Center, located behind the Jan Heidt Metrolink Station on Market Street, offers an after-school program September through May, with homework help, arts and crafts, games, computer time and field trips for youngsters ages five and up.

Helpful, trained staff members assist the children with homework, and children may utilize a mini-library and a small computer lab to complete school assignments and projects.

Most of the youth in the program come from non-English speaking families, so the staff works with youth to increase reading comprehension and overall English language fluency.

In addition to educational programming, the Community Center also offers recreational classes and activities as part of the after-school program.

These programs include boxing for ages ten and up, and Ballet Folklórico, where children learn the native dances of the various regions of Mexico, building cultural pride and individual confidence.

The Teen Group provides high school students a



The City of Santa Clarita's Newhall Community Center offers homework help, reading classes, and other education-related activities as part of its after-school programming for local youths.

diverse array of activities including field trips, sports leagues, leadership development, job assistance, homework help and volunteer community service projects.

Also open after school is the Toy Library, which is just like a library except that instead of books, kids check out games and toys they borrow and return. The Toy Library is open Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

All programs are provided as part of the Community Center's mission to serve, support and respond to community needs.

For more information about the programs or the Newhall Community Center, call Supervisor Julie Calderon at 661/286-4006 or visit www.santaclarita.com/cityhall/parks/communitycenter.

More Than Just a Black Belt.

Newhall Community Center Championship Karate Team Kicks It in Las Vegas.

By Julie Calderon,
COMMUNITY CENTER SUPERVISOR,
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

The City of Santa Clarita's Newhall Community Center at 22421 Market Street offers many programs for the youth and families in the community.

Children and adults have the opportunity to join in on a variety of recreational and educational classes that promote healthy lifestyles and encourage self-discipline and dedication.

One such class is karate, taught by volunteer Instructor Dave Moreno.

"Sensei Dave," as he is known to his students, teaches basic through advanced martial arts, infusing his students with confidence, self-esteem, courage, determination and commitment to community.

He volunteers countless hours each

week to give high-risk youth a chance to succeed in and outside of the karate arena.

In June, thirteen members of the Newhall Community Center's karate team competed at the 2009 IMAC World Martial Arts Championships in Las Vegas.

More than two thousand participants from as far as England, Canada, Guatemala and Mexico exhibited their martial arts

skills in this prestigious competition.

The Newhall team made an incredible showing. Every participant from the team managed to place in the tournament, bringing home a total of six first-place trophies along with three second-place, two third- and two fourth-place prizes.

This amazing achievement is testament to Dave's coaching ability and the talent, hard work and dedication of the participants.

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Hart Park: Summer Wrap-up, Fall Preview.

Fall Events Include Pumpkin Festival, Bow-Wows and Meows.

**By Ayesha Saletore,
ADMINISTRATOR,
WILLIAM S. HART MUSEUM.**

The William S. Hart Museum hosted three events this past summer for families to enjoy. Each event focused on a different aspect of the Bill Hart legacy. Each aspect can also be found throughout the Hart Park and Museum.

In June, Summer Days at the Ranch was launched with "Saddles and Spurs." Participants learned about cowboy life on the open range through hands-on objects from the museum's Educational Outreach Program. Guests were able to try on cowboy duds, attempt lassoing with a trick rope, and create a cowboy vest to wear home.

Guests not only can learn about cowboy life through our special events, but also from our permanent collection. Stop by the William S. Hart Park and Museum's Ranch House to see Bill Hart's collection of seven saddles, which were recently conserved thanks to Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, History for Hire, and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Also on display is Hart's collection of tack, which is slated for conservation in the coming fiscal year.

"Squirrels to Snakes" was another program that taught guests about local plants and animals. The event featured a live animal presentation from the Placerita Nature Center and displays by the California Herpetological Association.

Additionally, the museum provided a special walk up Hart Park's Nature Trail. The walk was developed and led by Jordan Dominguez, our J. Paul Getty summer intern.

You can see the natural beauty of Hart Park seven days a week during normal operating hours.

Be sure to drop by the museum or gift store and pick up a copy of the Hart Trail Guide for your visit.

Finally, guests learned about the daily life of our local native American tribes through "Acorns, Sea and Sage." Grinding acorns to prepare a primary food source was



William S. Hart Park and Museum

**Hours of Operation — Fall
Season**

**Park Hours
Open daily until 5:00 pm**

**Museum Hours
Wednesday to Friday; 10 a.m.
to 12:30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday; 11 a.m.
to 3:30 p.m.**

among the different activities offered at the last session of Summer Days at the Ranch.

Visit the Hart Museum for a tour and see native American objects and artwork including Navajo rugs created more than a hundred years ago, as well as wonderful

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11.



The pumpkin festival, scheduled October 24, will include a pumpkin carving contest and Bow Wows and Meows, scheduled October 11, offers an assortment of pet-themed booths as well as animal adoptions. The events are among the fall highlights at William S. Hart Park and Museum.

Fathered By A Nickel.

**Acton History Dates
Back to 1860s.**

**By Alan Pollack, M.D.
PRESIDENT, SANTA CLARITA VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

He is known as the “Father of Acton,” a small town in the far reaches of Soledad Canyon, on the road to the Antelope Valley.

On October 11, 1887, thirty-one-year-old Rudolph Eugene Nickel arrived in Acton – then a town with one resident (John F. Duhren, owner of the '49er Saloon, est. 1870).

Nickel quickly set to work, establishing many of the first services in the town. As his first act, Nickel established a general store in 1887 and moved the post office from the nearby town of Ravenna to his Acton store. Nickel established his home on the floor above the store.

In the 1860s, a transient mining camp called Soledad City had been set up in Soledad Canyon during a boom in copper, silver and gold mining in the area.

Soledad City literally moved up and down the canyon as new mining opportunities were discovered. Finally the town settled down four miles from the future site of Acton.

In 1868, Soledad City applied to the United States Postal Service for a post office. It seemed like a simple proposition – but it wasn't. Dibs on the name “Soledad” was already taken by a town in Northern California. So the mining town had to come up with a new name to satisfy the Postal Service if it wanted a post office.

People in the Wild West times of

Southern California had their priorities. One of the most “important” men in the town of Soledad City was the saloon keeper and merchant, Manuel Ravenna.

To honor this distinguished figure, John O'Reilly, the Irish owner of a portable grocery in town, suggested that Soledad City be renamed “Ravenna,” and so it came to pass.

After the Southern Pacific Railroad pushed through Soledad Canyon in September 1876, Ravenna built a train station and became a stop along the railroad.

There is really nothing left of Ravenna today, but the town site can be visited by taking Soledad Canyon Road up to Bootlegger Canyon Road a few miles southwest of Acton.

Nickel wasn't finished with his real estate endeavors after establishing the post office.

In 1890 he constructed the Acton Hotel, a two-story structure built in Victorian style. In 1903, Henry Gage, then completing his term as governor of California, hosted his pal President Theodore Roosevelt at the Acton Hotel. Roosevelt had arrived on the railroad after making a stop at the Saugus Train Station.

Gage was well known as the owner of a number of gold mines in the Acton area, including the New York, Puritan, Emma and Red Rover mines.

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SANTA CLARITA VALLEY HISTORY IN PICTURES/SCVHISTORY.COM

The above photo shows the townfolk of Acton as founder Randolph Eugene Nickel saw them — literally. He took the picture. Other notable characters from Acton's early years include Henry T. Gage (below) who built the Acton Hotel in 1890 and would later serve as governor of California.





**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEEDS YOU.**

JOIN NOW.

**661/254-1275
SCVHS.ORG**

'Miracle' of the Holiday Season.

Thanksgiving means the Christmas holidays are on the way, and this year, you should plan to spend Thanksgiving weekend at the Canyon Theatre Guild to get a jump-start on the spirit of the season.

Opening November 7 is the holiday classic. "Miracle on 34th Street." The story hasn't changed; Kris Kringle is still the personification of good will and holiday spirit.

As Macy's holiday Santa, he enchants children and shoppers so completely that his fellow employees try to

prove that he is dangerous. At stake are a small girl's belief in Santa and the magic of the holiday.

This hilarious, tender and charming show is ideal entertainment for the entire family.

"Miracle on 34th Street" is directed by Greg Finley, who claims, "It just doesn't seem like Christmas if I'm not directing the Christmas show. These shows are our gift to the community."

"Miracle" opens November 27, with performances

every Friday and Saturday evening at 8 p.m. except December 4, with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. There will be Saturday matinees December 12 and 19, and weeknight performances December 15, 16, and 17.

Tickets are \$12 to \$15 for Juniors/Seniors and \$15 to \$17 for Adults. Reservations may be made beginning November 9. Call the box office at 661/799-2702.

The Canyon Theatre Guild Playhouse is located at 24242 Main Street in Old Town Newhall.

Festival,

CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

for children, where kids can get a taste of building a wooden sculpture, the intricacy of pottery, and painting their own portrait. Coming back again this year is the audio mice maze, short films played all day by Generation Arts, and the interactive photo booth. Try out the audio scavenger hunt, or be a part of the creation of public art by finding a heart trinket to place on a heart-shaped sculpture.

* Make it special. Visit the "I heart..." wall and tell us what you love about art – whether it is photography, sculpture, tiling, mosaics, or just plein-air painting.

* Eat well. While enjoying all of the festivities that the Festival of the Arts has to offer, guests can visit Old Town Newhall's local shops and boutiques. Families can choose from a dozen local restaurants and small diners that offer delicious food.

TELL OTHER GAZETTE READERS WHAT YOU THINK.
LETTERS@OLDTOWNNEWHALL.COM



presents
**Flickers at the
Junction**

Hosted by E.J. Stephens

Remaining 2009 Schedule

Saturday, October 3 7:30 PM Dracula (1931)/
Plan 9 From Outer Space (1959)

Saturday, December 5 7:30 PM *Wings (1927)
Silent Film Featuring Live Organ Accompaniment

**Saugus Train Station at Heritage Junction
(Inside William S. Hart Park)
24107 Newhall Avenue, Newhall
Suggested Donation: \$5 - Free Popcorn!**

Program subject to change. For more details,
contact Pat Saletore @ 661.254.1275 – www.scvhs.org

Phantom,

CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

Phantom's music reflects the 1890s period with a delightful French atmosphere to reflect its Parisian setting.

The show, written in the 1980s by composer and lyricist Maury Yeston and book author Arthur Kopit as a follow-up to their Tony-winning musical, "Nine," has been presented by more than one thousand companies the world over.

One of the strengths of this version is the love of audiences for the phantom's lovely, tortured soul.

Erik (the phantom), played by George Chavez, meets Christine Daae (the lovely Jill Kocalis Scott) for the first time when Christine, a street singer, is sponsored by the Count de Chandon (played by Christopher Gomez) to work at the Paris Opera.

Erik, born and raised in the catacombs under the opera house, needs beautiful music to help him forget the hell in which he lives. When he hears

Christine sing, he makes her his pupil and trains her for the opera but forbids her to see his face.

Complications begin when Gerard Carriere (Greg Finley), who has protected Erik from prying eyes, loses his position as head of the opera house.

The new diva and owner of the opera is Carlotta (Laura Lanoil), whose terrible voice torments the phantom. His salvation must eventually come through Christine, whose voice is so beautiful he falls in love with her.

The cast includes Frank Rock as Police Inspector Ledoux; Michael Davies as Cholet, Carlotta's husband and manager; Jim Robinson as the minister of culture; John Morris as stage manager Jean-Claude; Gin Treadwell-Eng as Erik's mother, Belladova; and J.T. Friedman as the young Erik.

The production is under the direction of Patti Finley, with Tamarah Ashton-Coombs serving as musical director and Musette Caing as choreographer.

Performances run every weekend through Halloween. Tickets are \$12, \$15, \$17. Reservations may be made by calling the Canyon Theatre box office at 661/799-2702. The playhouse is located at 24242 Main Street in Old Town Newhall.

Grants,

CONT.

FROM PAGE 4.

don't take advantage of the available services.

The City of Santa Clarita and SBDC will host two informational meetings on Thursday, October 15, for businesses in the Newhall redevelopment area.

A morning workshop from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. will be held at Hart Hall, inside William S. Hart Park. A repeat of the same workshop will be held in the evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Century Room at City Hall.

The workshops will provide an opportunity for the city to share more information about the grant program, the application process, eligibility criteria and

details about the grant award timeline.

All grant applications will be due by November 30, with grant moneys awarded early next year.

Armine Chaparyan, redevelopment manager for the City of Santa Clarita, said: "The city is committed to working with business in the Newhall redevelopment area to ensure success wherever possible. This grant program is one way we are working to link small companies with expert advice and resources right here in our community, to support a healthy and successful business community."

To RSVP for the October 1 meeting, call the City of Santa Clarita's Economic Development Division at 661/286-4065 or send email to cwasson@santa-clarita.com.

Learn more about the small business grant program at www.santa-clarita.com/recovery.

A second meeting will take place in mid-October and will be announced online and via U.S. Mail.

Acton, CONT.

FROM PAGE 8.

A couple of generations later, on October 19, 1945, the Acton Hotel burned down. Although never proven, the fire was strongly suspected to be the arson work of town postmaster Clarence Rush.

Rush, hired to run the hotel when owner Samuel H. Schorr went off to serve the military in World War II, had been accused by Schorr of stealing many furnishings and supplies upon Schorr's return from the war.

Rush was arrested and arraigned the night before the fire. Rush's case was eventually dismissed for lack of evidence when Schorr failed to show up to testify.

In July 1891, Nickel started one of the earliest newspapers in the Santa Clarita Valley. Called the "Acton Rooster," the newspaper was initially thought to be the very first newspaper in the Valley.

More recently, however, it was discovered that a single-sheet newspaper produced in Newhall actually preceded the Acton newspaper. There are no known surviving copies of the Newhall newspaper.

The Historical Society is very grateful to Maggi Perkins, granddaughter of the SCV's first historian, A.B. Perkins, for providing us with several original Acton Rooster newspapers from the early 1900s that were passed down to her by her famous grandfather.

Later in November 1891, Nickel established the Acton Water Works, the first of its kind in the Valley.

One final note on the town established by Rudolph Nickel: Acton was the site of a classic Wild West showdown-style gunfight in 1905 – one for the dogs.

The gunfight pitted a New York immigrant of German descent – and honorary mayor – William Broome, against fun-loving Kentuckian William H. "Rosy" Melrose.

The dispute centered around the fatal shooting by Melrose of Broome's beloved pit bull after the dog had attacked Melrose's canine.

Melrose and Broome faced off on the dusty main street of Acton on February 28, 1905. Melrose, known as a quick draw and accurate shooter, got the better of Broome, sending five bullets into his torso and killing him on the spot.

A sensational series of trials followed, each ending in a hung jury. Ultimately the charges against Melrose were dropped, but feuding over the gunfight persisted in the area for years.

The Acton Hotel burns on October 19, 1945, after having stood for more than a half-century. Although it was never proven, the fire was believed to have been started intentionally by the town postmaster, who was embroiled in a dispute with the hotel owner.



SANTA CLARITA VALLEY HISTORY IN PICTURES@HISTORY.COM

Hart, CONT.

FROM PAGE 7.

beaded moccasins.

Stop by the museum this month and view beautiful native American artifacts on special exhibit for the annual Powwow held in Hart Park.

Now as we say “good bye” to a busy summer, we welcome the autumn. Check out what’s happening this season.

Fun Times in the Fall

William S. Hart Park and Museum brings exciting times for the fall season. The park and museum offer a variety of opportunities for visitors to enjoy local nature and learn local history. Visit us to see the newly renovated animal barnyard; attend a guided tour of the Hart Museum’ and walk up the Nature Trail to see the Dog’s Graveyard and a herd of American bison. Also, be sure to mark your calendars for the FREE events listed here:

Bow Wows and Meows Pet Fair

October 11, 2009
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Come visit over 70 vendors of pet related supplies and services: entertainment, Kidz Zone, our famous “Fun Dog Show”, low cost vaccine clinic, and so much more. County animal shelters and rescues will be on site with dogs, cats, puppies and kittens available for adoption. Pets are welcome. For more information, please call 661/297-5961 or visit www.BowWowsAndMeows.org.

Pumpkin Festival

Saturday, October 24, 2009
11:00 am to 3:00 pm
FREE ADMISSION

Join us for the second annual Pumpkin Festival at the William S. Hart Park! Festivities will include a pumpkin carving contest, Halloween Bug Shows with Brent “the Bug Guy,” Creatures of the Night with Placerita Nature Center, and Haunted Hayride through Heritage Junction among other activities. Come carve a pumpkin, but stay for the creepy crawlers! For more information, please visit www.hartmuseum.org or call 661-254-4584.



Now Showing: Sherlock Holmes’ Most Thrilling Adventure.

The Repertory East Playhouse has returned to its Main Stage Season with the chilling crime drama, “Sherlock Holmes and The Hound of the Baskervilles,” adapted by F. Andrew Leslie from the novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Perhaps the most famous and popular of the Sherlock Holmes mysteries, this gripping tale deals with the curse of the Baskerville family – and the fiendish killer-hound that stalks its members.

As the action begins, Sir Charles Baskerville has died under mysterious circumstances, and his nephew and heir, the young Sir Henry, has been threatened even before his arrival at Baskerville Hall.

Enlisting the aid of Sherlock Holmes, he sets out for his ancestral home on the Devon moor in the company of Dr. Watson, Holmes’ trusted colleague, a journey that brings him to danger, mystery and a series of events which build steadily in menace and suspense.

Hard-pressed to protect his charge, and to fathom the strange mishaps that beset him, Dr. Watson is much relieved when Holmes himself appears – to trap

the diabolical killer who stalks Sir Henry and to unravel the fascinating mystery which accounts for his evil actions.

“The Hound of the Baskervilles” stars Michael Levine in the iconic role of Holmes with a supporting cast to include REP newcomers Carolyn Morse, Jamie Callahan, Kyle Kulish, Todd Larsen and Alysian Marie, along with REP favorites Amber Van Loon, Donna Marie Sergi and Janice and B.D. Christensen.

The REP is now serving wine and beer at the REP Wine Bar. Enjoy a glass of Engelmann Cellars Summer Quartet, Uber Zin or CabShiraz blend. Not a wine person? Enjoy an ice cold beer before, during, and after the show. Please drink responsibly.

“Sherlock Holmes and The Hound of the Baskervilles” runs through October 17. Show times are Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Purchase tickets online at www.repeastplayhouse.org or call 661/288-0000. The REP is located at 24266 Main Street Newhall, CA.

Karate, CONT.

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The Center’s World Karate Champions included: Briana Acosta, 9; Yohana Neri, 10; Jeremy Bautista, 11; Ricky Phelps, 11; Jonathan Perez, 12; and Yareli Cervantes, 11.

Rounding out the team were Kelly Cervantes, 14; Jennifer Perez, 16; Karina Ruiz, 16; Carlos Cazares, 18; John Bautista, 33; Enrique Niconar, 38; and Ruben Caldera, 45.

Sensei Dave has trained the award-winning team as a volunteer for more than four years. His heart for youth, his positive attitude and enthusiasm for the sport make him a popular member of the Community Center team.

When students are asked why they want to join the karate class, you would think their response would have something to do with earning a black belt. Yet time and again, staff members hear the same response: “I want to



The Newhall Community Center offers youths karate programs that go well beyond the sport. The classes and related activities promote development of life skills and interaction with role models.

join because of Sensei Dave.”

Like all Community Center programs, karate is about much more than just the sport or activity.

Be it karate, boxing, the reading club or a teen group activity, the classes and activities provide youth



with life skills and the opportunity to interact with positive role models such as Dave Moreno.

For more information about the karate program or the Community Center, call me at (661) 286-4006 or visit www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/parks/community-center.

18th Annual Kiwanis Six Flags Magic Mountain 5K Run Sunday, October 4.

Run Called the Greatest Intergenerational Event in the SCV.

The Kiwanis Club of Santa Clarita and the SCV Senior Center will partner this year in presenting this popular 18th annual 5K Run through Six Flags Magic Mountain amusement park. The run appeals not only to local runners, but to runners from around Southern California. Many companies put together running teams and promote their participation by sponsoring the event. Proceeds from the event benefit homebound elders of the Santa Clarita Valley AND local youth through the Kiwanis Club.

New sponsors this year include Princess Cruises and RHC Properties, LLP, at the Diamond level. A generous Six Flags Magic Mountain has been the event sponsor since the inception of this wonderful intergenerational event! Sponsors currently on board include Platinum level: LSC Construction Corp.; Ruby level: Dave Davis Plastering; Silver level: the SCV Senior Center Advisory Council, Dr. Neal Green DDS, Green Hanson & Janks, Southern California Edison, Teksmart, and Wells Fargo of California Insurance Services, Inc.; Bronze level: SCV Bank; Obin & Erd Foundation; the Families of Bob DiPrimo, Don Kimball, Greg McWilliams, Ted & Kim Rafalovich, and John & Ann Unger; Iron level: Andy Gump, Inc., Castaic Lake Water Agency, Tremere Espejo, Sue Endress—Farmers Insurance Services, CPA Richard Grandinetti, KHTS Radio 1220,



Above: Last year, over 400 runners for the Los Angeles area participated in the Kiwanis 5K run that draws in many community organizations like the local high school coaches, student Key Club organizations, and runners clubs.
Bottom: From left, Kiwanis event chair 2008 and 2009 Robert C. Glenn of Coldwell Banker Vista Realty, 2008 Key club Div. 16 Lt. Governor form Canyon High School, Abby Lee, Honorary Chair Olympian Allyson Felix, and Committee on Aging Board member and Kiwanian, Bob Endress.

Oliver Products Company, SCV TV, Tidbits of Santa Clarita Valley, and Connie Warden-Roberts; and medal and trophy sponsor Gilbert Mena Miniatures: Fine Art & Furniture. This event is a winner for all who participate—whether as a sponsor or a runner!

Again this year, Saugus Olympian Allyson Felix is the Honorary Chair of the event. The first-time-runners rate is \$25—quite a bargain when you consider the cost of

Six Flags entrance that accompanies the race is more than double that! Returning runners pay slightly less, and students also get a break. Race T-shirts are guaranteed for the first 500 pre-registered runners.

For more information, please call Brad Berens at the Senior Center, 661-259-9444, or email Robert Glenn at robertcglenn@gmail.com.

The Kiwanis Club is the oldest service

club in the SCV having been established in 1928. They have had a long association with the SCV Senior Center, and in fact when the Magic Mountain 5K Run was initially established under the auspices of Mr. Bob Endress, it was with the intent to generate funds for a small office building for the Senior Center that now houses the Supportive Services Department where planning sessions for this year's event were held!



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