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The Signal

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L.A. Armenians Protest To Support Artsakh

By Hayk Torosyan
Staff Writer

Since late September there have been protests around LA County by Armenians.

The reason for the protests is the conflict in Armenia between the Artsakh (also known as the Nagorno-Karabakh) Republic (under Armenia's protection) and the Azerbaijan Republic.

The reasons behind the conflict started thirty years ago when Armenia fought to take control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region and give the ethnic Armenians living there independence.

The Artsakh (Nagorno-Kharabakhs) population is primarily ethnically and religiously Armenian, it's like a second Armenian nation.

Recently, on September 27th, the conflict intensified when Azerbaijan, with Turkey's support, started attacking Karabakh with its full force using different types of weapons and attacking across all of the border.

Armenians around the world started protesting and asking the world nations to take action and stop Azerbaijan's aggression.

In L.A., where there are more than one million Armenian residents, Armenians started protesting by closing roads and freeways, asking the news companies to send journalists to Karabakh and pay attention to what Azerbaijan is doing.

First they closed the CNN building which forced CNN to interview the President of Armenia and later on the Prime Minister of Nagorno-Karabakh.

After CNN they targeted the LA Times building, the reason being that the LA Times published an article that was telling people Armenia was the aggressor and Armenia started the war. After a couple of days the LA Times removed the article and said that they are going to send a journalist to the region to reevaluate the situation.

Many Armenians from LA went as volunteers to support the nation. Armenianfund collected more than $150 million in just less than two weeks and sent it to Armenia.

A big Qatar airways cargo airplane full of medical supplies and other necessities was sent to Armenia as well in order to supply the hospitals and people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

A second shipment will be sent soon and this one is going to include clothes, sleeping bags and more for the people whose houses are getting bombed by Azerbaijan and many innocent civilians who are hurt and dying. The humanitarian aid sent from LA will help the people to survive the war.

L.A.'s Mayor Eric Garcetti said that he stands next to the Armenian community and fully supports them in order to get the world's attention to force Azerbaijan and Turkey to stop the aggression.

One of the biggest protests took place on October 7th at Wilshire Ave. in front of the Turkish embassy, where more than 50,000 Armenians came to march for justice and show that they support Armenia and demand Turkey to stop supporting Azerbaijan by bringing terrorists from Syria and Iraq to fight Armenians.

Many large signs are up around the city saying that Turkey wants to finish the genocide they started at 1915 and that this war is just the start of it.

Armenians want peace but they are not going to give away Artsakh. These are lands that historically belong to Armenia, but because of a map made back when Joseph Stalin was in charge of the USSR, it belongs to Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan is targeting hospitals, civilians, and humanitarian help centers.

Both sides are taking huge casualties, and the conflict looks to have no end in sight.

Armenians want peace and want Nagorno-Karabakh to be independent Armenian nation and recognized by all of the world.

Showcasing The Burbank Cultural Arts Commission

By Neil Eiklor
Staff Writer

Throughout the 2020 coronavirus pandemic many people, whether it's working from home to not working at all, have had more time on their hands. The people really benefiting from this are artists. Time at home means time in the studio working on whatever project interests them. The increased stress, confusion, and not knowing what the future brings will have a definite effect on the art produced during these hard times. Art is directly influenced by what's going on in the world and with the news packed with Coronavirus updates, global issues, and racial injustice, it's no wonder artists are producing something special.

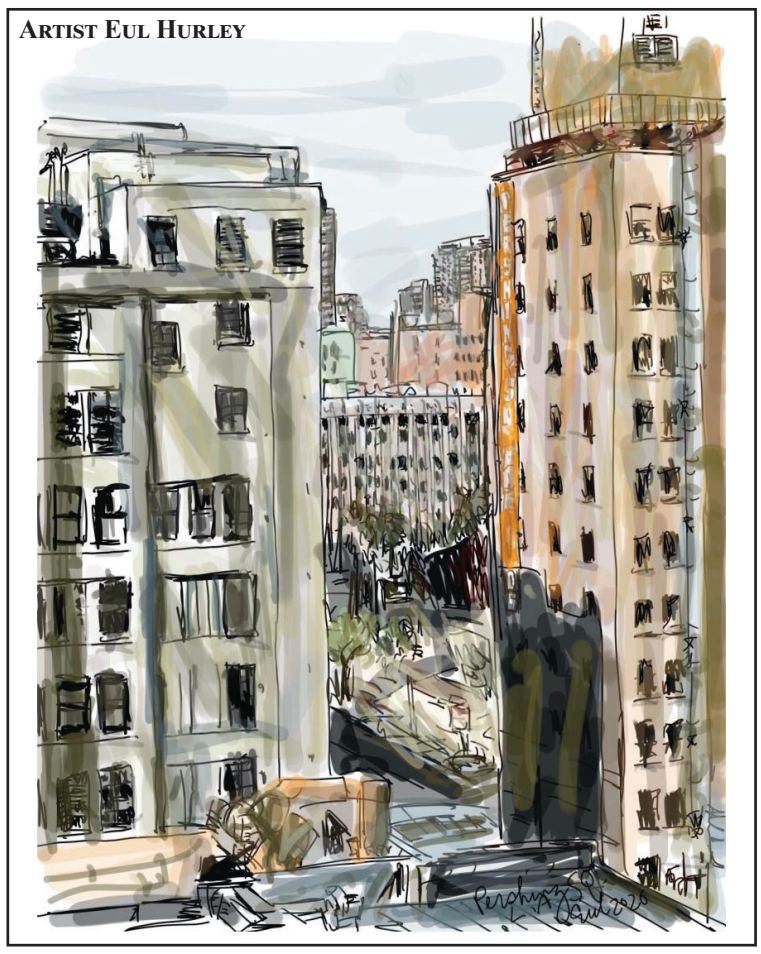
The Burbank Cultural Arts Commission recognized this and set out to bring the wildly diverse selection of art in Burbank to one place. With everyone spread apart because of the coronavirus pandemic, it was only right to try and bring people together with the intent of sharing ideas, creativity, and inspiration. The Burbank Cultural Arts Commission believes in elevating and enriching the community through art and creativity.

The Burbank Arts website very much embodies a museum. Bright colors and white backgrounds remind us of what a modern art museum should look like. The Burbank Art Gallery proudly displays each artist's name and a sample of each artist's work. For those who have missed visiting the Burbank Arts Center, you will find the website and gallery welcoming and easy to navigate.

I was lucky enough to be one of the thirty-six artists chosen in the online art exhibition. I've been making minimalist geometric-shaped jewelry for over five years now and I am very proud to be a part of the Burbank Online Art Gallery. My jewelry is currently being sold at Mindfulnest here in Burbank, as well as in the Museum of Wisconsin Art (MOWA). My jewelry was also featured in the 2019-2020 addition of the JBHS yearbook. My whole Jewelry endeavor started when I visited A Dale Chihuly exhibit at an art museum in Washington. I truly believe in the power of inspiration and the drive to creativity. With museums temporarily closed, I hope people find visual arts galleries as the inspiration they need to create something great.

The amazing variety of submissions featured in the virtual art gallery is astonishing. Anything from mixed media, poetry, music, photography, painting, jewelry, pottery, and dancing. One of my favorite art pieces from the show is by an artist named Joe Korzen. Korzen designed a minimalist, wooden wall clock and posted a video so viewers could see it moving. I also enjoyed viewing Eul Hurley's amazing "Looking Towards Pershing Square." Hurley used a mix of black line and washes to portray the Los Angeles skyline in a very unique way.

With such a wide and creative display of art, the Burbank Visual Arts Gallery has really stepped up to the plate to give those that enjoy art, a very diverse experience. The Burbank Visual Arts Gallery welcomed all walks of life. From the big guy to the little guy, from the famous to the anonymous. All equal, all simply artists. If you think the Burbank Visual Arts Gallery is something you might be interested in, I suggest you take a look and become inspired.



Artist Eul Hurley



Artist Neil Eiklor

Virtual Parks And Rec Classes

By Noel Pennington
Staff Writer

To slow the spread of Covid-19, most are advised to stay safe by remaining at home. During this time, even without in person exercise or sports classes, the Burbank Parks and Rec have set up online videos for at home workouts and shows other ways to stay active.

There are a lot of different options on the Burbank Parks and Rec website, from Baseball and Softball pitching clinics, to Zumba tutorials.

From July 20- August 5, Burbank Parks and Rec hosted an online disc golf league, where participants could play on their own time, and submit their own scores. Participants went to Bell Golf Course and played their disc gold rounds there. There were three different divisions, the gold division, blue division, and red division. The standings are shown on the Parks and Rec website, so anyone can go on and see the participants and their scores, and who came in first place for each division.

Even with the limited options that the Burbank Parks and Rec have due to the Pandemic, they still managed to post helpful videos for those staying at home, to encourage them to stay active.

Even with Covid-19, those who organized the Disc Golf League were able to adapt and make it so participants individually competed and took scores on their own.

Also, sports teams at Burroughs are able to practice through the Parks and Rec, at Olive Park.

The Football team is able to do some conditioning outside, while maintaining a social distance, and Volleyball is doing activities as well through their classes, among other school sports.

All in all, even during Covid-19, the Parks and Rec have provided some pretty cool and unique ways to stay active while staying safe. Whether it's by following some video tutorials on exercises, joining a disc golf league, or just going on a walk outside, the Burbank Parks and Rec has options for the Burbank community.

Link Crew Gains Class Status At Burroughs In 2020

By Maya Merino
Copy Editor

Link Crew is a leadership program that mainly focuses on helping Freshmen in their transition into high school.

This year due to the circumstances some of the in-person activities and fun games have been put at a halt for the Freshmen. But as a program, we have tried to make them feel secure and welcomed.

For orientation, two Link Leaders were put with a group of around eight to ten Freshmen and had an amazing Zoom call. It was definitely something new to all of us, it was a good bonding experience.

During the virtual orientation, we played many exciting games that had everyone participating. The Freshmen, if needed, asked questions about the upcoming year and any advice we had in high school in general.

Freshmen Daniela Guzman stated "I thought it was really nice to be able to talk to people from school especially because we can't be in school and see each other."

Another Freshman, Max said, "It was a little nerve racking at first but at least I got to ask questions I didn't know before, it was helpful," and one other Freshman from a different team, Samantha stated "It was good, my Link Leaders made it fun with games it's just sad that we aren't doing it in school."

Link Leader Sophia Zappia stated, "It was definitely very different but the call went well and our freshmen were very nice."

Other Link Leaders said, "There were some difficulties like with anything but we think it was still helpful, it's just hard to keep in contact with them and make sure they know they have upperclassmen to help them out but we are working on that and trying to come up with ways to better keep in connect and create some friendships."

It was indeed something different and students tried their best to make everyone feel welcomed with introduction and closing videos that included staff from John Burroughs wishing them well for their first year of high school.

Every group has a group chat where they can all keep in contact with each other and send encouraging texts.

During the first week, link leaders sent texts to group members, hoping for a great first week and letting them know if they need anything they are there for them.

At the end of the week, they had another group call to catch up and see if anybody needed help or some guidance.

Link Leaders still try to keep in contact with their Freshmen by texting and checking up on them.

In regards to upcoming activities for Link Crew, Burroughs recently just made Link Crew a class that students are enrolled in and can get service hours for.

There are about 35 students in the specific class out of about 150 students in the Link Crew program. This class does have designated times where they are in class, which is Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:50. This class develops leadership skills as well as working with people and coming up with creative ideas on how to better support John Burroughs and incoming Freshmen.

An idea that has come up but is still in the process of perfecting is making a point based game, where teams complete easy tasks to gain points and at the end of the year Link Crew will tally it all and the team with the most points wins a prize.

They are different committees that tackle different issues like tutoring, event planning and media.

Link Crew is still attempting to come up with new and innovative ideas on how to stay connected with the Freshman and be able to communicate, bond and help them more and what activities we can do with them virtually to make this year a little more enjoyable.

Clubs On Campus

By Kimberly Gomez
Staff Writer

As we all know, this Covid-19 pandemic has canceled many activities and events in the school year.

Despite these cancellations, our clubs at John Burroughs High School are continuing to work together to create a new environment for engaging with peers.

As classes are transitioning to online learning, clubs are constructing a plan to keep progressing with their goals and activities. Clubs such as Latinos Unidos, Key Club, and the Red Cross club have already begun adjusting to their new online setting.

For instance, the club, Latinos Unidos, have taken initiative and had their first club meeting on August 23, 2020.

Latinos Unido's first club meeting was through Zoom and consisted of an introduction and unique exercises to get to know their members. It has been a smooth transition to an online format for Latinos Unidos as they are using their technology resources to promote their club. "We have been recruiting new members by posting notices on all of our personal social media and encouraging others to do the same," explained Karina Montes, Co-President of Latinos Unidos.

Like Latinos Unidos, several clubs have taken to social media to inform students with updates. The John Burroughs High School Red Cross club shared their Google Classroom code on its Instagram. In their Google Classroom, they will hold meetings and post updates and information about future events.

What's more, the Sexuality and Gender Alliance club has also shared a link on their Instagram to sign up for the club and get invited to their weekly meetings. SAGA's weekly meetings will be on Thursday's at 1:00 PM. As for Latinos Unidos, Karina Montes says, "We will be having meetings every other week at most."

Granted there are plenty of more clubs at John Burroughs High School, they are in the works of developing their online format.

Normally at the beginning of the year, we would have our annual club rush, unfortunately, because of the situation we are in, students won't get the chance to physically go through it this year. However, ASB is in the process of creating the first-ever virtual club rush at John Burroughs High School. A meeting was held on August 27, 2020, discussing this proposal as well as plans for the future of new clubs. If you are interested in creating a new club make sure to contact ASB for any additional information.

It is important to recognize that clubs won't be the same as last year or previous years, so we need to be patient with our club presidents as they are doing the best they can to keep their clubs progressing. Karina Montes says, "Running a Club online has been very similar to what it was in school, except that now it is easier to communicate with larger groups of people and that activities need to be altered to an online format." Even with the possible negative effects of this online format, we must realize the positive aspect of being able to reach out to many people through the use of technology.

As significant as activities, fundraising, and events are to a club's growth, it will be challenging to do them without human interaction. Karina Montes say's, "Latinos Unidos is planning to make bracelets in the style of people native to Latin America, along with hopefully being able to do a food drive later on in the year."

Even with limited resources, clubs are going to plan activities and continue to give back to the community of Burbank in any way they can.

For more information about clubs and their upcoming meetings make sure to follow their social media accounts and the John Burroughs High School ASB Instagram.

Volunteering Requirements

By Amare Cooke
Staff Writer

Previously, students were required to complete a minimum of ten service learning hours to graduate. During the pandemic and distance learning, students are still required to complete service hours, but with new opportunities that provide "virtual" ways to complete service hours, as well as new locations to complete service hours.

At the time of a despair-inducing global crisis, our school does not want to put its students in harm's way. The fact that the distance learning has been enforced in order for us to remain educated while safe and socially distanced is an example of this. Although, on occasion, we still have to interact with others in order to get things done.

An example of this is the service learning hours that are required to graduate. At a time of social distancing, the community still needs help and may be in need of volunteers. That reality along with the fact that service hours still need to be completed is exactly why there is a list of service learning opportunities available on the John Burroughs High School website.

Many of the opportunities listed may be unavailable currently but virtual service learning hours are listed and still can be completed. Additionally, there is also a Service Learning Opportunities file that can be found virtual service hours opportunities.

Ms. Campos in the College and Career Center stated, "Given our current situation, students are encouraged to take care of their health and adhere to the state's guidance with regards to COVID-19. We do not recommend that students expose themselves if they don't need to volunteer their service."

Regarding the fact that the service learning hours is still a graduation requirement, Ms. Campos stated, "We understand that this is still a graduation requirement and that students are worried about completing this, however I am sure that if anything changes, our school district will make sure to communicate with all students and families about this graduation requirement."

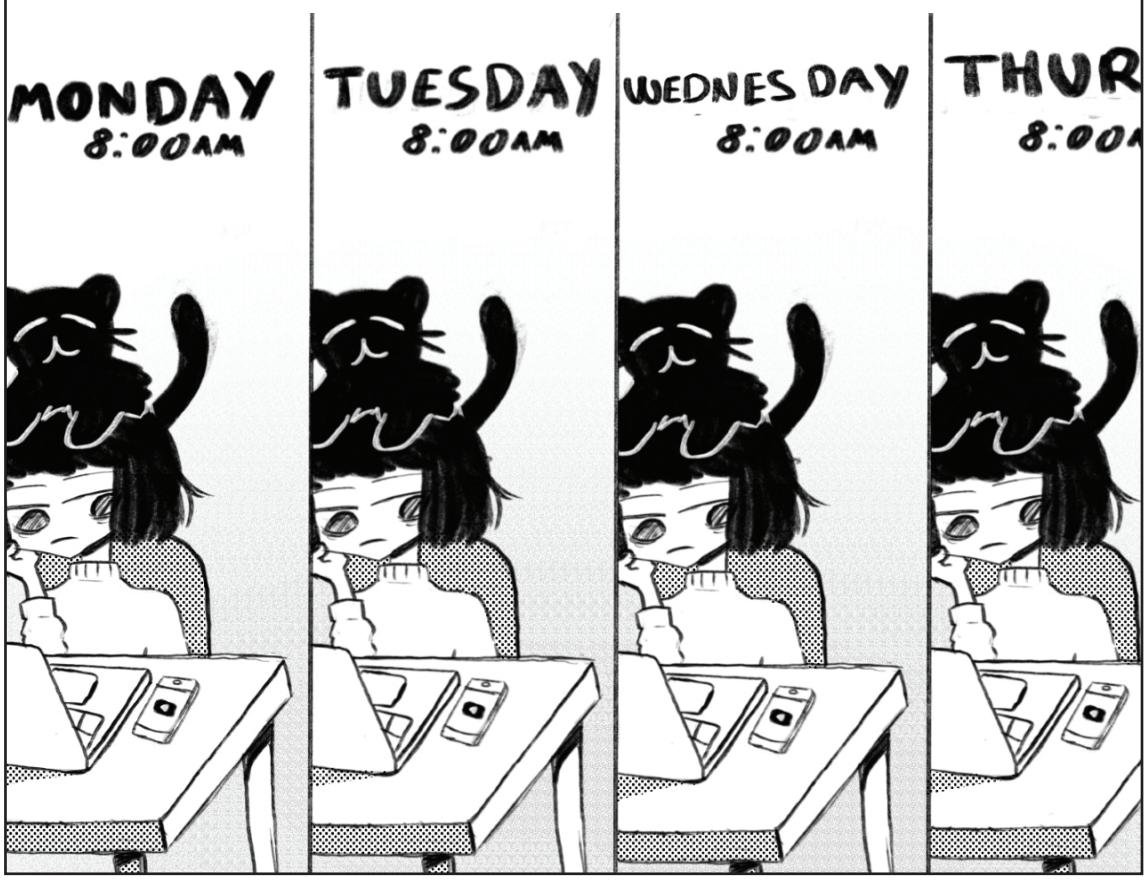
As far as other world events occurring, small businesses struggling to stay afloat, there are still other places where volunteers are needed that have not been mentioned on the list. But as stated, volunteering should only be done if necessary during the pandemic.

For further information, an email can be sent to marielacampos@burbankusd.org.

Upcoming Dates

October 30th	Final Day For Parents to Decide Between Hybrid and DL options
October 31st	Halloween
November 1st	Dia de Muertos
November 3rd	Election Day
November 7th	Burroughs On Broadway
November 11th	Veteran's Day (No School)
November 26th	Thanksgiving
November 25th-27th	No School

Cartoonist Lucia McFarland



Burbank City Council And Fleet Feet Virtual Race

By Vivianna Lattanzi
Staff Writer

This year the Burbank City Council is hosting its first ever Virtual Race.

Due to COVID-19 the races that take place in Burbank cannot happen anymore in person.

The runners of the Burbank community are not too happy about it. Jimmy Nealis, a current student on the JBHS Track Team, who loves to participate in the Burbank races says, "It just sucks I can't run with all my friends like we usually do." He also tells me "I always look forward to the Burbank races. They are a great way to bond with my family and friends."

Instead of the normal races usually put on by Burbank, this year there will be a first ever virtual race.

Burbank tried their best to find a way for the community to come together and do what they love in a safe way.

The organizer of this event is Fleet Feet. This company is in charge of all the contestants and scoring.

Anyone can enter. To enter the virtual race go online to the Fleet Feet website fill out an online application.

All contestants must download an app that records running time.

Then the competitors must submit their time and route to the Fleet Feet company.

This event is a great opportunity for people who have a passion for racing.

It is awesome for all ages.

People from all around Burbank will be participating in this. This virtual race has been taking place since September 1st and ends November 1st.

On their website Fleet Feet states, "This FREE virtual race is perfect for social distancing. You will run (or walk) at your own pace, on your own time! At the end of the race, we will randomly draw two runners to receive a special prize from Fleet Feet Burbank! We're racing virtually to beat COVID-19, so please be sure to practice social distancing when participating."

Families all around Burbank really appreciate what Fleet Feet is doing for our community.

Another runner from John Burroughs Jessie Virture who is currently on the JBHS Soccer Team and who participates in the Burbank races all the time claims, "I cannot wait to do this with my sister, we share a passion for running and I think it is not only a great way to get away from the stress of quarantine but also a way to take my mind off school for a bit."

It is a great experience for families to get out for a bit in a safe way.

While completing this virtual race it is highly recommended to practice social distancing and always wear your mask while participating in the race.

This event got inspired by the people who love to run and don't let the pandemic affect them.

It is a great way to prove that people can still do what they love and find great opportunities while being safe and following the basic health rules.

Choir Goes Virtual, And Is Still Producing B.O.B

By Hannah Lepley
Staff Writer

On March 13, 2020 John Burroughs High School had to shut down for the remainder of the school year due to Covid-19 leaving many programs, such as choir, feeling half finished. The choir program is made up of four choir classes which are the advanced mixed group Powerhouse, advanced girls group Sound Sensations, intermediate mixed group Sound Waves and intermediate girls group Decibelles.

It is hard to imagine how a class that is so involved, so present, could become digital, yet somehow Mr. Jennings managed to turn this performance arts class into a functional online class. He said, "For me I've been slowly developing ideas about online school ever since we stopped school last year."

Just like any class being moved online there have been both benefits and drawbacks, and everybody has their own opinions on what they like and dislike.

One of the benefits of virtual learning, according to Decibelles member Ava Gorman, is that it is easier for her to put herself out there, "I find that it's not as hard to get up and sing a solo or try out for a dance part when it's virtual."

Owen Gersh, who is part of Sound Waves, said, "I like that we're all muted and everybody can hear Mr. Jennings equally," in response to what he likes about virtual learning.

On the other end of that spectrum is Sonya Dadekian and Sofia Bacalzo, both members of Sound Sensations, sharing what they don't love about being apart for class.

"Some of the things I miss about having choir in person are that we can't perform in person, obviously, which is really upsetting because one of my favorite parts of choir is to perform on the stage in front of people," responded Sonya Dadekian about what she doesn't like about virtual choir.

Sofia Bacalzo states, "I definitely miss being able to interact with and meet new people everyday in the Burroughs VMA. Of course I still see these people almost everyday on Zoom but it's nothing like spending time with people in person. It's much harder to get to know people virtually. "

Every year the choir program meets one to two weeks before school starts, in what is known as Prep Week, to get to know one another and start working on their sets for Burroughs On Broadway.

Prep Week went on as scheduled this year over Zoom, and it was very interesting to see how the choreographers and vocal coaches would overcome the challenge of a screen.

They all met the challenge with grace, and made this week as fun for the students as possible.

Decibelles member Renae Porter described her experience of this week by saying, "On the last day there were technical issues, but other than that it was pretty fun. I mean it definitely wasn't as great as actual prep week non Covid style, but it was definitely a lot more fun than I thought it was gonna be."

And though there were setbacks such as technical issues, it seems as though people were surprised at how much they enjoyed Prep Week.

Every October the VMA puts on a show called Burroughs on Broadway or B.O.B for short, and this show features songs from Broadway musicals. Each choir does a set based on a musical, this year Powerhouse will be performing *Side Show*, Sound Sensations is doing *Bring It On,* Sound Waves is doing *Aladdin*, and Decibeles is doing *The Marvelous Wonderettes*.

Mr Jennings still plans to put on this show, but it will be virtual. "Each student is going to record their vocal part and record their choreography in their own home. So we're doing the vocals and the dancing separate, then we will edit together all of those recordings into a multimedia, high quality end product," is how Mr. Jennings describes this year's show.

Not everyone is thrilled with this plan, such as Bella Do, a member of Sound Waves, shares, "I'm really sad we won't be able to perform all together and I'm not really sure how it will work out. I have very mixed feelings."

Just like any show there will be challenges, but this year the main challenge is distance, Addyson Cuellar described this problem by saying, "Instead of fifty kids together performing, it's now fifty individual performances that have to be put into as one and that's definitely going to be a challenge."

No matter how this year turns out, many of the students are just happy they are able to continue to do choir this year.

"Obviously I would love to do it in person and have a live audience, but I'm so grateful for the technology that we have today and the fact that we're able to perform it at all is just a blessing," said Jillian Flynn who is the President of Powerhouse.

Mr. Jennings is doing an amazing job at adapting to this strange year.

Powerhouse member Kaylor Toronto said, "I am super confident in the abilities of Mr. Jennings, the choir team, my fellow officers, and every performer. Every student in show choir works so hard, and no virus can stop us from expressing ourselves and putting on a show!"

Although this year will be unlike any year before, I know the students in choir will not let this ruin their performances.

B.O.B. is currently planned to be released online on November 7th, though is subject to change.

Recent Debate Between Eric Early And Adam Schiff

By Bella Santillano
Staff Writer

On October 5th, 2020 at 3:30pm, Democrat Congressman Adam Schiff debated over the future of California's 28th Congressional District (which includes West Hollywood, Burbank, part of Pasadena, Glendale, Verdugo Hills, Sunland, Tujunga, Echo Park, and Hollywood Hills) against Republican Eric Early.

Representative Schiff has been in the United States Congress since the year 2000.

Fresh-faced candidate Eric Early says himself "I am not a politician" but has had plenty of experience as a lawyer. Eric Early believes that the district is in need of a new representative to tackle the frequent ongoing issues that have not been tackled.

Just a week before the showdown, Representative Schiff decided to cancel the in person debate and stick to a Zoom call.

The debate was held by The League of Women Voters of Burbank/Glendale.

The moderator, Rita Zwern explained to both Eric and Representative Schiff that they would both be given a one minute opening statement, two minutes to explain their plans of actions, and after their opponent spoke they would have one minute to fire back with a rebuttal.

Prior to Rita announcing her twelve questions they would debate over, Eric started his opening statement wishing President Trump and the first lady a quick recovery from Covid-19, along with other members from the Trump administration. He explained he is a family man and runs a nationally recognized law firm. Eric took a jab at Representative Schiffs' reputation by claiming he watched Representative Schiff lie to many Americans and decided he has to "step up" to keep "the greatest country on the face of the earth."

Representative Schiff did not give any background on himself or his family but took a different approach to directly point out the issues in the district. He primarily wants to focus on ending the pandemic by listening to the science. He also wants to help American families who are currently out of work. Lastly, Representative Schiff explained that he supports an additional stimulus package, not only to help American families, but for small businesses to stay alive during the Covid recession.

Seven minutes into the debate, Eric was asked the question, "From the beginning of the pandemic, there has been a confusion and disagreement as to which level of government: federal, state, or local should be responsible for preparation and response. Which steps should be taken that these responsibilities are clearly delineated going forward for future pandemic and other disaster efforts?" Eric eagerly responded back that he wishes that the federal government had more say by telling the states they should reopen. Governors, particularly in California have been given a lot of responsibility that has impacted Constitutional rights. He believes beginning of May 2020, California, even Los Angeles should have opened up with the guidelines that everyone is aware of. He believes that jobs, churches, and schools should be reopened immediately. The consequences of keeping these areas closed leads to spousal abuse, child abuse, business shutdowns, and rising depression numbers to sky rocket.

Representative Schiff rebutted back with, "it did not have to be this way." Then, he explained his plans towards legislation to understand "what went wrong" and to get tests for everyone and future action that can better prepare for the future.

Later, Representative Schiff was asked "On September 1, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention announced a four month ban on eviction for renters allowing renters who are unable to pay rent, stay in their houses for the rest of the year...however both housing advocates and landlords said the CDC ban without financial or renter assistance doesn't go far enough to protect renters and property owners. What should the federal government do to address this issue?"

Representative Schiff gave an experience he had with a woman he met who chose to not pay her utility bills so she could pay her rent on time. He stated, "This is the predicament being faced by millions of Americans". He is fighting for one hundred billion dollars in rental assistance and seventy billion dollars for property owners. He further explained that even with 170 billion dollars given out to citizens it still won't be enough. Rent will still be due every month. In the end, it will conclude in millions of people being evicted, and adding even more numbers to the homeless crisis. If renters are evicted then landlords can't pay their mortgage and the economy will suffer even worse than the Great Depression.

With a one minute response, Eric explained his own experience with business owners who are wishing for California's Governor, Gavin Newsom, to open the state back up. Eric plans to help citizens "dig out of the ashes from Covid."

To read more about both candidates, and all the candidates in the upcoming November 3rd election, look on the next pages to their interviews for additional information.

Candidates For Congress

Eric Early

By Bella Santillano
Staff Writer

Eric Early is currently running as a Republican for Congress in California's 28th District which includes Pasadena, West Hollywood, Glendale, Verdugo Hills, and of course Burbank.

Early decided to run for Congress because he passionately loves America and "We need good people in government who care about the people."

Early would describe his campaign process as "many different things going on," however he enjoys campaigning because he loves talking and meeting with new people.

While Early was raised in Michigan, he attended New York University and believes it is a place, "where people's imagination, drive, talents, and hard work could allow them to live a good life." If someone can make it in New York, they can make it anywhere.

When he moved to Los Angeles in the mid 1980s, he attended South Western Law School's evening program to become a lawyer, which he currently is.

When asked what problems he sees in the Los Angeles community, he instantly gave his top three major issues he wants to focus on.

His top priorities are homeless, thousands of citizens currently unemployed due to Covid-19, and rising crime rates.

To address the homelessness on our streets, he plans to zero in on individuals who have mental illnesses. He believes that "Our countries' decimated mental illness treatment system has to be rebuilt from the ground up [...] long term facilities must be built [...] commit for treatment [...] and care for those who have no abilities to care for themselves."

To prevent future homeless, another topic of concern is the amount of citizens who are currently unemployed due to Covid 19.

Early's plan to "rebuild the District from the ashes of Covid-19" and he believes he is the Congressman who would be able to do so.

Early has prior knowledge when it comes to representing and advising large and small companies compared to his opponent Democrat Adam Schiff.

Lastly, his third main priority is the rising crime rates in the 28th district.

Early is in "full support of law enforcement," along with first responders.

He also believes in due process of law and that every American is innocent until proven guilty.

He plans to invest in law enforcement and give them tools that would keep citizens safe, and to make sure that criminals, who are proven guilty, do their time.

Eric Early is not a supporter of defunding he police, especially not here in Burbank or the Burbank Unified School District, where he believes we should continue to fund and have police officers in our schools. He is a "big supporter of law enforcement" and believes that officers on campus are there to protect students walking on campus.

In the end, Eric Early is the Republican going against Adam Schiff.

His overall motive for running for Congress in the 28th district is to help better communities and put the American people first. He argues that many Americans living in California are suffering due to high cost of living, income inequality, and a failing education system. Also with the newest implementation of free health care to immigrants he feels, "it is unconscionable that our citizens are not only given fewer benefits than non citizens, but they are also expected to pick up the tab." He believes that non-citizens do deserve humane treatment, but that the immigration system needs to be fixed. He supports every American of every color, religion, and sexual orientation. He says he is fighting for the American people by running for Congress in the 2020 election.

Brad Sherman & Mark Reed

Candidates for Congressional District 30, Representative Brad Sherman and Mark Reed, did not respond to The Signal in time for publication.

Burbank has two Congressional Districts, the other is Congressional House District 28, in which the two candidates, Eric Early and Representative Adam Schiff, can be read about above.

Candidates Sherman and Reed are in their own race against each other and are not running against Early or Schiff.

Adam Schiff

By Savannah Stotts
Staff Writer

With the current political climate in the United States, the name Adam Schiff may sound familiar to many people. Adam Schiff is a Democrat who represents California's 28th Congressional District and serves as Chairman of the United States House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Congressman Schiff was born in Framingham, Massachusetts, and lived in Scottsdale Arizona, and Alamo, California growing up. He moved back to California after completing his undergraduate degree at Stanford and after graduating from Harvard Law School, when he and his wife moved to Burbank, where he still resides.

To deal with the pandemic, early in March, his entire staff transitioned from working in an office to working remotely. When voting in Congress he says there have been adjustments as well, "We are required to wear masks around the Capitol, and we vote in smaller groups so that the floor is never crowded with people."

He had recognized that not everyone has the privilege to be able to work remotely from home. Schiff acknowledged that he is grateful for the front-line workers such as doctors, grocery store workers, teachers, and service industry workers.

To assist small businesses during these times, Schiff says that, "small businesses are the backbone and engine of America's economy," and that Congress should do everything they can to help. Schiff has been fighting for "The Paycheck Recovery Act" similarly to what other countries have implemented.

Regarding the police's treatment of Black/Latino citizens, Schiff said, "Racism is the original sin of our nation. Generations of people of color, and particularly Black Americans, have lived in this country with the knowledge that they could be killed while driving, while jogging like Ahmaud Arbery, in their home like Breonna Taylor, while sitting on their own porch, while being pulled over for a traffic violation, or for nothing more than simply being Black in America." He stated that he proudly cosponsors and supports the Justice in Policing Act. This consists of "A bold police accountability bill that will hold police officers and departments responsible, reprogram existing police funding to empower communities, eliminate qualified immunity and other bold, comprehensive changes." He explained that it is the "most progressive and forward-leaning police reform bill ever introduced in the Congress," though he says there is still improvement to be made.

When confronted with the notion of defunding the police, Schiff believes that the idea of public safety being measured solely by arrests and convictions is something that we need to start moving away from. Many issues can be solved by more than just the police force. He acknowledges he is grateful that police officers put their lives on the line every day, but certain tasks the police are given need to be supplemented by other social services. An example of different professions are social workers, mental health specialists, or other first responders.

He also brought up how many black neighborhoods are over-policed. "Decades of over-policing low income and Black communities have made clear that we cannot continue more of the same, throwing more money at the same frankly broken system. We must create real reforms to policing in America to create better outcomes for our fellow Americans, especially Black Americans."

In addition, he introduced new legislation so that juvenile justice prevention grants get as much funding as the COPS program. He introduced similar measures in Congress such as the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Legislation.

In terms of addressing homelessness and the rising rent crisis, Schiff implemented the Affordable and Homeless Housing Incentives Act earlier this year. He explains it as a "legislation that will give organizations that develop affordable housing an advantage as they compete with private developers in bids to acquire property and develop affordable housing. A crucial leg up in places like Los Angeles with competitive real estate markets." He says he is going to continue holding meetings to discuss homelessness and work towards people achieving a comfortable living situation.

Finally, Schiff states that everyone should help support the country and their community by choosing a cause they care about and get involved in it. "Pick an advocacy organization or cause you believe in. Pick a candidate you want to help." Schiff mentions another very important cause you should participate in is voting. Even if you aren't old enough you should advocate for others to vote. "The right to vote is foundational to all our other rights."

Candidates For State Legislature

Laura Friedman

By Eva Larrabee
Staff Writer

Laura Friedman is an Assemblymember in the 43rd District. She decided to run for this position since she used to be a part of the Glendale City Council and thought it a way to continue her service to the community.

She was originally raised in South Florida and moved to Rochester, New York to attend University of Rochester.

Politics wasn't Friedman's original plan, she worked in the film industry for four years working with Paramount Pictures in Los Angeles before becoming more involved in the community and gradually ended up running for the Glendale City Council.

Friedman feels that the most important issue of the day is COVID-19, as it has had a big effect on job losses in the community, people are struggling with paying rent, and the loss of life.

Friedman says there has been such a huge local and state cost in fighting the pandemic that there is now less funding for other crises like fighting for affordable housing, social services, and education, and that federal support is essential in fighting COVID-19.

Still, climate change induced drought has been more prominent than ever, leading to record breaking wildfires that have been going on for many years now to the point of major crises. Friedman says she has been working on wildfire prevention since she joined the Legislature, she has Chaired the Natural Resources Committee and worked on legislation to help fight climate change. Funding is a major issue, and getting the funds to deal with climate change is very important.

Another of her goals is moving to wildfire prevention instead of suppression and having a healthy forest management infrastructure, since prevention is much easier than fighting the fires.

Concerning another important issue going on, the Black Lives Matter movement, Friedman speaks about how we need to let people of color tell their stories, engage the community in what happened to them and listen to those affected. We need to be active in anti-racism and protect all citizens by having implicit diversity training and bias training.

As far as defunding the police, Friedman doesn't see it as a matter of funding or defunding, but instead a change of funding is what people are looking for when it comes to the police, "We need to look to see where funding is placed, low crime and high funded areas or high crime and low funded areas." And shifting funding, by see if any areas are being neglected and instead of more police officers have other resources brought into those areas with high crime, such as education and social services, which would be better than after the fact law enforcement.

Another way to make the public safer than increased law enforcement is funding sports programs like they have in Glendale to keep people healthy physically and mentally, and active in the community. Other ideas she has are addressing certain issues like having officers wear plain clothes and be trained to connect with homeless people and the mentally ill. It can frighten people having police carry a gun and full uniforms, and can be better to have them wearing friendly faces instead. Also, helping police to get to know and let the officers help the homeless, black community, and mentally ill will also improve local law enforcement.

Speaking of the homeless, homelessness has been a huge issue, especially now, and this is what Friedman has to say about it, "Unlike what people might think, most aren't homeless because of addiction or mental illness, it's much more complicated than it might seem. You might not see the homeless sleeping on streets but they can be working people in the community that just can't afford rent, couch surfing, or staying in hotels or shelters. Some have substance issues or mental illnesses, but these can be made worse by losing their home. Destigmatizing homelessness is the first thing people should work on, don't assume because of a bad choice they made it's the reason they are homeless."

More people will eventually become homeless because of COVID-19, especially with eviction moratoriums ending, people are losing their homes. Friedman is working on a bill to extended eviction moratoriums that should help stop the bleeding because once people are on the streets it's much harder to help them.

The rising rent crisis is also a big factor in homelessness, working people lose housing just because of rent going up over what they can pay statewide. Rent control still allows an 8% rent raise every year, forcing people to move further away from their work, causing bad traffic, poor air quality, and costing people time in their commutes. We need to give people opportunities to live life closer to home, according to Friedman.

Small businesses are a large part of our community and with Covid-19 lots of them are going out of business. The Federal government gave them the Care Act, but it was not designed to last this long, and with no other Act in sight, we need to find ways to support them. We might need to change regulations for better operation, Friedman says, and to do this she was principal co author of a bill allowing restaurants to use parking lots without having to replace parking. A specific bill she supports gives businesses a small grant if they hit the bottom line but can still afford workers.

Friedman ends by giving advice on how to help the community, stating that "Everyone has an interest and for your interest there is probably a non profit working on it." Laura Friedman's office will even help you find a way to help the community depending on an interest you have, there are lots of ways to get involved.

Mike Graves

Candidate Mike Graves did not respond to The Signal in time for publication.

Candidates For State Senate

Anthony Portantino

By Alysia Martinez
Staff Writer

Anthony Portantino is a Democrat running for reelection for the State Senate in the 25th State Senate District.

He decided to run because of an experience he had, stating, "I moved to a small town with strong public schools where I found a city council and school district that did not cooperate. I felt it was important to have a younger perspective on the council and that at least one of the five council members should have a child in the local public schools. After my eight years on the city council, I literally fell in love with the public service aspect of a representative democracy. I subsequently ran for the State Assembly and then the Senate four years ago to continue my efforts to support public education. The process was unsettling at first because you need to ask other people for help. It is also a journey of self- discovery because a candidate gets to dig deep into their own self to figure out their own issues, causes and priorities."

Portantino was born and raised in New Jersey and moved to California after graduating from college, currently living in La Cañada.

He went to public schools in New Jersey and then a small liberal arts college in Ready, Pennsylvania called Albright College.

Before transitioning to politics, he worked in film and production because he loved classic films and aspired to be a filmmaker. In fact, that's why he moved to Southern California in the first place.

In regards to the issues facing our community, Portantino states that, "Every community is struggling with and adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, when and how to reopen schools and the economy are the most pressing issues facing towns like Burbank."

The issues he cares most about are strong gun control and supporting of mental health policy. In fact, he works closely with FSA which is a non profit in Burbank, and works collaboratively with the PTA and other education stakeholders to identify problems and challenges that need to be addressed and overcome.

He has also championed increased funding for public education as well for special education, working closely with the mental health community on bringing mental health issues out of the shadows. He was responsible for the law to move high school start time later in the morning because students who sleep later achieve better test scores and graduation rates while suicide and depression go down. He also authored the law to put suicide prevention hotline number on student ID's.

He also believes that the state should prioritize public education funding.

In regards to the Black Lives Matter movement, he states that he believes "that there is systematic racism in public safety that needs to be addressed."

Specifically in regards to defunding the police in Burbank and in its schools, he says he is not intimately familiar with the matter in the town or district, and therefore thinks "the School Board should reach out to stakeholders and determine where it should dedicate resources to keep our schools safe. It really becomes a school by school issue."

Kathleen Hazelton

By Amare Cooke
Staff Writer

Kathleen Torres Hazelton is a Republican in Upland, California running for District 25 for the State Senate in the upcoming election, in order to uphold the "American values that make California great," in her own words.

She is originally from Washington, D.C. but she moved to California in 2006.

Hazelton believes that "it is a Senator's duty to protect the liberty of the people," therefore one of her main goals is to repeal AB5, the bill recently passed that requires people that are considered company workers to be treated as employees.

Hazelton stated, "All the AB5 stories are really pathetic and sad. People have lost employment because of this bill that the Governor chose to sign into law; it needs to be repealed to allow people the freedom to work as they choose. People should not lose their entire livelihood and businesses over an ill-conceived and punitive law created for the Labor Unions. Special interests should not dictate how people choose to work!"

She is also very passionate about the safety of California citizens. She claims, "We must support our law enforcement and build bridges between the community and police."

Additionally, she believes that we need to support the Second Amendment with police officers in mind, in order to continue "Empowering our police officers to do their jobs effectively."

The problems that Hazelton plans on fixing within communities in California, freeing working Californians by repealing AB5 in order for them to work as they choose, and to support small businesses that use independent contractors.

Her other plans to change the community are lowering taxes which would help smaller businesses and protect the ownerships of properties.

Lastly, Hazelton has hopes of protecting the Second Amendment freedoms in order to make the community a safer place, as well as "protecting the unborn," making borders stronger, and "restoring the homeless to a productive lifestyle."

Hazelton believes that "Overhauling the state school system" would be beneficial to students as it would benefit the children, rather than unions.

In Hazelton's past, she attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

She received a Bachelor of the Arts in Chemistry, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, later attending the University of Utah to receive a Master of Science Degree in Nursing-Midwifery.

Hazelton then served in the United States Air Force for twelve years as a Staff Nurse and a Midwife, which she believes is, "One of most formative times," of her life.

Candidates For City Council

Nick Schultz

By Hannah Lepley
Staff Writer

On November 3, 2020 elections for the Burbank City Council will be held, for a four year term. One of the many people running for the position is Deputy Attorney General Nick Schultz who is a Democrat.

Schultz is not originally from Burbank. He was born in San Diego, but was mostly raised in Portland, Oregon. He moved to the Los Angeles area when he started working as an attorney.

Nick is the first one in his family to go to college. He graduated from the University of Oregon, located in Eugene, and earned a Bachelor of Arts with majors in Political Science and History.

There are multiple reasons why Mr. Schultz decided to run for this position. But the biggest reason is because growing up he was raised by a single mom who was constantly in and out of jobs and he remembers how anxious he felt about that uncertainty. And over these past six months he has been thinking about how there are a lot of families here who are concerned about money. He feels like he understands what these people are going through.

Besides running for City Council Nick Schultz is the Deputy Attorney General where he works for Attorney General Xavier Beccera at the California Department of Justice. He is a criminal prosecutor and handles cases dealing with human trafficking, public corruption, and financial fraud.

He chose this profession because he knew that he wanted to help people. He describes this by saying, "I wanted to be the voice and protect the people that are getting victimized. The people that have been abused. I wanted to give them an advocate in the courtrooms."

As a candidate for City Council, Deputy Attorney General Schultz takes notice of the problems in our community. A few of these problems are housing and the environment, but his number one issue is the economy.

A few steps he plans to take to fix this issue are to put together the Burbank Economic Recovery Task Force. This task force would bring people from the entertainment industry, mom and pop business owners, people who work in retail, and other major employers around the city and bring them into these discussions to represent the working class.

Recently the schools in Burbank have experienced budget cuts due to the failure to pass as Measure I, when it didn't get the two-thirds majority required. And even though the City Council doesn't directly control the schools budgets, they are still leaders of our community who can start this discussion. He said, "I don't want to see cuts in the classroom. When we start cutting from our textbooks and our arts programs and all of those things that make BUSD schools so great, we're not just hurting everyone of you, we're hurting our future."

The budget cuts are not the only issue schools are facing right now. There is a concern on how schools are going to reopen in a way that is safe for both the students and staff. He doesn't have a firm plan yet because we need to listen to health officials and see when it is safest to send students back to school. Mr. Schultz says, "We do need to make sure that before we send you back that it's safe to do so." And while he wants to help in any way he can he understands that the school board was elected to do this job, not him.

There are many ways to help our community continue to grow in a very positive way.

Deputy Attorney General Nick Schultz has many ideas about how you can help improve the community. But the biggest one is to go and vote. In our elections most people don't actually vote. But voting in local elections would help turn your community into something even better.

Linda Bessin

By Maya Merino
Staff Writer

One of the candidates running for City Council is Linda Bessin, a registered Democrat.

She decided to run because she is a long time resident of Burbank and she believes that now is the time to get more involved in her city government, especially due to everything that's been happening.

For Linda Bessin, the process for running for office is crazy, you have to do a lot of paperwork and have at least fifty signatures to qualify, pay many fees, do fundraising and talk to people and reach out. Covid has made these activities harder. She can't have events and now she has to find ways to connect with people in a safe way.

Linda Bessin went to school in West Los Angeles, went to high school at the University High School, and went to college at Claremont where she majored in English and is currently finishing graduate school.

Currently retired, she spends her time doing an abundant amount of public service work, she is the President of a Domestic Violence Shelter, and Vice Chair of a community health center in the Valley.

Mrs. Bessin's number one issue is to increase people's access to the City Council.

Another issue she wants to address is affordable housing.

The last major issue that concerns her is the lack of public transportation in Burbank. There is nothing that gets us around the city like from here to downtown L.A. in a reasonable time.

She plans on addressing these issues by attacking them face on and improving the quality of life here.

When it comes to BPD and their treatment towards black and Hispanic citizens she mentions that she has heard many stories from mainly black citizens that were not positive. She thinks there should definitely be more discussion on this matter, there have been many complaints about the police department and she knows that the community as a whole needs to be concerned about it and be able to build trust between citizens and the police. Although all her experiences have been good with the police she knows that we need to be very critical about these situations. Steps she would like to consider in regards to the police departments funding are to make more resources people can call when the police aren't really necessary, more so for problems that need de-escalation. We can switch funding to resources that help with things like mental health. In regards to police being at school she thinks that the parents and students should have a say in it and come to an agreement on whether or not they should be there.

On the subject of the curriculum at Burbank schools and what should happen after the budget cuts and the reopening of school that's really up to the School Board. She does want the best for our schools and our safety, and she will also support the School Board as well in their decisions.

She plans on addressing the homeless problem by first considering all the possibilities on why someone is homeless, like domestic violence, addiction, and the housing crisis. It's not a one size fits all, we need to be able to look at each person and understand their situation and not just throw money at it.

With that she plans on addressing the rent crisis by first getting our health crisis and economic crisis under control and then creating more housing.

For the small businesses in the community we need data on these businesses so we are able to reach and ask them what they need and how exactly we can help.

Citizens can help the community by voting, and by making sure it's an educated vote. Also find out about how Burbank's city government works and how the School Board works, so when it's time to speak up you are educated and your voice can be heard.

Michael Lee Gogin

By Kimberly Gomez
Staff Writer

As we near the 2020 elections it is important to recognize the politicians running for office in Burbank. Michael Lee Gogin is a candidate running for Burbank City Council member in the November 3, 2020 elections.

Michael Lee Gogin was born and raised in San Francisco, California and went on to attend San Francisco State University. He moved to Los Angeles to pursue his acting and screenwriting career. Gogin has lived in Burbank for thirteen years and has come across the different unique lifestyles in Burbank. Gogin has thirty-five years of experience as an entrepreneur, screenplay writer, and actor.

Gogin's profession has allowed him to reach many people with his writing. Throughout his career Michael Lee Gogin has been an activist for disability rights and donates his time for the better of the community. He belongs to the Republican Party but expresses non-partisan views.

Michael Lee Gogin plans to not only listen to the concerns of Burbank residents but create new opportunities for them. Michael Lee Gogin says, "Because of my media experience, I can make Burbank a better place to live, safer and with more media jobs for younger people."

The Covid-19 pandemic is affecting not only the voting process but it has decreased the city's income. Gogin expresses how with Covid-19, "The city will have to pay more attention to their budget."

With all the complications the Covid-19 pandemic has brought, the rising rent crisis in Burbank is an urgent matter. Michael Lee Gogin addresses this matter by saying, "We need more competition of available rentals to keep the pricing stable. Rent Control is a mathematical disaster. With no competition and a rent today of $2,000 per month, multiply that 8% increase per year and in ten years rent will double to $4,000 per month. This equation does not work for the disabled, elderly and those with a fixed income. This equation helps create more homelessness just like Santa Monica experience in the 70s, San Francisco in the 80s and Los Angeles now. I will not support any form of Rent Control."

Gogin wishes to improve different areas in Burbank. The candidate plans on, "Protecting Police and Fire Departments, work on controlling auto speeding in business and residential areas of Burbank, protecting R-1 and R-1H Zones in Burbank, and my favorite ones, creating a Filming Commission and creating a safe leash free dog park." To achieve these projects and better these issues Gogin plans to work with all stakeholders in the community one at a time.

As far as protecting our Police and Fire Departments, auto speeding in Business, and residential areas of Burbank, there are already funds allocated annually. As with the creation of a Filming Commission it will be a benefit to retain jobs created within the media industry. Gogin said, "A safe leash free dog park is currently in process and I'd like to see this park paid for by the people who use it."

In regards to changing the Burbank Police Department funding the candidate says, "Our city has been funding social services and I have no problem with that at all. I believe that we should work on helping the homeless who are mentally ill as much as we can." The candidate also expresses how when the State of California allows schools to return back to school he wishes for the Burbank Unified School District to continue to fund and have police officers in our schools so that every student feels safe.

Gogin advises Burbank citizens to improve the community by working together and cleaning up the trash so it doesn't get into the ocean and mess up the parks and streets in the neighborhoods. "We need to work on having cleaner air and cleaner water. I am personally in favor of creating a monorail system in Burbank and having more Hydrogen Fuel Cell powered vehicles to cut air pollution," explained Michael Lee Gogin.

Timothy Murphy

By Molly Boyke
Editor-In-Chief

Timothy Murphy, a Burbank City Councilman currently in his second term of office after a term from 1989 to 1993, is running for a third term as a City Council member.

As a City Councilman, a few of Mr. Murphy's contributions to Burbank have included starting the Boys and Girls Club, a youth organization that has twenty three sites and serves several BUSD schools, as well as recently closing portions of San Fernando Boulevard to give restaurants struggling during the pandemic more outdoor dining space.

Mr. Murphy, an attorney-at-law mostly handling family and criminal law, originally lived in Los Angeles, then moved to Burbank during his childhood. Having been in Burbank for fifty years, he's familiar with the Burroughs and Burbank areas.

Councilman Murphy decided to run for the position of a Councilperson because, as he put it, "we've got so many issues now, we've got economic issues, we've got health issues, we've got problems to solve and I'm the most experienced and most qualified person so I need to stick around."

He described running for office as "a lot of work, a lot of pain... but you get tremendous joy from helping people, there are times where just one phone call or one email from me can change a situation and make someone's life better."

The most important problem that Mr. Murphy sees within our community is the issue of keeping people as safe as possible, especially employees who work with people on a regular basis. Once that issue is handled, his next priority is to reopen our economy as quickly and safely as possible.

Concerning how COVID-19 has affected his plans as well as the City Council's plans, Mr. Murphy stated that Burbank had one of its best years ever before the pandemic hit and had obtained a huge profit, however, because of the pandemic all of the potential plans for how the funds could be used have been set aside in order to properly address the task at hand. However, currently the city has been able to get by without letting go of any of its employees, and those who worked in positions they can no longer work in (crossing guards, for example, are not needed at this time) are being shifted to positions that require more workers as of late.

As a current and experienced City Council member, Mr. Murphy is aware that Burbank allocates funds based on the budget, and that making changes to the budget is difficult based on the restrictions for it that are currently set in place.

In terms of decisions based on the schools such as budget cuts, reopening safely, police officers in our schools, and the curriculum, Councilman Murphy has stated that he will follow the recommendations of the School Board and operate based on their judgment, as well as listen to the opinions of students and teachers.

On the topic of the police department, Mr. Murphy acknowledged that about nine years ago, the BPD hired a new chief of police who was required to reform the entire department and completely change the policies in place. "Our police department has made a lot of progress. We have an independent agency called the OIR that comes in once a year and takes different aspects of the department and tears it apart and writes a written report for everybody to see, publishes that report, gives the report in front of the city council so people can look at it, hear what they have to say, and it's right there in public," he stated.

Councilman Murphy went on to elaborate, "We also have an independent police commission that meets once a month in public. Anybody can go to a police commission meeting, see what's going on, see what they're looking at [...] If I had a concern, it would be that the police commission is mostly white. I have asked that it be expanded for two additional people. I'm hoping that we can get a woman of color and a man of color, or two women of color or two men of color, just so we get a different point of view."

Mr. Murphy believes that the best thing that a citizen can do to help the community is to volunteer. "Find something that you like to do, whether it's [helping] kids, whether it's sports, coach a team, look for that kid that's lost, teach music, teach art […] There's just tons of non-profits, there's service clubs, there's Kiwanis, The Z-club if you're interested in women's issues [...] You've got all these service clubs and they do great things."

After his two terms of service as a Councilman and his several years of work as an attorney, Timothy Murphy is a very experienced candidate for the Burbank City Council.

Candidates For City Council

Paul Herman

By Stephanie Hernandez
Staff Writer

Paul Herman, a conservative business executive who has been a Burbank resident for thirteen years, is running for City Council on November 3rd to aid in the issues of COVID-19, affordable housing, community safety, and in support of schools.

While being a Burbank resident, he has volunteered in several programs such as the Boys and Girls Club, the Burbank Chamber of Commerce, and the Woodbury University School of Business. He has also been an active participant in the Noon Rotary Club.

Paul Herman is also the owner of The Herman Company, which is a commercial real estate firm and property management company that resides in Burbank.

Paul Herman is a graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, otherwise known as California Polytechnic State University. He has over eighteen years of background working as a commercial real estate broker.

He is an advocate for affordable housing in Burbank and intends to address this issue if he is voted into the City Council.

To tackle this issue, he aims to fight for Local Control, which means that local policies regarding affordable housing shouldn't be checked or limited by the state government. He also intends to accelerate the plans for Downtown Burbank, and while in office, will aim to ensure measured growth in all of Burbank.

Additionally, if put into office, one of his goals is to preserve Burbank neighborhoods' nature.

Regarding where he plans to allocate funds to improve community safety, his objective is to amplify funds towards Burbank's Mental Health Evaluation Team and funding towards School Resource Officers.

In addition, he advocates for an increase in Police Officers' presence throughout Burbank and its schools.

One way he plans to implement more police is bicycle police. This proposal aims to create personal relationships between police, business owners, and Burbank residents.

To improve schools, he plans to advocate for youth programs and generate options to create a community that will secure supplementary funding to support schools. To do this, he aims to hold routine meetings between the City Council and the School Board and create relations between the City Council and the business community to build a more significant communication line.

An issue that he plans to face if he is voted into the City Council is when schools are safe to reopen, and which child-care systems must be used to enable the reopening of Burbank schools.

Regarding the worldwide issue of COVID-19, he also provided his solutions he would implement if he were to be voted into the City Council. He proposes a provision of assets geared towards small businesses in desperate need of resources to stay open. He also plans to work with companies to reopen cautiously.

Furthermore, he aims to provide additional funding towards local nonprofit organizations that cannot run on their regular income.

To summarize, Paul Herman is running for Burbank City Council to aid in affordable housing, the economic calamity that is COVID-19, community safety, and assisting in reopening schools and funding necessary to help support the Burbank School District.

Konstantine Anthony

By Brooke Bashar
Staff Writer

Konstantine Anthony is a Democratic candidate for Burbank City Council. He was born in northern California's East Bay but feels a strong connection to Burbank and it's under-represented problems.

Anthony ran for Council back in 2017 on the platform of affordable housing, homelessness, and Burbank's policing system. Anthony has pledged not to take donations from corporations, corporate PACs, property developers, Realtors, landlords, fossil fuel executives, or police associations.

When interviewed, Anthony talked about the housing crisis in Burbank. Konstantine himself experienced homelessness firsthand and is very passionate about this problem. He understands the struggle of trying to pay rent at a ridiculous expense, this is why he interestingly does not accept money from Realtors or landlords due to the fact that they make money at the hands of Burbank's housing crisis.

Konstantine also discusses Burbank's development issues with Measure H (H stands for homeless). Measure H taxes a quarter of a cent throughout LA County. Burbank alone has generated around eight million dollars through this taxation. With that money set aside, there needs to be a plan with how it will be spent. Burbank has yet to make a valid plan for the spending of this money.

So far, the only thing that has been accomplished is the hiring of a consultant to study how to spend the funds. Konstantine wants to see a plan made and carried out. He talks about Glendale's experience with their full-service homeless shelter and their decreasing homeless numbers and would like to replicate that investment through Measure H.

Konstantine is a strong believer in police reformation. Konstantine pledges to not take any donation from police associations.

During Konstantine's first time running for Council back in 2017, he has advocated for a better way of policing. He wishes to demilitarize police officers and enact the Eight Policy Recommendations.

Konstantine also wishes to remove police presence in schools and encourage local graduates to create a better police presence in Burbank. Konstantine is not in favor of the enacted curfews and will not vote for any upgrades to military surplus equipment going to the Burbank Police Department.

Konstantine Anthony's political advocacy is personal. Konstantine has struggled through the problems that people in Burbank experience too. Konstantine has been homeless and has lost job opportunities and accommodations because he is autistic. Konstantine Anthony wants to focus on post-pandemic recovery, housing justice, homelessness, transportation and infrastructure, community policing, environment and clean energy, worker's rights, ending systematic oppression locally, Burbank's small businesses, Burbank's schools, and connecting studios with local professionals.

Konstantine runs with the official support of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party and hopes to be elected this November.

Sharis Manokian

By Judi Browngardt
Staff Writer

Sharis Manokian is a Substitute Teacher here in Burbank Unified running for City Council. She is running as part of the Democratic Party.

She was born and raised here in Burbank and graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a degree in Economics.

She has subbed at nearly every school in the district and her love for our students has only solidified her love for teaching.

There are two reasons that helped Manokian decide to run for City Council. First, she has always been an activist for the causes that she believes in. From a young age, her parents would take her to civil rights rallies, women's rights protests, and Armenian Genocide marches. It wasn't until this past year that she recognized the greatest way she could affect change is through policy and political reform. Secondly, there are many young people living in Burbank that share her goal of establishing a better society, as seen in the BLM protests here. However, there is no youth representation in local government. Manokian wants to be that voice and hopefully inspire others to get involved.

Running for office has been one of the greatest learning experiences for Manokian. She mentions how she has encountered so many people who have a vested interest in bettering our city. Most importantly she has learned how important it is to connect with her voters one-on-one. If elected she will instill the feeling that everyone wants to be heard.

The lack of affordable housing is one of the significant problems here that she would like to address. She would like to see us allocate funds towards housing. This includes developing affordable housing and strengthening the housing assistance program designed to help lower-income families.

The second big problem is sustainability. Manokian believes Burbank can be much greener if we phase out single-use plastics and transition to 100% renewable energy.

According to Monokian our current number one issue is the Pandemic. She wants us, as a community, to continue to wear masks and comply with social distancing rules. "COVID-19 has certainly made housing and small businesses a priority," says Manokian. As of right now, she says extra funding needs to go towards efforts to ensure we keep people safe and the economy running.

Manokian goals for our schools are, as she states, "seeing us expand on what we cover in our history classes to include other cultures and a clearer telling of U.S. history." With the increase in class sizes, She would like to see us invest in supplemental instruction programs where we have peer tutoring for example. She also states, "As an educator for our cities public schools and as a student, our public school system is always in need of increased funding."

She was a supporter of Measure I earlier this year and would be a supporter of a new parcel tax. With that being said, she understands how hard it is to pass an increase in taxes when Burbank requires a two-thirds majority to support schools. So from that position, she would advocate for other ways we can increase education funding, perhaps reallocating existing city funds. Manokian talked to a constituent a few weeks ago who had an idea to sell advertising space on Memorial Field. There are certainly ways to increase funding without raising taxes, and she is open to exploring those options should a new parcel tax not pass.

Re-opening our schools is something Manokian would like to do only when it is safe. She says we would need to see a major decrease in cases before moving forward with re-opening. As far as a plan, we would need to decrease class sizes perhaps by having half of the students come in on Mondays and Wednesdays and the other half on Tuesdays and Thursdays, she continues. Another possibility is to have students stay in one class while teachers move around. This would limit interactions between people the most. Masks would be mandatory, and there would have to be constant sanitation of classrooms and equipment.

"While there aren't major instances of police brutality, if you look into it BPD isn't perfect yet," this was Manokian's response when asked how she would characterize the BPD's treatment of POC. She goes on saying, "For example, they had an independent audit done last year, and it claimed they could use more scrutiny when analyzing misconduct allegations."At our recent BLM marches, our POC community voiced that there are improvements to be made with regards to everyday interactions between police and civilians, especially our minorities. She thinks these are issues that BPD and the community are aware of. Manokian would like to see continued transparency and an increase in discussions between the POC community and police. This will be the best way towards progress.

Concerning Burbank Unified continue to fund and have police officers in our schools, Manokian responded with, "I personally do not believe in having police officers in our schools and having spoken with many students, I know that they share my concerns." She says there is a way to ensure safety without Student Resource Officers. Instead, She would like to see those funds be directed towards increased mental health facilities for our students. She would like to see therapists in our schools and safe spaces where students feel comfortable expressing their feelings. Manokian expressed, "Mental health is an issue for our students, and we cannot continue to ignore it."

Tamala Takahashi

By Elizabeth Surratt
Staff Writer

Tamala Takahashi is ready and running for Burbank City Council. She is determined and committed to making the Burbank community better.

The City Council candidate has said, "I have been committed to Burbank for many years, and I want to take this experience and my experience in nonprofit leadership to the Council to do what I can to make our community even better. I care about our community and the world we live in."

In these difficult times of being in a pandemic, Tamala Takahashi has addressed the issues that are happening in our community. She states, "Overall, Burbank is a wonderful small town in the big city. But no city is perfect.'' She addresses the lack of housing availability and high cost, small businesses that often have a hard time opening and staying open, roads that are not as safe and accessible to all, and schools needing more support and funding to maintain their quality.

The biggest problem, of course, is COVID, and she believes, "The absolute most important part of recovering from COVID, as a city, is the budget.'' Takahashi also believes, "We need to make sure that we make smart decisions about how to allocate budgetary funds to achieve our goals.'' The way to get it done Takahashi says is, "funding our essential infrastructure, supporting our business and economy, increasing housing, healing our environment, and improving safety and accessibility for all modes of transportation.''

But Before all these actions can be put into play, Takahashi says, "Understanding that the budget is essential for our council members for the next few years. Overall, the budget is fairly stable right now. But we need to look at how we can create more efficiencies, as well as mutually beneficial partnerships with our local organizations."

With the recent protests and racial justice movements, protesters have been demanding that the police be defunded. The City Council candidate says, "I see our current climate as an opportunity for our city to take a close look at how we are doing in regards to equity, bias, and de-escalation.'' She also says, "We are fortunate enough to have a police department which has already started work on putting more focus on community policing with its Presidential Task Force on Community Police several years ago.''

The City Council candidate does believe that the police should continue to be funded, "I differ from the other candidates who support police reform in that if we do make any changes in our police department funding, I want to keep the funding in the police budget.'' She continues, "I work with the city budget regularly, and to me, the money is too easy to shift to other projects if it's in the general fund. Keeping it in the police fund guarantees it will stay there and fund the important programs we need in the city.''

Many schools have assigned police officers called the Student Resource Officers to keep the campus safe and in order who are funded by the city. Takahashi believes, "if there are issues with the SROs, and the schools would like to have their responsibilities shifted or altered, as a Council person, I would be willing to hear them out, and do what I can to help the District achieve the best possible outcome for the students.''

A big problem for many cities, including Burbank, is rising rent crises. Takahashi has already made plans for what she and the city need to do to combat it including increase our public-private partnerships so we can bring more units online for low-income households and ensure that seniors' and young adults' unique needs are considered when making housing plans.

To many small communities, small businesses help and can keep cities together and are essential. "Small and micro-businesses are the backbone of our local economy, supporting our large businesses and serving our local community," explains the City Council candidate. "I have worked with the team to make sure that our neighborhood businesses receive support and resources from the city, especially during the difficult time of COVID. But we can do more.''

Keeping small businesses open during this time is already hard enough, "We also need to find ways to ensure that our businesses who are following the COVID safety rules are rewarded, and de-incentivize business who do not comply with county guidelines - both for the safety of our community, and to help small businesses weather through the pandemic."

With all the madness happening in the world, Takahashi has taken running for office very seriously but has not forgotten to enjoy the experience while it happens. "One of the best parts of it are all the people I have met, the connections we've made, and how several projects have moved forward faster. No matter what happens with this election, it's a win for me."

She believes in helping all people because it's the right thing to do and owns a small business that offers leading consulting for other nonprofits. "I have volunteered and worked in the nonprofit sector for most of my adult life, and I believe that service organizations are the future of our society. We need more work done with the betterment of our communities at the forefront."

Before her choice of running for City Council, Takahashi attended UC Riverside earning a BA in Psychology and French. She then went on to UW Madison receiving an MA in French. Takahashi also mentions, "I was raised in Culver City. My husband and I moved to Burbank twenty one years ago when our oldest was one year old.''

Tamala Takahashi would be an amazing City Council member because of her passion for the job and her dedication to the people in her community. "Helping people help people is incredibly satisfying and rewarding,'' Takahashi concludes.

Candidates For City Treasurer

Krystle Palmer

By Neil Eiklor
Staff Writer

Krystle Palmer is running for the City Treasurer of Burbank.

Palmer decided to run, or rather come back to work after taking time off to take care of her twin boys, (they just turned 3), because, in her own words, "As a Burbank resident and mom, I constantly think about what kind of city I want my children to grow up in and I realized that the best way to help was by leveraging my strategy and investment experience to make sure our City's finances and services are safe and strong." She adds, "It takes a lot of dedication and hard work to run for office. You start by filing the necessary paperwork, including gathering signatures from Burbank registered voters. You then need to develop a campaign strategy to figure out the best way to send your message about your candidacy and how you can help the community. There are so many ways to reach voters nowadays including social media, phone banks, yard signs, and various print ads, among others. Depending on your budget, you will probably use a combination of all of them. You would need to build your network and also get your name out there through word of mouth. On top of it all, you would also need to raise funds to pay for your campaign.

Palmer grew up in Manila, but spent most of her summers in Los Angeles. She then moved to New York City to attend Columbia University. After graduation, she lived in Manhattan and Connecticut for several years while working for a management consulting firm and a fund of hedge funds before making the move to Burbank. She loved the small-town and family-friendly feel of Burbank and its convenient proximity to the rest of Los Angeles. Her family really loved the sense of community here and how friendly and welcoming everyone has been. They were also impressed with Burbank's reputation as a full-service city that provides quality services, with its own electric and water utility, police, fire department, parks, libraries and school system.

Palmer holds an M.S. in Financial Engineering from Columbia University and a B.S. in Management Engineering and a B.A. in Economics from Ateneo de Manila University. She also has a Certificate in Food and Beverage Operations from New York University.

Palmer decided to become City Treasurer because it combined her, "passion for finance and investments with the civic impact of improving people's lives in a concrete way," she stated.

Prior to joining the City government, she worked in finance and strategy in the private sector for fifteen years. She held roles as an investment analyst for a fund of hedge funds and as a consultant for a top management consulting firm in New York City.

In regards to the most important issues facing our community right now, Palmer states that, "as a mother of three young children, one problem that concerns me is the lack of investment in education. An excellent education is the key to a bright future and I believe that we should ensure our children are able to attend the best schools possible. From pre-school through high school, a world-class education provides lifelong access to opportunities as well as an invaluable network of peers. Local investments in education should be designed so that our children are well prepared to attend top-ranked universities and become the industry leaders and visionaries of tomorrow."

Another issue that her is the current condition of the environment. She states, "pollution negatively impacts our health and overall quality of life. We need to take the necessary steps to minimize air, water, and noise pollution in our City. Whether through promoting the use of electric vehicles, ensuring that our drinking water is free of contaminants, planting more trees and sustainable landscapes, or just making sure that our neighborhoods remain quiet and serene, I believe that investing in our environment is key to designing a more beautiful place to live for Burbank residents. I am also concerned about our overall health and wellness. Good health gives us the freedom to pursue our passions and accomplish our goals, and I believe we need to provide residents the right tools and incentives to make healthy choices in their daily lives. Whether through promoting nutrition in our school lunches, ensuring that residents have access and means to make healthy choices, or providing education around healthful eating and lifestyle practices, programs should be designed so that we can maximize our years and our quality of life."

Palmer's primary mission as City Treasurer is safekeeping the funds of the City of Burbank. She explains, "with the uncertainty in the financial markets today, it is more important than ever to ensure that the City's portfolio is kept in safe and responsible investments, fulfilling our mandate of safety, liquidity, and yield." She plans on keeping the City's portfolio safe by emphasizing "due diligence and closely monitoring the credit quality of our holdings. With the projected revenue shortfall and its impact on our budget, it is imperative we maintain adequate liquid cash levels so we can make adjustments as necessary and continue to provide the services our residents expect from our city. At the same time, I believe in continuing to strategically invest in opportunities, with the overarching goal of maintaining consistent and stable returns for Burbank's portfolio. Separately, I am planning to launch financial literacy programs for our residents. A path to financial security and prosperity begins with the awareness of your individual financial needs and goals and having the right tools to achieve them. I believe that with this knowledge, we can find joy and satisfaction in building a solid financial future, which will allow us to support the people and causes we care most about."

In addition to helping citizens gain financial literacy, Palmer also believes citizens should feel empowered to voice out their concerns and propose solutions to issues they see in their daily lives. Burbank's citizens all have different circumstances so it's difficult for just one person or one organization to see and understand all the problems facing the community. According to Palmer, "we all want a better quality of life and change can happen when even just one person refuses to accept that things are just the way they are. Online communities and discussions are particularly useful because you can find people with similar interests and passions who would be happy to help. Citizens just need to realize that they have the ability to start something – whether it's organizing a farmer's market, an annual parade, or a sports league, to proposing new regulations to improve our health and safety, anything is possible as long as you put in the time and resources to make it happen."

Palmer closes by saying that, "as a full-time working mom of twin boys and a newborn daughter, I recognize that we have a childcare crisis due to Covid-19 and that is putting immense financial and emotional pressure on parents in our community. We are struggling to find the best path forward for our children, taking into account their safety, health, and overall development. As your representative in our government, I want Burbank residents to know that I will be a strong advocate for families and working parents."

Lindsey Francois

By Marty Coha
Opinion Editor

Lindsey Francois is one of the three horses in the race to be Burbank's Treasurer. I had the pleasure to Zoom with Francois who is nothing short of charming, witty, and a down right activist.

She grew up in Illinois, studied general engineering and specializes in entrepreneurship. She flew out to the Valley and got her masters in secondary education. In her own words Francois describes an engineer as "modern day inventors. They are problem solvers and inventors that get hired by companies to solve their problems."

She wanted to become an engineer because she wanted to be an astronaut, "when I was a kid I was really into space and at some point my aunt gave me an article about astronauts and every single one of them was some type of engineer."

Even though this candidate is from out of town she has been in the LA Valley for seventeen years. "I've been basically between North Hollywood and Glendale for the last seventeen years. I would say about ten of those years I've been in Burbank. The last five I've owned a house in Burbank."

When asked why she wanted to run for Treasurer Francois stated, "I've been protesting for several years and then, recently, things required for me to be out on the streets a lot more." She added, "I wanted to help fix it so I decided to run for office."

Her number one issue involving the community is very simple, there is not enough activism. "I've definitely seen a lot of activism in Los Angeles County and I've seen some in Burbank. I'm concerned that we're living in kind of a bubble." She saw this during her activism and taking to the streets, "but when I started to reach out to Burbank, I didn't see the organization to address the social justice issues we are seeing across the country."

Francois' solution to this problem is more publicity on these issues, "I want us to be aware that we're facing the same issues that everyone else is and I want to address them before they're too out of hand."

This is fair since Burbank didn't really have any large marches. The last one was on June 7, 2020 at 4PM for the Black Lives Matter movement. After that one rally things have gone back to crickets.

"I'm going to speak up about these issues. We need to say something so they get addressed and not to let things fester," Francois states.

As Tresurer, if Francois were to win, she would be in charge of deciding where to allocate the money in Burbank's bonds. "It's not going to be an everyday let's turn everything upside down, but when these decisions come up you want somebody there who is investing the city's funds in line with the city's values."

Francois' way to address homelessness is all about educating and publicizing where the homeless can find a place to stay and get back onto their feet. "The homeless population isn't looking for these services. So as they come on board you kind of have to actively go find them and see if they will come and partake in the service and see what their needs are."

Lindsey Francois is also actively seeking anyone who is willing to join her campaign. She only has eight volunteers and would appreciate anyone's help. You can go to her website or any form of social media to get in touch.

In conclusion, Lindsey Francois wants to be Burbank's Treasurer and wants the citizens of Burbank to get up, get out, and vote!

She encourages Burbank to use its voice and not be afraid to march for their rights to be heard.

Darin Shea

Candidate Darin Shea did not respond to The Signal in time for publication.

Candidates For School Board

Roberta Reynolds

By Noel Pennington
Staff Writer

The year 2020 has not been kind to many groups of people, especially the School Board. Not only has the spread of Covid-19 prevented the start of a normal school year this August, Measure I also failed to pass which forced budget cuts to certain areas that would normally be getting direct funding.

Mrs. Roberta Reynolds is a member of the Board of Education for the Burbank Unified School District. This year she is running for the office of Board of Education member.

Originally, Mrs. Reynolds ran for the Board of Education as a natural progression from her leadership positions in the PTA and other parent booster organizations. She developed a passionate commitment to developing an inclusive and engaging environment for all of the parents and students.

Mrs. Reynolds also focused time into the inclusion of our student and family members of the LGBTQ+ community through the founding of a Burbank Chapter of PFLAG, an organization which provides support, education and advocacy for family and friends of the LGBTQ+ community.

Roberta was raised in Burbank and has lived here her whole life. She went to Burbank schools and chose to commute to local schools for college. She has raised two daughters in this community who also attended Burbank schools.

Roberta also attended Benjamin Franklin Elementary school, which was on the property currently occupied by the Fire Station on Thornton Ave, near the airport. This school closed many years ago during the first phases of declining enrollment. Mrs. Reynolds went on to attend Luther Burbank (Junior High at that time) and Burbank High School.

Following High School, Mrs. Reynolds attended California State University Northridge, where she earned my Bachelor's degree in Chemistry, going on to the University of Southern California to earn her Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

She is currently the Director of Outpatient Pharmacy Services at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, where her department provides services to outpatients, patients who are discharged from the hospital and to patients in the Sub Acute Unit, which is a Long Term Care unit with many patients on ventilators.

Mrs. Roberta Reynolds feels the number one issue in Burbank Schools is that the "Lack of funding intersects and magnifies the other issues at all levels. We need the funding to allow us to have the resources to address all the other issues," states Mrs. Reynolds. To fix these issues, the board has taken a very big step in putting the Parcel Tax measures on the ballot. They need to have funding that cannot be taken away by the State.

Despite failures to meet the required amount of support, which is a two thirds majority, the community support still provides promise that we have the support to continue this mission.

Roberta Reynolds says that reopening of the schools during the pandemic must be done in a very strategic and deliberate way, as we first concentrate on our most vulnerable learners and our youngest students who are most at need for in person services and the classroom experience. She says it is best to adhere to the principle that she uses in her work life to distribute drugs to the elderly which is to "Start Low and Go Slow."

Armond Aghakanian

By Hayk Torosyan
Staff Writer

Dr. Armond Aghakanian, the President of Burbank Unified School District Board of Education, was born on July 31, 1971.

He teaches Business Management, Marketing and Leadership & Social Responsibility. He is a co-founder of East Los Angeles College's Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation and Incubator. He is also a founder of Transforming Lives Campaign (TLC) which aims to provide support for students and their families who face significant challenges such as hunger, homelessness, lack of clothing and transportation, the digital divide, as well as textbooks and other learning tools.

The reason he decided to become a teacher is because he always questioned his teachers' teaching philosophy and he wanted to see how his works out.

He loves watching his students transform from students to scholars, pursuing academic and intellectual activities, developing expertise in an area of study, and slowly becoming critical thinkers.

He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from CSUN, his Master in Business Administration from Woodbury University and Doctorate from Pepperdine University.

He is the 2010 recipient of President Barack Obama's Volunteer Service Award Presented to him by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

Dr. Aghakanian's favorite subjects include Business, Philosophy, Psychology, Poetry, Organizational Leadership, and Political Science.

Dr. Aghakanian's favorite and biggest inspiration is his loving family.

Other than spending most of his time working, Dr. Aghakanian is able to spend some free time listening and playing music. He plays different types of musical instruments and loves collecting them as well.

A little bit about his family life, his wife and he moved to Burbank thirteen years ago and they love Burbank. He said, "we love our city and believe in its excellent public education system."

Dr. Aghakanian's goals for the year are to determine when and how we open schools and keep everyone safe.

As the co-founder and the Chair of the Burbank School District's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, he will ensure our District's workforce grows in professionalism and diversity.

Steve Ferguson

By Zander Zantua
Staff Writer

Steve Ferguson is a candidate running for the position of a Board of Education Member in the BUSD. He has run before and held the position from 2015-2019, for a total of five years. Even before that he ran for positions in the School Board and in the Burbank City Council , although unsuccessfully.

He was born and raised in Burbank, where he attended Roosevelt Elementary School, John Muir Middle School, and Burbank High School. He has stated that he enjoyed learning about politics and public policy since he was young, and he felt motivated that a difference can be made through it.

As of now, he currently works on political and advocacy campaigns for a living.

When asked about why he was running and how the process for running is like, he responded, "I am running for school board because I care deeply about the young people of our district and while we have made progress in improving their educational experience the past five and a half years, I believe I have more to give, as the District tackles instruction and operations during COVID-19 and our looming financial challenges."

He added that, "running for office is not easy, but with the right attitude it really brings you closer to your community. A typical day on the trail involves filling out questionnaires, participating in endorsement interviews, speaking to different community groups, raising campaign dollars and doing voter outreach over the phone."

It is clear that he works very hard to ensure the well-being of students in Burbank, and feels it is his responsibility to do everything he can to improve the current situation regarding COVID. He also sheds light on the grueling process of being a candidate for the School Board, as it reveals how much work needs to be done in a single day to boost one's chances of getting recognized.

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, he notes the necessary precautions and safety measures required for school to come back, "the COVID-19 Pandemic is a very fluid situation and unfortunately there is no hard plan to re-open schools at this time. When it is safe to do so we plan to return to a hybrid model, which we are working with our teachers and staff to create."

He adds, "I plan to keep safety as a top priority by continuing to follow the advice of county health officials. Before we return to school it is critical that we have all of the necessary supplies, systems and plans in place to keep everyone safe."

It is imperative that we abide by the health and safety regulations for as long as we need to, as he states that there are no plans to go back anytime soon.

Finally, he addresses the recent cuts in budgets for schools in Burbank, "The best thing we can do to prevent cuts is to keep up the pressure on Sacramento. Sacramento has consistently underfunded education and it's important that the State draw down on reserves to avoid funding cuts for education."

"At this point, we need to work actively to avoid further cuts. I fully support Proposition 15 which would provide much needed funding to Burbank schools. If Proposition 15 doesn't pass, we will have to focus on building public awareness and advocacy campaigns to prevent funding cuts."

Emily Weisberg

Candidate Emily Weisberg did not respond to The Signal in time for publication.

New Coach Tristen Taylan

By Krystal Le
Staff Writer

Twenty-seven year old Tristen Taylan is John Burroughs 2020 brand new head cheerleading coach, she also works as a one on one behavior aid teacher.

Beside Coaching Cheer at Burroughs, Coach Tristen is on her own adult cheerleading team outside of school.

Coach Tristen has been a competitive cheerleader for 14 years.

Tristen Taylan went to Providence High School in Burbank, then she attended CSUN for college and then went on to West Coast College for her graduate school.

Coach Tristen says that her favorite subject in school was Math. She said that she always liked math because, "There's always an answer in math, it doesn't matter how you get there, there's always an answer no matter what."

Although she had a great passion for math Coach Tristen states that she had no intentions to pursue a career in it, "It's just something that I loved to do in school," she said.

Instead Tristen got a degree in occupational therapy!

Her main goal for the future is to get a job as an occupational therapist in or around the Burbank district.

When asked what she's known for, she responded with " Being extra!" According to Tristen, people always tell her that when it comes to being a cheerleader she is super extra!

Besides Cheering on her adult cheer team and coaching at Burroughs, in her free time Coach Tristen likes to spend time playing with her dog and going on hikes.

She also really loves to travel and make some fun Tik Tok dances as well.

Being a coach or a teacher there are many things that can make the experience great and there are also some things that will make you feel sad or disappointed.

When asked what are some of the best things about being a coach, Coach Tristen said "The best thing is seeing girls progress. I love seeing from the moment you started to the moment you progress your skills."

The worst part about being a coach, according to Tristen is when people quit. Tristen said, " I feel like I can't help you progress if you are just going to give up," which is understandable.

As a professional cheerleader Tristen has traveled to Japan, Paris,and London.

She says that most of her travel has been for Cheer.

For her non-profit adult cheer team, Coach Tristen gets to travel to a lot of cool new places.

Coach Tristen loves to travel outside of her cheer team, she also wishes that she could do it more often but due to the coronavirus right now that's unfortunately going to have to wait.

During quarantine Coach Tristen recently got engaged!

Her and Coach Mark, who works at Burroughs also, are happily engaged!

The two of them recently got back from an Outdoor Adventure Trip in Mexico which sounds pretty exciting.

She said they both had an awesome time going zip lining, riding an outdoor roller coaster, rappelling down a waterfall, and even riding a mule!

Now that she's back from her trip, she saids that she wants to get Cheer back up and running again.

She plans on turning the Cheer team into a competition team while still keeping it as a sideline team as well.

Mrs. Joanne Yao

By Judi Browngardt
Staff Writer

This school year we are welcoming Mrs. Joanne Yao to John Burroughs. Mrs. Yao is an English teacher who is teaching English 9 and 10 to our Freshmen and Sophomores. Before her job here at Burroughs, she taught at Burbank High School. So far she's enjoying it here at JBHS despite this unique year. However, she wishes she could meet all her students in person.

To Mrs. Yao, teaching is a reason to be social. She finds it fun to watch students realize that literature isn't dead and that, they, in fact, can have an emotional experience when writing or reading. She says, "students get so surprised when they realize they can write beautiful, truthful things." Mrs. Yao would like people to use writing and reading as tools for self-exploration.

She thinks writing and reading are great tools for escape and making sense of all the chaos we call "growing up."

Her favorite subject in school was English followed by biology. Mrs. Yao loves reading books and prefers the company of fictional characters to real people.

She enjoys her job as a teacher because each day in the classroom is unscripted and unpredictable.

Mrs. Yao says the best part of teaching is the students. She loves the sarcasm of high schoolers. However, her favorite thing is seeing everyone's costumes on Halloween.

Mrs. Yao confessed her least favorite part of teaching, which is accidentally touching the ancient gum wads underneath the student's desks.

In high school Mrs. Yao was, according to herself, "a nerd, I thought I was slick. Secretly a Slytherin."

She went on to do her undergrad at UC Irvine, her MFA in Creative Writing from Columbia University, and her M.Ed from Stanford. Mrs. Yao said, "it took years, but if I can do it you can do it."

Before she decided to become a teacher she was a travel journalist for many years. Mrs. Yao admits that she's always loved to read and write, but doing it full-time can get isolating, especially when she had lived abroad. One of the reasons she loves teaching is because she can socialize.

Outside of her job she enjoys spending time with her husband and dog. She mentioned that if she can keep her dog happy she feels like it's a successful day.

Mrs. Yao also enjoys calling her parents, cooking, reading, and hoarding her time like pirate treasure so she can spend it with the people she loves.

One of Mrs. Yao's hidden talents is that she is really good at ordering the best dish on the menu.

Her current favorite restaurants are Spoon by H, which she describes as an incredible dessert cafe in Koreatown, and Yardbird which she mentions is a fried chicken restaurant in Century City.

One of Mrs. Yao's main goals for this school year is to make online classes as engaging and as informative as she can.

One of her personal goals for the year is to keep calm.

Mrs. Yao has some advice and words of wisdom she would like to share with students. "I think we all need to hear this every day: you are worthy of love, no matter how inadequate you feel." Her advice to students is that you will grow into the person you are meant to be.

If you have Mrs. Yao as a teacher make sure you make her feel welcome and a part of our family here at Burroughs.

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The Smoke Signal is the official newspaper of John Burroughs High School, created by Journalism students. Opinions expressed are those of the bylined writers and do not represent the views of the Burroughs faculty or staff or the Burbank Unified School District.

Mrs. Anoush Arjoyan

By Luca Rendon
Staff Writer

This fall we are welcoming Mrs. Anoush Arjoyan to John Burroughs. Mrs. Arjoyan is an English teacher who has been teaching for a little over two years. She started her teaching career at Jordan Middle School, filling in for Mrs. Fuhr when she was on maternity leave. Her next teaching job was here at Burroughs teaching 9th and 12th grade English, followed by a maternity leave of her own.

She has wanted to teach for as long as she can remember, ever since she was five years old. At first, she wasn't sure why, but as she continued to get her education, she realized what it was that made her so passionate about teaching. In school, English was her favorite subject and she loved to read. Her love for the English language and literature further solidified her dream of teaching the subject.

Growing up, she went to a small Armenian private school in Hollywood that only had about 800 to 900 students in the entire school. She was a good student in school, always following the rules, but she would have a tendency to procrastinate, waiting until the last minute to get things done. After four years at CSUN, she attended law school, and even though she wasn't interested in becoming a lawyer, law has always been a passion of hers. She then returned to CSUN for one year to get her teaching credentials.

Her favorite part of teaching is the students. She likes getting to know them and interacting with them. One of her inspirations is her high school English teacher, whose syllabus she still refers to today.

She said she hopes that her students will see her as someone who is fair and passionate about teaching. She also likes to think that she keeps her teaching real, and connects it to situations in the real world.

She doesn't live in Burbank, but her husband grew up in Burbank and went to Jordan Middle School and Burroughs High School. They have a one year old together.

In her free time she likes to bake and decorate cakes. She even used to work at a bakery!

She likes spicy food, like Thai food, but her favorite is sweets like cookies and cake which is fitting because her first name means "sweet" in Armenian.

When she sits down to relax and watch TV, she likes to watch comedies such as *The Office* or *Parks and Rec*, but her favorite is *Seinfeld*.

She reads a lot, one of her favorite authors is Maya Angelou. Her favorite book is *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.*

One story she likes to remember is when a student in class who normally didn't participate was raising his hand. She got really excited because she had finally gotten the student to engage and be a part of the discussion. She called on him, and all he said was "You dress like my 4th grade teacher." She said that his teacher must have had great style, to which he only responded, "not really."

When asked what animal she would compare herself to she said she would be a butterfly. This is because of the growth and change that a butterfly goes through to become a butterfly. She said, "Much like a butterfly, I find myself on a journey of transformation and growth."

She talked about her experiences as a new mother and a teacher, and how she likes to "go with the flow and embrace change the same way a butterfly does."

Some of her dreams are to open up her own bakery/cafe/bookstore, perfectly aligning with her love of baking and reading. She would also love to travel around the world and visit Brazil with her mom where she was born so she could see her hometown of Sao Paulo again.

Today she would tell her students to be patient with themselves, and she also stressed the importance of socializing and connecting with others (such as peers or family) whenever they can.

Especially in these trying times, when it can be difficult to stay connected, you have to make the effort.

One final bit of wisdom she had to end off our interview with was that "brighter days are ahead."

If you have Mrs. Arjoyan, be sure to make her feel welcome as a new member of our community here at Burroughs!

Experience Of An Essential Worker During Covid

By Eva Larrabee
Photographer

During the times of Covid-19 the majority of people are working at home, safe away from any possible casualties towards them and their family, but not everyone can be as fortunate as them. I interviewed Monica Rodarte, an essential grocery store worker at Whole Foods, to see how things have changed with the pandemic at an all time high.

The Coronavirus was first spread to California near mid January but masks were not required to be worn in stores until the exact date of March 13. Of course you can't have everyone respect what's been decided by the government. Monica stated that only a few people would refuse to wear their masks, " In the beginning people didn't want to wear their masks,they would start yelling at the managers and the employees about how this is their right and they live in America, everything that you hear on the news, was happening."

Even though most people have calmed down from the prior state of anger and shock, there are still incidents that happen when customers get angry and spin out of control. "The worst actually happened when the riots were also happening, the protests and we had the curfews, people were so upset that the store was closing at six o'clock, they were bashing on the doors saying, 'you're open until nine o' clock, you gotta let me in!' in total disregard for our safety."

Asked if she is ever worried for her safety, Monica responded, "I am, especially when people aren't wearing their masks correctly. It defeats the purpose of wearing the mask." This also leads to her saying how she has become much more cautious at home by showering right away, always washing her hands and constantly using hand sanitizer.

Things have not only changed for the customers coming into the store but also for the workers, "the most obvious change is we have to get there a little bit earlier to get our temperature taken, we have to wear the masks, you're required to wear gloves, before there used to be six registers open now there's only three open."

Because of how exposed these workers are you would think that someone might have gotten Covid-19 while at work, but according to Monica no has gotten sick directly from work but there still have been people affected in their home life. "People have gotten Covid but I don't think it's been that they have gotten it at the job." But it's also impossible to know for sure

With the fact that people haven't been able to go out as much as we used to, whether it was to the movies or out to a restaurant, people miss going out in general no matter what's the reason. Monica said that she did believe people missed going out and some would take advantage of the fact that you can still go to grocery stores almost whenever you want to. "Yes customers do take advantage because so many things are closed, that particular store has a smoothie bar so everyone wants to come to the smoothie bar, and they just miss doing their regular shopping trips."

People need to be taking precaution towards themselves and others when going out, especially to the grocery store where people are buying things mainly to eat. Monica shared some ways she recommends are the best ways to stay safe at the store. "I would say for sure you should wear your mask, which is already required but make sure to have it on the right way, also keep 6 feet away from anyone or at least try to keep your distance as much as you can, do not touch anything you are not going to buy, we don't want to spread unwanted germs, and if you want to be extra precautions you can always wear gloves."

Monica and many other essential workers make sure that your shopping experience is as safe as it can be so make sure to have as much respect for them as you can.

The LA Zoo During The Coronavirus Pandemic

By Molly Boyke
Editor-In-Chief

On August 26, 2020, the Los Angeles Zoo officially reopened with social distancing measures after its closing on March 13th. Examples of the measures include required mask-wearing of all attendees over the age of two, an online ticketing system with reservations for all guests, limiting attendance to 1,200 visitors daily, one-way pathways, closing all indoor exhibits, and physical distancing signage placed around the park.

In the interest of keeping their animal residents safe, the Zoo has also installed social distancing barriers in front of some enclosures to ensure that guests stay a safe distance from them.

After the news that a tiger at the Bronx Zoo had tested positive for COVID-19 in April, Zoo officials released a statement on their website stating that they will be using protective equipment when dealing with their cat species, as well as felid, primate, binturong, and mustelid species. No animals have tested positive at the LA Zoo thanks to their responsible and cautious care.

Though the Zoo has put out extensive regulations putting their best effort towards keeping park visitors safe, there is nothing to save them from their own negligence. There is an unfortunate lack of visitors observing correct social distancing procedures as well as mask-wearing.

When visiting the zoo, it is not uncommon to see fully grown adults wearing their masks underneath their nose or underneath their chin. Additionally, children that are far above the age of two frequently wear no mask at all.

It is important to note that this is entirely the fault of park attendees and not the LA Zoo's personnel, who have taken great pains to make visiting the zoo a safe and fun experience for all.



Though signs around the park politely ask that guests "Stay A Komodo Dragon Apart," there are also some minor issues with crowding around the most popular enclosures, particularly the gorillas, Rainforests of the Americas, and the tigers. Cautious guests can easily avoid the crowds by choosing equally entertaining alternative exhibits.

It is unclear whether the zoo's outdoor dining facilities are open, but it is advisable to steer clear of the outdoor seating because of the high concentration of visitors without masks.

Cautious guests should consider eating prior to entering the park.

Bringing water is essential due to the hilly terrain and high temperatures of the area, which have been handled in traditional LA Zoo fashion with water misters placed in certain areas to help guests beat the heat. To regulars returning to the Zoo, the presence of the misters is a comforting reminder of the park's unwavering commitment to guest and animal comfort and safety.

Even in a pandemic, the LA Zoo is still reliably one of the best choices for a socially-distanced outing. The open air and warm weather make it significantly safer than indoor alternatives. The Zoo also boasts wide pathways that are perfect for staying a safe distance apart. It's a great place to bring a friend on a sunny afternoon.

Zoo reservations can be purchased at lazoo.org. Reservations are limited to six people each. Reservations come with a time of entry, but once visitors are inside the park they can stay until 5:00 PM when the zoo closes.

After their 166-day closure, the LA zoo has experienced some financial burdens, just like every other business during this time. The Zoo has consistently been a great place for community events and an innovative home for several endangered species of animal, such as the critically endangered Axolotl, a salamander species dwelling inside the Desert Cave exhibit, which is currently closed to the public.

If students would like to support the zoo, they can buy tickets to attend, consider taking a membership, or make a donation to the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association's annual fund. This fund will go towards financial and mission support to the LA Zoo and its programs. The LA zoo is an integral part of our community and any support is greatly appreciated.

Rose Float Construction

By Neil Eiklor
Staff Writer

With the world we live in today, ever changing due to the coronavirus, it is no surprise that the 2021 Rose Bowl Parade has been canceled.

What you may not know is the annual Rose Bowl Parade has only been canceled three times prior to 2021. During the wartime years of 1942, 1943, and 1945.

Still, Burbank is moving ahead with building their Rose Parade Float anyway.

The Burbank float has a massive chassis that is built like LEGOs.

There are many steel sections that can be bolted on or removed depending on the design of the float.

The Burbank Rose Parade float is a very detailed machine. The heart of the float is a large diesel engine that powers the main drive wheels. A secondary engine is used to power hydraulics and all other aspects of animatronics on the float. The secondary engine is usually propane powered like those found on large forklifts. As there is over a year till the next parade, decorating the float with flowers will have to wait. However welders can start construction of the steel skeleton that supports the entire design.

Although the parade has been canceled, work on the float continues. As a Member and Graduate welder of the Burbank Tournament of Roses Association I have been following the process of work being done to the float.

As of now, work on the 2021 float will begin shortly.

The design for this year's float will carry to next year, and will be paraded in January of 2022.

The Burbank Tournament of Roses has rules in place to insure the safety of all volunteers. When work on the float starts, volunteers will be working only on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and will be maintaining six feet of separation from each other and wearing face masks.

It has been predicted that the building of the steel frame work on the float will be completed by next summer.





Covid Thanksgiving

By Krystal Le
Staff Writer

I think that it's safe to say that this year's Thanksgiving celebrations will not be the same as last years.

I'm sure for some that means breaking the family tradition of going to Black Friday at midnight on Thanksgiving and for others, not being able to get together in a large gathering and eating meals together. For those of you who don't celebrate Thanksgiving and just chooses to go shopping on Black Friday, I'm afraid that COVID-19 has officially canceled your plans.

Thanksgiving this year for those who still choses to get together will require a bit more planning than last year and I have a few helpful tips for those of you who are still having a family gathering this year.

I'm here to give you four different tips that might help make your holiday season go a bit more smoothly. These tips might be able to give you ideas on how to safely gather your family together for Thanksgiving or they might help you feel closer to your relatives while celebrating the holiday apart.

First for safety reasons I suggest that whoever is coming over to your home for Thanksgiving be temperature checked first. It's important to note early signs of COVID if it's possible. I also suggest that if possible, encourage the people who are coming to be quarantined for a few days. Less contacts will decrease the risk of a family member getting COVID and spreading it.

Second, if you can, have a gathering outside! This is a great way to still be together and remain safe if you don't want to wear a mask. You can set up small tables outside and put them a few feet away from each other to keep a good distance.

This idea is good to use if you are having a large family gathering with family members coming from far away places.

A third thing you can do to make this year's Thanksgiving feel a little bit more like normal is send food to your family members if they live close to you. If you don't want to have a gathering this year but still want to enjoy your aunt's famous sweet potato casserole, you can ask her to send you some.

Have the food be prepared in a safe environment and put the food into a plastic container to be sent to your family members. This way everyone can still have their own Thanksgiving while being safe at home with some amazing food.

My fourth tip for those of you who are planning to travel to get to a relative's place for Thanksgiving this year. Although I would urge you to stay home if you are planning to travel I have some tips that will help keep you and your family safe.

When traveling for Thanksgiving if you can, drive there. This will be a lot safer than flying or using any sort of public transportation since your contact with other people will be more limited.

Traveling around the holidays is very common, and this year I doubt it will be less crowded due to the fact that public transportations is slowly coming back again. Tons of people might decide to travel to their loved ones for the holiday which means there will be tons of people stopping at the gas stations along the way if they are driving.

Remember to wash your hands if you can or sanitize it after filling up your car along the way at a gas station.

If you are at the airport, remember to keep a safe distance from other travelers, wash your hands, and always keep your mask on!

Once you get to your relatives place, I suggest taking a thorough shower just for safe measures before hugging your loved ones or coming into close contact with each other.

These are very simple but important tips to keep yourself and your loved ones safe. Although some families might make drastic changes to be able to spend some time together this Thanksgiving and others not so much, it's important to not just look out for the well being of yourself but for others as well during the holiday season.

The Future Of Movie Theaters

By Molly Boyke
Editor-In-Chief

There are about 6,000 movie theaters in the US. There are forty-five movie theaters in Burbank alone.

In wake of the pandemic, theaters worldwide have shut down and movie releases have been delegated to streaming services in order to salvage revenue, sparking controversy and tension between theater companies and studios. So the question has to be asked: Does the use of streaming services render movie theaters obsolete?

On April 10, *Trolls World Tour* made its debut on streaming services as the first major motion picture ever to make its release online.

In only its first three weeks of being available to rent, it made a whopping ninety-five million dollars. When studios allow their films to be shown in theaters, they generally gain about 50% of the box-office profits, depending on the deal they struck with the distributors. However, when movie theaters are bypassed and movies are released online, the studios gain around 80% of the profit instead. This makes releasing films exclusively online an attractive prospect for studios looking to collect profit.

The cost of a movie ticket versus a streaming service is also an important factor to consider. In the US, the average cost of a single movie ticket is about $9.26. However, it's important to note that because the US produces a large amount of movies distributed worldwide, the prices are significantly lowered, while movie tickets in countries like Bahrain could cost up to $17.48.

In comparison, a basic monthly Hulu subscription package gets you unlimited shows and movies for $5.99. On some websites, such as Vudu, you can even watch movies and TV shows for free, though there are occasional ads.

Despite the obvious benefits of releasing a film online, nothing can truly compare to the atmosphere in a movie theater.

In a poll taken of twenty-three JBHS students, 48% of them preferred the movie theater over at-home streaming.

Link Kayser, a JBHS Sophomore, prefers the theater, saying, "I like the movie theater better because you can go out with your friends and it's a really fun experience. The smell of the popcorn as you walk in, the comfortable chairs, and the refreshing drinks. It might be 20 dollars but it's worth it."

Maria Stefani, another Sophomore, misses the theater as well, stating, "As wonderful as online streaming services have been during these times, I miss the classic movie theater experience."

Chase Bukowski, yet another Sophomore, argued that the functionality of a streaming service overrides the environment provided by a movie theater. "Like, I enjoy the authenticity of going to an actual theater to view the picture, but the convenience of being able to watch anything at my disposal just outweighs all the benefits of paying for a ticket. It also saves money depending on how many shows or movies you like to watch," he explained.

Some prefer a mix of the two, like Owen Williams, another Sophomore, who stated, "I love going to the theater to see a brand new movie that's just coming out. It really adds to the excitement of seeing a new movie. If there's a movie that's been out for a while, I'm not gonna look for tickets to the theater to go see it. At that point I'll just look for it on a streaming service."

Though movie theaters are unreachable during this time, it will be interesting to see how we choose to attend them as restrictions are lifted sometime in the future.

Midnight Sky Review

By Marty Coha
Opinion Editor

On August 14, 2020 Miley Cyrus released her latest record titled Midnight Sky. The song release was also accompanied with a music video that Cyrus self-directed.

Midnight Sky opens with a sobering 80's synth pop beat that leads right into the bass as Miley gently sings the main melody. The song was beautifully sampled from Stevie Nicks. The musical direction Miley Cyrus wants to move to is inspired by "strong female musical icons, like Stevie Nicks, Joan Jett, and Debbie Harry" Miley Cyrus said during a press interview.

This record is a beautiful fusion of past and present Cyrus. She keeps the same theme she always has, which is that she can't be tamed. Miley Cyrus needed to go in this rockstar direction since she is out growing pop. The artist Swae Lee collaborated with Miley Cyrus on their song Party Up The Street off of Miley's EP SHE IS COMING. Lee said during an interview that he wanted to do a Miley Cyrus feature because "she's a rockstar."

The Wrecking Ball singer wanted to speak her truth on her recent life events. From a stigma shrouded in her name to a public divorice, Miley wanted to give her side of the story.

The music video is nothing but quintessential Miley Cyrus from in a ball pit then wearing an oversized pants suit. The vibe of the video shifted from edgy black bodysuits to happy glitters, all while maintaining the disco neon aesthetic.

Her makeup could be described as rocker chic with her perfectly messy eyeshadow to her bold red lips. The focus of the makeup is what makeup should always do; highlight the features. The Younger Now singer's cheekbones popped in the majority of her scenes and her lips were perfectly pouty as per usual.

Miley Cyrus said on the Zach Sang Show that her mullet is an important part of her family history. She said "my dad actually invented a very specific type of mullet called the kentucky waterfall." Miley's mullett however, is not a Kentucky waterfall. When she sat down with her mother she asked her to make her look like Rod Stewart. From then on Miley would call herself "Young Rod" until it grew to be a few inches longer.

This song does an amazing job at setting a scene not only lyrically but with the overall sound. With the lyrics and sound working as one it gives the listener an easy time to picture what the music video might look like.

The music video could've been more interactive and feel less caged if it weren't for the pandemic. However, Miley Cyrus persevered and looked gorgeous in every shot. From the tight camera work on her face from the zoom outs showing off her amazing style.

Miley Cyrus adorned many glam punk outfits. The opening garment was a Chanel bathing suit and attached to it was a Chanel chain belt. She was adorned in Saint Laurent accessories from the gloves to the shoes.

In conclusion this song is the best way to reintroduce Miley Cyrus to the public. It gives a clear understanding of who she is and where she is at in her life. This song is a perfect let loose song that allows the audience to feel free and unmuzzled. I give this song a 4.5/5 song since it does feel a little repetitive. I'm excited to see how Miley navigates and pursues this new era in her life.

Cartoonist Luke Duguay



Recording Virtual Classes

By Lucia McFarland
Cartoonist

Ever since classes have been moved to Zoom or Google Meet, teachers and students alike have had to adapt to learning over a computer and adapt to using new, unfamiliar technologies.

This has resulted in teachers and administrators looking for new ways to be secure online. One solution presented by the district is recording Zoom or Google Meet calls.

The decision on whether or not Zoom or Google Meet calls should be recorded has been left up to individual teachers to decide.

There is a considerable amount of disagreement regarding this topic. People in favor of recording offer two main arguments.

The first is that if teachers record Zoom or Google Meet calls, they can send recordings to students who were absent from class.

The second is that if a student is breaking rules and/or being disruptive, a teacher will have the recording so that the student can be held accountable.

However, these arguments do not really hold up when compared to easier, less invasive methods.

An easy alternative to the first argument is that teachers could simply post basic bullet points of that day's lesson, or ask that absent students communicate with classmates and peers for information that they missed. It is also possible that students could reach out to the teacher directly.

For the second point, we just have to understand that for a student to face consequences after breaking the rules, the meeting does not need to be recorded. Even if the teacher needs the Principal or other administrators to take disciplinary action against the student, why does there need to be video proof of the incident?

It has been established that recording Zoom or Google Meet meetings is not necessary. However, recording should be discouraged regardless of its necessity.

Recording the meetings of students who are of high school age and younger is taking video footage of minors in their own homes.

There might even be other family members who enter frame without knowing if they are being recorded.

On top of that, most teachers require that students leave their cameras on and prohibit the use of a virtual background.

So, if Zoom or Google Meet meetings are being recorded, many students would not have control of their privacy or of the privacy of their families.

It is essentially required that students let themselves be recorded. In most cases, guidelines state that Zoom or Google Meet meetings may to be recorded and is therefore a class rule. If a student turns off their camera for privacy reasons or does not attend some classes, they will face consequences.

If a teacher wants to record a meeting that you are in, you likely have no say in your privacy.

Recording Zoom or Google Meet meetings is not only useless, but invasive. There is no valid reason to record them.

Camera, On Or Off?

By Hayk Torosyan
Staff Writer

As the new school year started, classes went online with Zoom or Google Meet. It is a new system for students and teachers, a new way to learn and practice our knowledge.

One of the biggest topics people are arguing about is should the students' cameras always be on?

Well, it has its pros and cons, some students might feel comfortable with it but others might be frustrated. It might be awkward for the teachers too, to see minors at their homes with cameras on.

The pros of the cameras being on are that students won't be on their phones or do anything else and will be fully focused on the lesson. Cameras being on will help the teachers to keep the students on track and avoid any other distractions.

It will also lower the chances of cheating during the online tests, because the teachers will be able to catch any movement you make, and catch you if you try to cheat.

Another point of having the camera on is that a teacher is going to know if the students are paying attention, the students might be sleeping or doing something else that does not have anything to do with class.

The cons are that the minors might be in a situation for a minute that they don't want the teacher or their classmates to see. Family members might come pass by, they might not dressed appropriately for school (or dressed at all).

Also students' houses or rooms might not be presentable and students will feel embarrassed and put them at a disadvantage.

Also it is kind of awkward to see other people's houses or rooms when they might be too fancy or well furnished.

Students might feel uncomfortable with cameras always on and not focus on the lesson and not learn anything.

In my opinion the District should make it optional for the students and no longer allow teachers to force students to have their cameras on.

In the end, it should be optional to turn on the camera.

Google Meet Or Zoom?

By Luke Duguay
Cartoonist

The two titans of the video conferencing industry lock horns. People sit in the stands, barely knowing which side to take. But the votes are in, and they say: Zoom.

This might not be a hot take for anyone who already supports the program, but I was surprised with the amount of people I know that prefer Google Meet. It's a pretty divisive argument, with a lot of points for each side to use.

Let's start off with Meet.

The best thing I can praise Google Meet for is its accessibility. The browser-based chatroom is perfect for anyone who just wants to jump right into video conferencing. No new account needed, no downloads, and all you need to join a Meet is a link. (You can also add a letter code, but I've actually never seen this in use.) It's easy to set up, and even easier to join.

That's what makes it perfect for some people on the older side of the age spectrum. You can just tell your grandma: "Hey, why dontcha just click on this link I sent you, and it'll send you straight over to the call." Simple as that.

It is also cheaper if you wish to go premium with either Google Meet or Zoom, as Google Meet is $12/month, and Zoom is $15/month at the cheapest premium level.

But the easy-come easy-go style of Google Meet is also one of the leading points against it. See, if all you need is a link or a letter-only code to join an important meeting, the security of a call in Meet is essentially nonexistent. And that's where Zoom comes in.

Zoom is a more optimized version of Google Meet. It's its own program that you've got to download. The calls can be sent by link or an eleven-digit code that is protected by a password. Plus, there's even more that it can do.

There are a whole bunch of customizable features on Zoom, such as the ability to automatically touch up your appearance to get rid of most spots and wrinkles. You can edit the quality of your camera, and adjust very minor things to your personal preferences.

There are also several extra tabs in the Zoom directory that can help you organize your messages, upcoming calls, and even emails of peers. Inside of the "Contacts" tab, you can create private channels that act as little group calls and chats.

Also inside of that tab, you can add extensions to Zoom, accessed via the button right beneath the panel. These range from simple add-ons like being able to look up words sent in Zoom chats, to an entire database that transcribes and organizes everybody's speech. The amount of tinkering you can do with Zoom is much larger than I initially thought, and certainly larger than Google Meet.

Now, obviously, Zoom isn't perfect. But the only complaint I can think of off the top of my mind is that when you're trying to join a meeting, the prompt window will overlap above any other windows, including your browser. This can be annoying if you're trying to do other things while entering a call, which happens a lot more often then I initially expected.

At the end of the day, it depends on what you would like: a simplified, streamlined conferencing app based in your browser, or a more fine-tuned, specialized, and downloadable app with a tiny hassle to get it going.

But you should totally go with Zoom. It outweighs Google Meet in almost every feature except for being a little bit harder to start up, which is actually better for security purposes.



Distance Learing Tips

By Zander Zantua
Staff Writer

Online classes may be difficult to adjust to ever since lockdown began, but although they seem challenging, there are many ways to make things easier for students who are currently struggling.

Classes are much more accessible than before which means less worrying about being tardy, but also more focusing on trying to get the most out of each one.

Firstly, every student needs their own personal space for learning, whether it be your bedroom, desk, living room, or outdoor area.

Pick a place where it is easy to access resources such as books, paper, writing implements, and most importantly, has a good internet connection. It is advised not to work in an area such as a bed, as it may be too comfortable for students to study in.

Another tip to keep in mind is to get rid of distractions. Being online means there is little supervision during class time unlike during school, so take away things like phones and games to direct your attention towards the teacher.

Following the theme of setting, students should treat meetings like real school classes and follow their own routine to pace the day. This will help students become more productive and keep them in a working mindset.

Although it may be difficult to contact friends due to differing schedules, setting up a 'group chat' like on Zoom or Google Meet with friends or classmates is an effective way to get work done, as well as help others who are struggling with assignments. Most importantly, it offers social interaction that many people may lack in this time.

However, students should not fill their week with an overload of work to do.

Keeping a consistent schedule is vital, as it can be very stressful to try and cram too much work. Online classes probably won't demand more time than an actual school day filled with classes.

Additionally, always try to attend the teacher's office hours on Fridays if you have even the slightest of doubts about a question, problem, assignment, or even about the course.

Also, using their other resources like extra work or reading material can give students an edge in the class.

As well as participating in class discussions, writing down important material during meetings is an excellent way of learning. Some may think it is unnecessary since everything posted online stays there, but by repeating information, it actively engages students in their class and prepares them for when exams come around.

One of the worst habits to fall into is to procrastinate, meaning a student leaves their more important priorities for smaller ones, or does not do anything at all. Once it starts, it may get worse, so always be sure to be on top of assignments and due dates before work starts piling up.

Finally, if all else fails and a student is behind on their work, they should immediately get help. The longer they wait, the more they will struggle and fall behind, worsening the situation. By simply asking teachers questions after class, students will have a better understanding of what they need to do and how they should approach it.

Although it may seem like there are many things to keep track of in order to handle online school, things are not that difficult once students get used to them.

Try to see online school as an opportunity to get more things done than before.

Difficulties Of Childcare In The Time Of Coronavirus

By Savahnnah Stotts
Staff Writer

This pandemic has taken away jobs, created jobs, and moved jobs remotely from home. Parents relied on schools, camps, daycare centers, and babysitters to watch their kids. With the rapid spread of Covid-19, what have parents and guardians come to?

What most likely comes to mind when someone says they are working remotely is, "Well they are working from their own homes can't they still watch their kid?" I mean sure, if they don't want to get any work done and miss all their meetings.

In addition, think about the parents who are working the front lines. Healthcare workers, grocery store workers, and food suppliers. What have they come to do with their children since they aren't home? Single parents, divorced parents, there are so many possibilities to include.

There are many different outlooks on how parents lost their childcare. Through March, April, May, and June, the majority of parents with children didn't have the struggle or worry about taking care of their children since most children were still in school remotely. Summer hit, and even though the curve was flattening in May, around June-July, cases began to rise again.

Even though cases started to inflate, summer childcare and daycare were essential for parents. It was even necessary for childcare workers themselves. According to NPR news, one in five childcare workers lost their jobs since February, the beginning of the pandemic. As much as it was a burden to close daycare centers at the start of it all, these actions were essential. According to The National Women's Law Center, daycares attempting to stay open were struggling to remain open because they had to purchase additional equipment to sanitize and keep the children and staff safe during the pandemic.

When you genuinely think about the childcare system, we have to question, how essential is sending children back to daycare may be, versus how safe is this? There are over 24 million worldwide cases of coronavirus. One-fourth of these cases are in the USA.

Let's look at both sides of the daycare situation—people in need of jobs and parents who need to work. But then again, there are people more susceptible to contracting Covid-19 and who are likely to have a bad reaction such as death or losing lung capacity.

Aside from the caretakers contracting Covid the adolescents that attend summer camps and daycare don't at all understand why they have to wear a mask. Most young children do not understand what Coronavirus is or why they haven't seen their kindergarten best friend in months. The older we are, the more we can process why we have to wear a mask and take precautions. Explaining to the guppies group at summer camp why they can't hold their new friends' hand and having to wash their hands every thirty minutes or they could get sick is a very confusing idea to kids.

Adding to the negatives, some children going to daycare could come in contact with coronavirus and spread it by playing tag or sharing a crayon with a friend. Although daycares are taking precautions, it is challenging to actually notice that Jenna gave her crayon to Freddy without them saying so, which could potentially infect their families.

Looking at the cons we also have to acknowledge the pros of daycare during the pandemic. As said at the beginning of the article there are many parents at the front lines of the pandemic who have no one to watch their children. Although the daycares could potentially be dangerous, they may be the only option for some essential workers.

Suppose we transition to the topic of school, which in some cases can be considered childcare and education combined. In that case, we have to consider that some parents truly depend on the education system and to care for their children's well being.

If you take the example of special education children who depend on school for their interaction, learning, and social well being, they are at a significant disadvantage during the pandemic. Special education students are at risk of losing the progress they have accomplished over the years that they have been in the system.

Daycares and schools have begun their opening process safely in the past few months and are taking extra precautions to keep themselves and children safe.

Through all the chaos of the Coronavirus, it may give children a bright beacon to look forward to after being stuck in their homes for months on end.

In reality, many parents who opted to not send their children back to daycare for safety concerns have and will possibly lose their "spot" in that daycare. Now, these parents will not only have to re-apply and search for a new daycare, they now have the supplementary duty to continue to care for their children while possibly working full time.

If everyone continues to take proper precautions, daycares and schools alike will eventually reopen sooner than imagined. Parents will feel relieved to know that their children are safe at daycare/school and even more relieved knowing that they can get back to work and be more efficient and productive in their occupations.

Student Opinions On Covid

By Brooke Bashar
Staff Writer

In this pandemic, we can either see people with the risks of spreading or catching Coronavirus, or we can isolate yet deal with the feelings of boredom, sadness, and anxiety.

You are most likely reading this article while quarantining and protecting yourself and others from catching and spreading COVID-19.

Since March schools and businesses have shut down or placed restrictions on contact to protect people from contracting COVID-19.

This shutdown of in person socialization has benefited our physical health in the sense that while isolating you and others can stay safe from the deadly Coronavirus. People wonder if the cost of physical health is worth the isolation and the mental health issues that may follow.

The consequences of not social-distancing nor wearing a mask can not only impact you but others as well. Some people infected with Coronavirus may be asymptomatic, meaning they have no symptoms and therefore can not identify when they have the Coronvirus. Having the Coronavirus with symptoms can go undetected for up to two weeks, giving people a chance to spread the virus unknowingly.

When looking at what can happen to a person's mental health we see that people in isolation may experience more depression and sadness. People may also become more anxious about the status of Coronavirus, added to that there is no exact date when quarantine will finally end and people can interact in person again. Thankfully the use of social media during this time aids us in the maintaining and decreasing of mental health issues. Social media presents to us that we are all feeling this same shock, grief, boredom, sadness, and disappointment about the current situation.

We asked students at John Burroughs High School how the Coronavirus was impacting them and how they were dealing with the changes.

Riley Shepherd (16) told us that her phone has been the most helpful during the Coronavirus pandemic. Riley says that "Social media is a good way to know what's going on and what you can do about it."

Hattie Weinroth (15) had plans to travel by plane to her aunt's wedding in Pennsylvania. Hattie explained that due to the COVID-19 risks "Going to see adults while potentially sick is too dangerous and would give them a negative memory of the wedding."

There are also students like Jay Barron (16), a Senior, who may no longer compete in competitions with his school teams. Jay explains to us that he misses dancing with his team but says that "being isolated may come with it's drawbacks. However, it is ultimately the right thing to do."

Students like Delilah Alverado (15) say that mental health "needs to be more out there, now more than ever."

This is why the Student Mental Health Board has been using social media to post about mental health during pandemic.

Christian Lim (15) is a member of the Student Mental Health Board and believes that "the healthier and safer we are, the sooner life can go back to normal and our mental health as well."

Both mental and physical health are important even when we are not in a pandemic. As of now mental health should be cared for while staying in isolation. Our physical health surrounding the Coronavirus is too dangerous to put at risk.

FaceTiming your friends and family as well as using social media to connect is a good solution for the time being.

Mental Health Tips

By Stephanie Hernandez
Staff Writer

Five months in social distancing has caused many people to feel discouraged during this time. By creating a routine or a checklist, picking up new hobbies, and setting small daily goals, you can improve your mood and get motivated.

Routines allow you to structure your day and help you complete your day-to-day tasks while avoiding overworking yourself. Daily checklists can help you track your activities.

Studies have consistently proven that structure leads to academic improvement and the increased development of social skills, though quick routine changes will most likely leave you with negative results.

According to Katherin Arlinghaus, a Master of Science and Registered Dietitian, and Craig A. Johnston, a Doctor of Philosophy, "Aim to add in one or two changes at a time, slowly building a routine for health that truly does keep the doctor away."

To set everyday goals for yourself, you can start by asking yourself how you can improve each area of your life. Asking yourself critical personal questions can help you create a unique daily plan.

Research has shown that checklists enhance our work habits by improving our productivity by helping us sort out which tasks are essential. Discipline is necessary, especially during online schooling.

Exercising is also a way to stay driven. Not only does physical exercise boost your immune system and overall health, but it also increases your brain's production of endorphins.

Past studies from Dr. Suzi Hong, who studies exercise at the UC San Diego School of Medicine, demonstrated that exercise is connected to alterations in the release of stress hormones such as adrenaline and norepinephrine. Exercising routinely is crucial due to hormone levels returning to their baseline after exercising.

"There's an effect that accrues over time, which is what you want to harness by being active at least a few times a week," describes Dr. Suzi Hong.

Whenever you're feeling discouraged or merely unmotivated, remind yourself of your previous accomplishments, and future goals. What have you achieved? How can you reach your future ambitions during a lockdown?

Tackling situations will result in boosts of confidence in your abilities, and new-founded motivation.

The regular practice of self-care can not only leave you feeling motivated and joyful, but it can also improve your overall health, physically and emotionally.

"What works for you may not work for someone else. The important thing is to make it a priority in your schedule," explained Bernadette Chavez Piñon, a licensed professional counselor at The University of Texas at Austin.

Despite our current situation, your academic performance still matters. Think about the effort you're putting into your assignments now. Would this level of commitment and effort help you progress towards your academic and future career goals?

"The best way, sometimes, is to focus on the now," explained Uma Millner, a licensed psychologist.

And remember, if things start to get too much to deal with on your own, our school and community have many resources to help.

You can call or text the Student Care Center at (818) 333-6239.

You can also visit Burbank's Family Services Agency online at https://familyserviceagencyofburbank.org/

The number for the Crisis Call Center is 800-273-8255, for HopeLine is 919-231-4525, for the National Suicide Hotline is 800-SUICIDE (784-2433) or 800-442-HOPE (4673), and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 800-273-TALK (8255).

And if you prefer text, most of the resources can be contacted that way as well: for the Crisis Call Center text ANSWER to 839863, and for the Crisis Text Line text HELLO to 741741.

And of course you can contact Assistant Principal Kenny Knoop, any of our counselors or the school psychologist during school hours:

Assistant Principal Kenneth Knoop:
kennethknoop@burbankusd.org – AP of Guidance

School Psychologist Renee Miller
reneemiller@burbankusd.org –

And Counselors Lisa Chung, Jodi Levy, Sheila Masters, Jennifer Sohn Lim, Jessie Steinberg, and Hung Truong:
lisachung@burbanksd.org (Academies)
jodilevy@burbankusd.org (RAT-Z)
sheilamasters@burbankusd.org (A-El)
jennifersohnlim@burbankusd.org (Intervention)
jessiesteinebrg@burbankusd.org (En-Leo)
hungtruong@burbankusd.org (Lep-Ram)

Mental And Physical Health During The Quarantine

By Alysia Martinez
Staff Writer

Who would have thought 2020 would have the world going from socially interacting to socially distancing in a matter of three months. The corona virus has not only made an impact in physical health but especially on a student's mental health.

Summer in Los Angeles is always fun whether one is hanging out with friends or going to amusement parks.

Angelinos can all agree that being in quarantine has brought some difficult times within us such as some days not wanting to get out of bed or unfortunately getting easily frustrated with our loved ones.

Most people would say distance learning has been a bit difficult not with the education but mainly with adapting at home since for some people it can be hectic. It's tough to be motivated trying to push through times like this but it's up to everyone to push through the obstacles.

At the end of the day there's not just a whole bunch of cons, most people now have a lot of time on their hands to do something they've never had any time to do before. Students are taking it upon themselves to learn a new language, learn how to drive, or do more of their favorite hobbies.

Studies reported by Psychology Today that negative psychological facts due to quarantine include post- traumatic stress symptoms, confusion, boredom, frustrations, depression and so on. Student #1 that goes to John Burroughs high school states, "quarantine has had a significant impact on my mental health, it has made me feel isolated and rather depressed. Distance learning although not traditional has made it somewhat easier for me.

Student #2 also attends John Burroughs high school says "I feel like it's easier to learn in person than online and also if we need help with an assignment it would always be easy for me to just stay after class for a few minutes and get the help right away and with distance learning its a bit more complicated/ a struggle. It's also hard for me because the school suggests finding a quiet workplace but some of us don't have a quiet workspace so it's hard in that way."

There are also benefits to distance learning among students as it states in the latinamericapost.com "More free time for students becomes crucial for them."

Last but not least student #3 also attends Burroughs and he says "The impact quarantine had on me as a student was to have a lot more patience with many things in life and has made me not only have more time on my hands but also be responsible with my time management. Distance learning so far hasn't been very tasking but it's been very relaxed and flexible for the most part so I've been able to move a lot easier with school."

Now everyone may not see eye to eye with how quarantine is impacting them but what is understood is that no matter what we're all resilient and will get through these hard situations.

For more information and tips and resources on mental health, see the article by Stephanie Hernandez, "Mental Health Tips."

By James Reid
Feature Editor

Despite the ongoing events with the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone will have to leave the house at some point. From getting groceries to walking your dog, chances are you will have to leave your household from time to time. Luckily, though, there are guidelines in place to keep you and others safe from this potentially fatal disease.

For example, the Center for Disease Control has put out guidelines with valuable information on how to keep yourself and others safe. These guidelines include wearing a face mask, washing and sanitizing your hands frequently, and staying at least six feet away from other individuals.

However, the CDC has guidelines that also include more complex information for individuals who want to stay extra safe. This includes, "For the general public, wearing gloves is not necessary in most situations, like running errands. CDC recommends wearing gloves when you are cleaning or caring for someone who is sick." Apart from this, the CDC guidelines also include basic information on the coronavirus itself.

Other sources of information that could be beneficial to the public are the top scientists studying this virus. This could include people like Dr. Deborah Birx and Dr. Anthony Fauci. For example, Dr. Fauci has provided numerous tips and much advice for the public to follow as the pandemic continues.

Advice from Birx and Fauci could range anywhere from basic information on staying safe outdoors to information from detailed studies on how to handle the coronavirus. For example, Dr. Fauci once stated, "There are four or five things that we know you can do," before going on to list basic recommendations on containing the coronavirus, including washing your hands and wearing a mask. "Those things, relatively speaking, are really simple," Fauci said. "If we did those things very strictly, we could turn around what is going on right now."

Another source of information could be local governments. For example, the City of Burbank has put many signs out with basic information on how to stay safe. This includes staying six feet apart from other people, wearing a mask, and washing your hands frequently.

Mayor Sharon Springer of Burbank has also put up coronavirus updates on TheBurbankChannel on YouTube. For further information on Burbank's coronavirus policies, you can go to the frequently asked questions section on www.burbankca.gov, or you can ask Burbank City Council members directly by calling (818) 238-3335 during the general public comment section of online Burbank City Council meetings on TheBurbankChannel (on YouTube).

Because Burbank is a part of Los Angeles County, you could also get information about L.A.'s coronavirus policies online on their website, lacounty.gov. Here, you can find information about how the coronavirus is currently affecting Los Angeles County. You can also find a link there to the CDC's website, which can provide additional information not directly related to L.A.

To expand even further, you could look at the recommendations and policies for the state of California. The website covid19.ca.gov has a menu tab that has plenty of information on everything from emotional support to safe hotels for essential workers. In my opinion, this is the best source of information on how Covid-19 has affected California, and how to stay safe within the state.

A final source of information that could be used for information on the coronavirus would be reliable news groups. These news groups might do interviews with experts on the coronavirus, allowing you to get information from many different sources all in one place. This could save your time, and potentially even save your health depending on what they say and how you respond to it.

In conclusion, listening to the information provided by these sources should allow you to make informed decisions about things like social distancing and wearing a mask while in public areas. Statistics show that if 95% of people wore masks, more than 67,000 lives could be saved. By wearing a mask and social distancing, you're protecting not only yourself, but others too. Do the right thing, and practice safe behaviors during these uncertain times.

Take Out Spots

By Chloe Crews
Staff Writer

Been craving some new flavors, or just looking for a quick bite to eat? Takeout restaurants are all the rage currently in response to the dine-in restaurant businesses closing down due to Covid-19. New takeout restaurants pop up all the time, but does their food live up to the city's cravings?

Here are my top 4 best takeout restaurants in Burbank.

Porto's Bakery and Cafe

The Burbank location opened in 2005 and has been a hit ever since. The Cuban style restaurant has a variety of menu items starting from tarts and pastries to salads and sandwiches. The most popular menu items start out with the "papa rellena" or "potato balls." These crisp fried mashed potato balls can be filled with your choice of ground beef or cheese and jalapeños.

Other popular menu items include cheese rolls, Refugiado (guava & cheese strudel), chicken empanadas, meat pie, and the Cubano sandwich.

Dino's Pizza.

This pizzeria has been a hit with the Burbank residents ever since it's opening. The menu has sandwiches, salads, spaghetti, and of course pizza!

MA'S Italian Kitchen

Italian favorites and classics with a modern flair. A dine-in favorite with more takeout orders than ever due to the pandemic. The most popular menu items include; Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo Pasta, Chopped Chicken Salad, Garlic Knots, Meat Lasagna Pasta, and Chicken Orzo Soup.

Tequilas Cantina & Grill

Can't dine-in at your favorite Mexican food spot? Never fear, they're here and waiting for your takeout orders to bring that flavor all the way to your home! The most popular menu items include; Steak and Chicken Fajitas, Tacos Al Carbon, Camarones A la Diabla, and Shrimp Enchiladas.

The top four restaurants are all unique and it shows that Burbank has eclectic taste from family-style food to pastries and cakes. Burbank is known for its small town vibe, but it's rich in big city dining, affordable pricing, and unimaginable flavors!

JAGUAR Album Review

By Karla Saucedo
Staff Writer

Singer-songwriter Victoria Monét released a new album on August 7, 2020, called JAGUAR, an R&B album with nine tracks. When first listening to the album it was such an amazing experience, unlike other music it was something new, the songs have a type of pop-funk R&B feel.

The best song in the album would have to be Experience ft. Khalid and SG Lewis, it has such a beautiful beat and gives off 70's vibes, it is well written and produced overall. It is truly a good song and I believe that whoever listens to it will like it, especially if you are into R&B.

Victoria Monét has been working in music since 2014 and came out with her first EP Nightmares & Lullabies - Act 1 and since then came out with four more. She became known for her collaboration in 2019 with Ariana Grande on the hit "7 Rings" which gave her a big push in her career.

Monet's first EP Nightmares & Lullabies - Act 1 was released independently on October 30, 2014, and was released through her own record label known as Victoria Monet Music. It was a 5 track EP and at that time did not have much exposure. She then later came out with Nightmares & Lullabies Act 2, which came out on June 16, 2015, and was also an independent release, with her own record label once again.

In an interview with Paper Magazine, Monét said "I want to make sure that the people who are also in the LGBTQ+ community have someone who, when they don't feel strong enough, to say that they see the love and support... I'm proud to be a part of this movement — there's power in numbers.", because she felt self-assurance when she came out as bisexual in 2018 and she felt she was trained " to think of it as a sin," Monét also felt that it was important to sing and is grateful for songwriting but says " it felt like self-care", and as well as started to collaborate with other artists. Her exposure from working with Ariana Grande gave her a big jump into her career but even if she was not collaborating with her, I believe that her name would be out there and become a popular singer because her music is good and, like I said, has a different sound to it.

Overall the album was very well put together and I recommend that anyone who likes R&B gives it a listen, as well as people who normally listen to other genres, it is worth the time and listens. Since there are not many new things to do during the pandemic this album could be something new and be relaxing to listen to during homework. Even if you have tried to listen to R&B and you turn out not to like the genre, I suggest you try it again and see if you like it.

I also know a couple of people that also enjoyed listening to this album as well. They have said, "This album has a mellow and funky instrument to it and in the lyrics, she describes her confidence and it is such an amazing thing to hear, it is uplifting all around." I could not agree more.

Another person said, "The first time I listened to this album I was not expecting to like it too much because I am not a fan of the R&B genre, I had listened to it once and it was not really something that caught my attention at first but then I listened to it a second time and it was honestly a lot better than before." Then this person proceeded to say " I would definitely recommend this album and the song Moment because it really is a beautiful song."

Golf

By Georgie Hallbach
News Editor

Like all the other sports at JBHS, both boys and girls Golf will not be having any games but Coach Everhart gave The Signal some information about how the team is operating during Covid-19.

The Golf team is coached by Mr. Everhart and Sean White. Mr. Everhart is a John Burroughs Alumni who attended CSUN for his undergraduate degree, teaching credentials, and masters.

Mr. Everhart started playing golf when he was seven; his grandfather, who lived on a golf course, taught him how to play. He played for Burroughs too, and was captain of the team his senior year.

Due to Covid, there will be no in-person practices for Golf. However, the members are given a list of activities they must complete for a given week. With no onsite practice, many of the golfers are playing in outside tournaments to stay "mentally and physically prepared," says Coach Everhart.

As of August 28th, no captains have been picked yet. Star player Lincoln Melcher will not be returning this season, but another star player, Emilio Huerta, will be.

The roster for the Girls Team: Madelaine Abutin, Skye Brauer, Sadie Demmert, Alexis Gopez, Maleia Gould, Victoria Guess, Justine Hamac, Adelina Hernandez, Nadaly Jones, Annika Lingad, Sophia Olin, Sofia Remelius, Harper Sullens, and Qing (Sophia) Wang. The roster for the Boys Team: Adriel Abaoag, Kai Benoit, Justin Brauer, Ethan Cohen, Daniel Gonzalez, Kodiak Hernandez, Westley Hilton, Gabriel Holloway, Emilio Huerta, David Lamb, Jason McGinness, Ryan McGowan, John Peltier, Angelo Piccioni, Nicolas Rosen, Reynaldo Sanchez, Andre Suarez, and Dylan Vallejo.

Being a coach this semester this year is difficult, Covid-19 has destroyed any chance of in person games and has disrupted the normal team bonding and practices. Coaches at JBHS are finding ways to support their players and give some feeling of normalcy. When asked what his hopes are for playing during the pandemic, Coach Everhart says: " I hope the golf team stays active and the members play golf on their own or with their family members, only if they feel comfortable."

A lot of the sports teams at Burroughs are putting the weight on the student athletes to keep in shape, practice on their own, and find ways outside of school to safely participate in their sport, like practicing at public golf courses.

For anyone who would like to participate in the Golf team, Coach Everhart says they can send in videos of their swing, answer a few questions about golf etiquette, philosophy, and rules, and submit some scorecards from tournaments they've played in.

Cross Country

By Elizabeth Surratt
Sports Editor

Even with the cancellations due to Covid, the Cross Country team is still trying to find ways to keep in shape.

With the new adjustments to how teams can practice, coach John Peebles says, "it is different from normal, but that should not stop anybody from working to do the best person possible and doing their best in their classes."

Coach Peebles also believes that the first priority is, "providing support" and "encouraging the kids to continue to put in work, even if specifics about the future are unknown."

The practices are not only being held online but are also up to the teammates to be practicing on their own. When the team does meet up, they are put into breakout rooms that are designed to help the teammates get familiar with each other.

On Fridays the athletes are to submit a weekly log to show the progress that they have made.

Athletes are working on what is best for them when it comes to getting ready and staying in shape. Senior Divya Chandrasekhran on Varsity states that, "we aren't practicing in groups or with our team," and "I usually run by myself." She also states, "My goal is just to stay in shape while getting progressively faster."

Coach Peebles says, "I really would love to see the kids, whether it be athletics, performance arts, or whatever, get a chance, a chance to get back to what they enjoy doing outside of the classroom."

Girls Volleyball

By Noel Pennington
Staff Writer

Amidst a global pandemic, all teams are doing what they can to ensure that when they are able to come back to school and practice, they are ready to do so. This starts with going to Zoom practices.

Even though all sports are in a tough spot right now, the Girls Volleyball team has a plan to keep moving forward, and continue to practice.

For instance, teams are allowed to start practicing through the Burbank Parks and Rec. Coach Real started instructing the team on the 14th of September, and members of the girls volleyball team will be able to join this and start practice back up again!

To prepare for these practices, our athletes are doing coach directed workouts over Zoom, and also doing workouts online with teammates.

For any potential new volleyball players that are interested in being on the team, tryouts will be held in November, and they should contact Coach Real via email.

Any new athlete is also welcome to participate in the camp through the Parks and Rec.

Coach Real says his first priority is making sure his athletes are active now, to make sure they're ready once the season starts and they're given the green light to play.

Some goals the team has for this year is to play in the finals for the CIF championship, and to win the League title, while going undefeated.