Raising Cane's Taking Over Old Norms Encino

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Universal Studios Hollywood Gets Ready for Spooky Season with Horror Nights See 10

Reel History of the Valley

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ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 5, Issue 102 | A Compendious Source of Information | August 15, 2024

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tarzana Community and Cultural Center to Hold Music Night Aug. 30

The Tarzana Community and Cultural Center (TCCC) will be hosting another Tarzana Music Night Live! show on Friday, August 30, from 7 to 10 pm. Performers include Craig Lincoln, Brenton Gardner, Leslie Barker, Scott Detweiller, Justin Richard, Jay Asher, Miss Kelley, Roger Parham-Brown, Jefferson Denim & Reed Walsh, Kim Margolis, The Bob Thomas Trio, Kathy Sanders, Claire Bloom and Severin Browne. Special guest is Lois Blaisch who will be performing a 20-minute set at 8 pm. This show will be outdoors in the garden, chairs will be provided and refreshments are available for purchase. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased at mytarzana.org or at the door. TCCC is located at 19130 Ventura Blvd.

Encino Crime Prevention Fair August 25

In response to the recent uptick in crime throughout Encino neighborhoods, the Encino Property Owners Association will be holding a Crime Prevention Fair on Sunday, August 25, from 9 am to 12 pm at Genesta-Park (16953 Ventura Blvd in Encino). There will be interactive exhibits exploring crime prevention tools and technologies and there will be local law enforcement on hand to answer questions. Plus, raffle prizes, arts and crafts for kids, and free refreshments.

Celebrate the Valley's 818 Day All Weekend Long

San Fernando Valley locals, it's your time to shine! This Sunday, August 18, is "818 Day" (8/18) and the Topanga Social at Westfield will have a slew of activities to celebrate. Those that live and work in the Valley know that that 818 area code is one of the biggest defining factors that classify the Valley as what it is! Kicking off on Friday at 6 pm and running through Sunday, the Topanga Social will have a DJ, yard games, street dogs for sale and a special 818 Tequila pop-up tent. Grab your Valley family, friends and loved ones to celebrate what makes this area code so unique, like totally.

Local Councilmembers and LAPD Hold Safety Zoom to Address Recent Encino Crime

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

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

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

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

While two individuals believed to be tied to some of these burglaries were recently arrested, local leaders stressed the importance of staying vigilant. Creating a community network and talking to your neighbors was highlighted as perhaps the most important step you can take. Look out for one another and notice when something is amiss in the neighborhood. The old adage "if you see something, say something" was highlighted by the various officers in attendance. If you see something suspect, especially hidden cameras like those found in recent months, alert police immediately. Police officers are on call to respond to all reports, but must do so in the order of priority and time

The home robberies have not been linked to one specific crew, but rather are believed to be the work of multiple crews who have targeted areas such as Encino, Tarzana and Woodland Hills.

sensitivity. It may take a bit longer than anyone feels comfortable with, but they stressed that they will respond.

The West Valley Bureau have significantly increased their patrolling via cars, mounted officers and air support, in addition to uniformed and plain-clothed officers. Routes have been designed to specifically navigate areas of concern and many officers have even been seen walking door-to-door talking with concerned residents. Chief Flores stressed that the goal of the LAPD, as well as local leaders, has been to focus on "reducing crime and reducing the fear of crime."

For certain minor

(continued to page 11)

CALENDAR

There are better ways to get acquainted.

As a local business, you're always looking to meet new contacts and find ways to grow your business. The Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber of Commerce offers easy, fun and useful ways to make new connections and find new resources. Got a problem? Need some help?

We're here to get you what you need to succeed. Call us today at 818-906-1951 or email us at hello@shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

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Concert and movie lineup subject to change.

Community Calendar

* Encino Property Owners Association, in partnership wtih Encino Neighborhood Council and Encino South Neighborhood Watch, have organized a community Zoom meeting with LAPD officials on Thursday, August 22, at 7 pm. If you would like to attend the meeting, email info@encinopoa.com.

* Join the Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce for Coffee & Croissants on Wednesday, August 21, from 9:30 to 10:30 am at the Chamber office. Stop by to enjoy conversation with the CEO and fellow members. Cost is free for members and $5 for non-members before August 20, $10 afer. RSVP at shermanoakencinochamber.org.

* The Encino Neighborhood Council will be holding their general board meeting on Wednesday, August 28, at 7 pm. Meeting links for these Zooms are made available 72 hours prior. For details, visit encinonc.org.

* Mark your calendars! The West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce will be holding their Masquerade Installation Gala at Pinstripes on Saturday, August 24, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Celebrate the 2024/2025 Board of Directors, hear a special presentation from the LAPD and LAFD and dine and dance the night away. Tickets are $125 and go up to $175 after August 7. For more info, and tickets, visit woodlandhillscc.net.

* From crafting attention-grabbing essays to strategically showcasing your accomplishments, it can be hard to figure out what to write on your college admission essay. Join the Encino Tarzana Library on Wednesday, August 21, at 4 pm for "College Admission Secrets Nobody's Talking About." Discover the secrets that could reshape the approach to securing acceptance into one's desired college. Email ecalla@lapl.org for this program's Zoom link.

* Westfield Fashion Square will be holding a blood drive with the American Red Cross on Thursday, September 6, from 10 am to 4 pm. To make your appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

* Join the United Chambers of Commerce for their Government Affairs Committee on Monday, August 19 at 12 pm via Zoom. Hear updates from elected officials' representatives on business related issues. RSVP at shermanoakencinochamber.org.

* Save the date! The Tarzana Community and Cultural Center has announced they will be holding their annual gala celebration on Saturday, October 5, starting at 5:30 pm. This year's theme is "An Enchanted Garden" and will include dinner, musical guests The Sonic Boomers, dancing, a silent auction and more! Tickets are $125 before September 1, RSVP at mytarzana.org.

* San Fernando Valley Audubon Society is continuing to work with partners, the Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) on the ongoing habitat restoration efforts in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. This group will gather on Saturday, August 24, from 8 to 11 am to work and weed. If you would like to get involved and get your hands dirty, this is for you! Plus, there will be a guided Audubon walk after the work. For more info, and to sign up, visit sfvaudubon.org/events/sbwr-habitat-restoration-6.

* Blank Space, the Taylor Swift tribute, and emerging artist It's Britney Beep, a Britney Spears tribute band, will perform at the next NoHo Summer Nights on Saturday, August 17, from 7 to 9:30 pm at the North Hollywood Recreation Center (11455 Magnolia Blvd). Admission is free, bring blankets or low-back lawn chairs. Visit valleycultural.org for more information.

COMMUNITY

People in the News

The San Fernando Valley Climate Reality Project (SFVCR) has announced that their new Chair is **Sharon Ungersma.**

Ungersma joined the chapter in September 2020 as Digital Communications Coordinator. With a Bachelor's in Physics from Harvey Mudd College in Claremont and a PhD in Applied Physics from Stanford, Ungersma brings a scientific background to her climate advocacy, while focusing strongly on the importance of community action.

"SFVCR's goal is to make climate education and advocacy accessible to all residents of the Valley," says Ungersma. "It's not that people don't care about climate change; people care a lot! But they feel powerless, or they don't know what they can do personally that will help or make a difference. Our job is to help our communities understand what's needed and how to take action."

As part of her journey with SFVCR, Ungersma has a developed a passion for native plants and wildlife, and focuses her personal efforts on habitat restoration.

The San Fernando Valley Chapter of The Climate Reality Project offers special programs via Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month, from 7 to 8:30 pm. Chapter members engage with state and local government to support environmental measures and advocate for local nature-based solutions; recent efforts include providing significant support for the Sepulveda Basin Restoration project and keeping artificial turf out of new fields in Los Angeles.

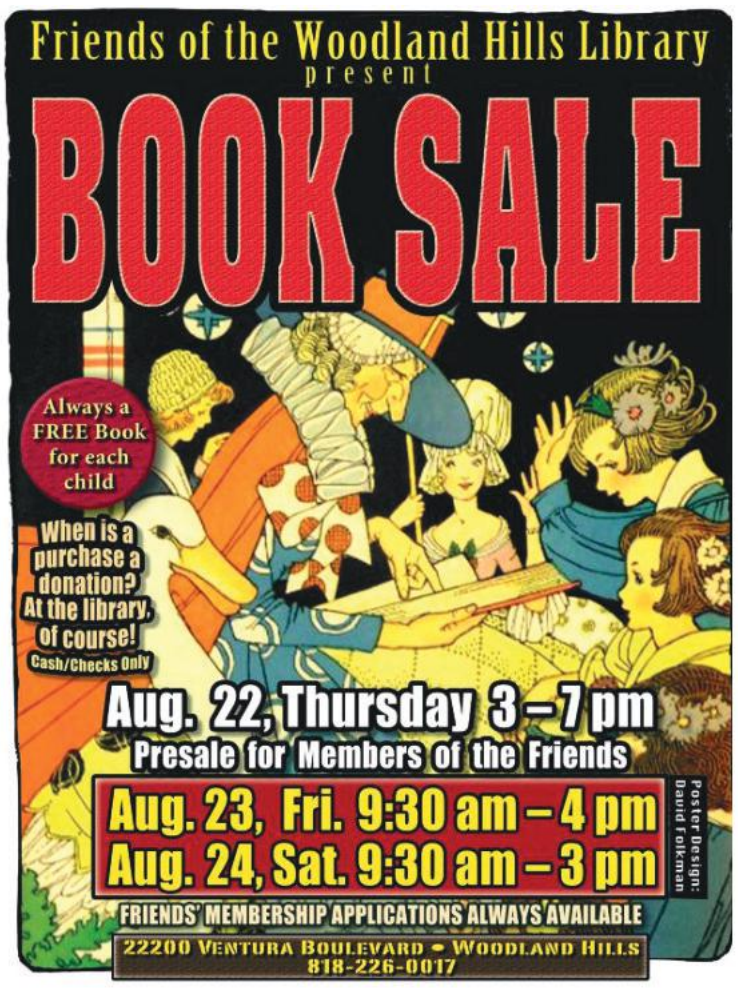
For more information about the chapter, visit their website sfvclimatereality.org.

Students in the News

* **Asher Barnes** of Encino was named to the Dean's List at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

* **Emma Maurer** of Sherman Oaks was named to the Dean's List at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

* ***Parmida Pourmandi*** of Sherman Oaks was among 146 students honored by Des Moines University Medicine and Health Sciences for volunteering more than 50 hours during the 2023-2024 academic year.



English Channel

By Rodger Sterling

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

* An astute observation from a female friend: Anyone else notice how we say "girl" when excited and "man" when disappointed...

* For the kids: How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh? Ten tickles!

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

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

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

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

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PHONE 818.313.9545 FAX 818.302.1417
Email: EncinoEnterprise@gmail.com
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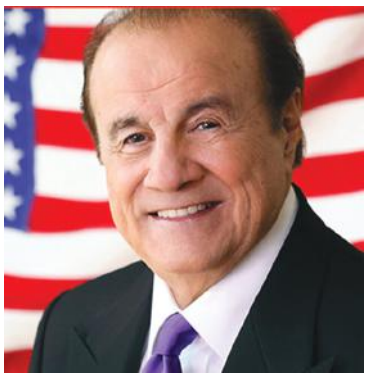
Election Special 2024

Guest Editorial: Larry Thompson for Congress



Hi. Larry Thompson here. I'm desperate for you to know what's in my heart. I want so badly for you to understand why I'm running to be your U.S. Congressman.

I'm not sure I totally knew myself until a would-be-assassin fired on Donald Trump and a Democrat friend of mine said "I'm sorry the shooter missed". I was stunned and saddened. No matter what your party preference there is no room for violence in our election process.

I knew when I decided to run in California, and especially in this democratic stronghold, district CA 32, my probable opponent would be Brad Sherman (D-CA) who has been in office for 14 terms (28 years). I was aware that would make me an obvious long shot to succeed, but I believed voters needed to hear both sides of the political spectrum to make the most informed decision. I didn't believe a one party state was politically healthy, so I threw my hat in the ring for my voice to be heard. And where once there were seven candidates in our primary race there are now only two in this general election. Sherman and me. Liberal versus Conservative. Democrat versus Republican.

So you now have a real choice - as it should be all over America. You can vote your tribe and party line and keep the long time incumbent Sherman or you can open your windows and mind to a fresh wind of compassion, values, and hope for our country and vote your dormant passion for a new direction and inclusive liberty for all Americans.

At this moment our United States is dangerously filled with hatred and insanity. I'm your new and improved "Sanity Man."

I am working to awaken, organize, and unite the canceled conservative voter, the dissatisfied Democrat voter, and the undecided No Party Preference voter. I want them to feel alone, defeated, and scared no longer. I call upon them to have courage, stand up, and join me and those who share their true values and vision of our country. I will always protect family values. I want everyone to simply use common sense with common civility to find common ground to solve our common Issues. We are one country and one shot should not represent how we solve our issues.

The bullet that pierced Trump's ear rang loud and clear all over the world. It offered a sudden earful of enlightened insight into our belief systems, our feelings, our hope, our values, and our collective vision for our universal humanity.

Did you hear the wake-up call? Did you listen to freedom ring? Did you overhear the truth? Did you eavesdrop on the need and sanctity of change? Did your eardrums start to the march to a new future? Did you grab your ear to stop the pain or did you simply reach for it to wipe the blood away?

I have been deafened by the silence of open dialogue between neighbors and friends, and I have been quieted by the liberal media.

I advocate closing the borders immediately, reducing the cost of living by putting policies in place to reduce and end inflation, and lowering taxes including "no taxes on tips." I'm tough on crime, strong on parental rights, pro bitcoin and cryptocurrencies, and an enormous protector of the everyday working man and woman. It doesn't take AI to know we need a strong military headed by a powerful leader and government.

I plead for more common sense, less fear and hatred of our fellow citizens, and a renewed abundance of personal prayer. Most of all I pray for a peaceful election.

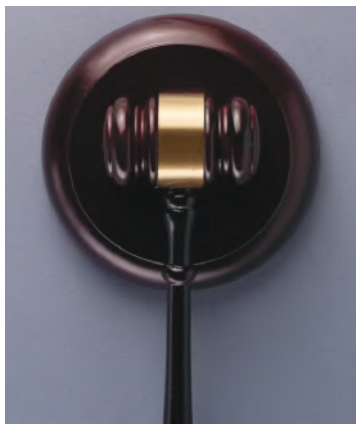
I have published everything I believe and stand for on my campaign website, larrythompsonforcongress.com.

I have written a political manifesto, Voting In The Age Of Chaos, which you can read online.

Lend me your ears. Harken to the insightful sounds of a new tomorrow.

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

by Janice L. Miller, Esq.



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

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

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

Understanding Buy-Sell Agreements

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

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

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

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

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

Business Succession Planning

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

Implications of the New Supreme Court Ruling

The recent Supreme Court ruling introduced significant changes including:

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

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

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

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

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

(continued to page 6)

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Super Car Sunday Raises Funds While Revving Engines

Every Sunday in Woodland Hills, something super happens… something that brings diverse communities together, something that has people from all over the world stopping by in Woodland Hills, something that has turned into more than "just" a car show…This thing is called Supercar Sunday!

Supercar Sunday is a weekly car show that has been hosted in Woodland Hills since the early 2000s. A product of Dustin Troyan's creative mind, many believe this event could have been the inspiration for "cars and coffee" style car events all over the world. Troyan started the show at the Village Coffee Roaster and, from there the event grew in notoriety and fame. The event has been so successful because it brings the entire community together: hot rods, classic cars, exotic cars, men, women, children, celebrities, politicians - everyone goes to Supercar Sunday.

From a socio-economic perspective, there might not be anything that better illustrates the diversity of California than Supercar Sunday.

Twenty years later, Supercar Sunday is presented and sponsored by Porsche Woodland Hills and the event happens every Sunday at Pierce College. The second Sunday of every month is a "Porsche Marque Day," whereby Porsche vehicles are highlighted and Porsche Woodland Hills displays cars with their brand ambassadors ready to answer any questions.General Manager Scott Stanley is always in attendance sharing his Porsche passion with attendees.

What makes Supercar Sunday so much more than just another car show, is community.

From Supercar Sunday, came the Motor4Toys Charitable Foundation, which was started by Troyan, friends and family. Over the course of the last 20 years, Motor4Toys has collected and distributed over $6 million worth of toys to children in need all over Southern California while operating at 100% charity. There are no salaries, it is all from the heart and Porsche Woodland Hills has presented the annual event the last handful of years. But it all happens because of that community. That super motorsport community.

Most recently, Supercar Sunday teamed up with Porsche Woodland Hills and the motorsport community to hold a fundraiser at the car show. In just four hours $120,000 was collected and divided equally between: James Storehouse, Rancho San Antonio Boys Town and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County. 100% of those proceeds went to the three agencies.

So, if you are a car enthusiast or want to witness a truly remarkable event, stop by Supercar Sunday at Pierce College. It's a part of Southern California culture and a staple in our community.

For more information on the event visit supercarsunday.com.

Supreme Court Ruling Cont'd

(continued from previous page)

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

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The Surprising Connection Between Oral Health and Dementia

Research from the past several years has made an interesting correlation between an individual's gum health and their likelihood of developing Alzheimer's.

Studies show that those who have gum disease, and exhibit factors such as tooth loss or gum swelling, are more likely to show symptoms of cognitive impairment or dementia. Is this a chicken and an egg scenario? You have poor dental hygiene because you have forgotten to maintain your oral health? Or is there a deeper connection?

According to Panos Papapanous, DDS, PhD, a professor of dental medicine at Columbia, "The pattern converges in one direction, more severe gum disease is linked with more concerning findings on brain MRIs."

While the mouth is often looked at as its own entity, oftentimes when something goes seriously wrong within it, the effects can spread throughout the body. This is due to the fact that nerves, tissues and the like are so closely, and intricately linked, to the brain. When one has severe gum disease that leads to bleeding holes in the gum, the bacteria can find itself traveling throughout the bloodstream and breaking the barrier to the brain. This bacteria causes inflammation, especially when it's identified as a foreign substance, and can lead to inflammation of the brain.

These toxic microbes affect cognitive function and instigate an immune response as your body tries to fight the infection off. Over time, the chemicals your body releases can lead to a buildup of abnormal clumps of protein in the brain; the same that are regularly seen in individuals with dementia.

While diet and exercise has long been promoted to keep the brain healthy, doctors are also stressing the importance of maintaining proper oral hygiene. Brushing one's teeth twice a day, flossing daily, avoiding smoking and avoiding excess sugar that can rot the teeth are just a few of the top preventive measures. To keep your mouth, and by association, your brain healthy, prioritize its maintenance.

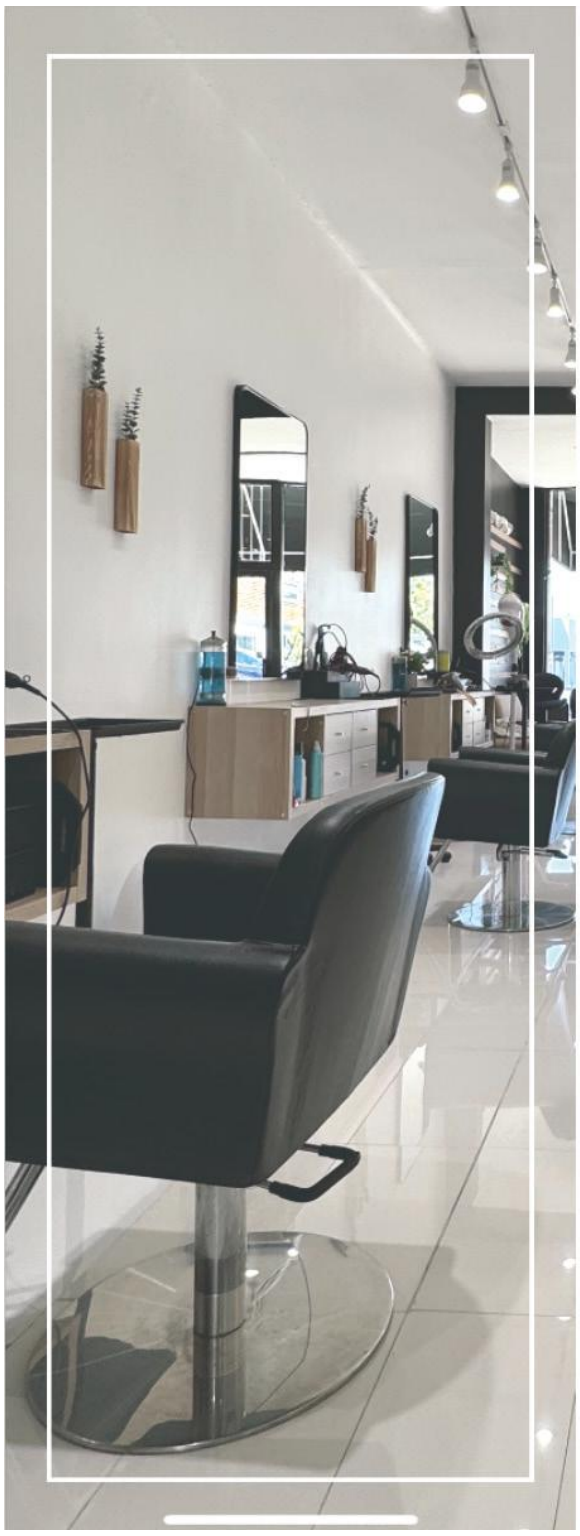
CDC Addresses IUD Pain for First Time

The IUD, or intrauterine device, has been a contraceptive option for over six decades, but the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is addressing the notorious pain of insertion for the first time. Due to overwhelming patient feedback on the excruciating pain during procedure, the CDC is now offering guidance for doctors on how best to handle pain management during this routine procedure.

The CDC guidance reads, "When considering patient pain, it is important to recognize that the experience of pain is individualized and might be influenced by previous experiences including trauma and mental health conditions, such as depression or anxiety." The CDC is recommending that doctors use lidocaine, an anesthetic, to numb the cervix before the procedure.

While this is the most effective birth control method available, numerous individuals have reported either passing out from the pain or experiencing the worst pain they have ever felt upon insertion. This outcry was what instigated the CDC to update their guidance from the last time they released literature about IUDs in 2016.

This news is especially worthwhile as it comes at a time when reproductive freedom is being threatened in the United States due to the overthrow of Roe vs Wade.



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HEALTH

How to Recognize, and Prevent, Drowning

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

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

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

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

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

Drowning has long been known as a silent killer because typically individuals in the midst of drowning are unable to call for help.

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

To prevent drowning accidents, always familiarize yourself with where the lifeguards are stationed, always have a flotation device at hand and never swim alone.

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Scan Me!

The Reel History of the Valley

By Martin M. Cooper

Listen Up, It's Rick Avery!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rick Avery, a filmic Renaissance man.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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

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

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

Headliners Gin Blossom.

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

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

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

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

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

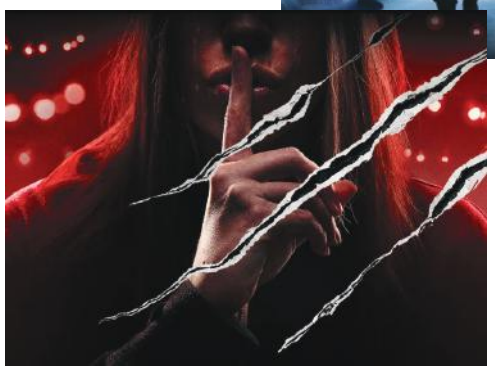
Sagebrush Cantina is located at 23527 Calabasas Rd. in Calabasas.

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

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

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

Mirroring the silence in the *Quiet Place* films, the haunted houses will



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

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

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

Rounding out the slate, horror fans will encounter multiple scare zones throughout the park. When exiting the "Monstruos 2: The Nightmares of Latin America" haunted house, visitors will encounter "Luchadores Monstruosos," an all-new scare zone. As they begin their terrifying night at Halloween Horror Nights, fans will first need to escape a troop of chainsaw killers in "Chainsaw Punkz," then dodge a gothic inspired royal court of the dead in "Skull Lordz." The menacing "Murder of Crowz" will flock to a new dedicated space, including mama crow debuting at the nest.

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

For the first time this year, there will be two haunted houses based on recent blockbusters: Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire and A Quiet Place.

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

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

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

REAL ESTATE

Construction Begins on Caballero Creek Park in Tarzana

A ceremony last week marked the beginning of construction on Caballero Creek Park in Tarzana.

The $5.45 million project is being built on a 1.5-acre site on Lindley between Victory Blvd. and Erwin Street.

Councilman Bob Blumenfield helped secure funding from several sources, including $4.4 million from the state, $750,000 from the City of Los Angeles, and $300,000 from L.A. County.

The park sits at the merger of Caballero Creek and the L.A. River and will be the first self-sustaining park in Los Angeles, with irrigation coming from water captured on site, and any electricity from solar panels.

The water management system will create a wetlands habitat to naturally filter runoff from 11 acres of surrounding streets, which will clean the water and store it.

The park will also have fitness equipment and access to the L.A. River bike path, which runs alongside the park.

Recent Encino Crime Cont'd

(continued from page 1)

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

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

Old Norms Encino Becoming Raising Cane's

The old Norms restaurant at the corner of Ventura and Rubio in Encino will soon be replaced by Raising Cane's.

Raising Cane's is well known for their chicken fingers - the sole item they offer with a variety of sides.

Owner Todd Graves based the restaurant idea off a business plan that failed in college, but was determined to see it through. Graves opened the first Raising Cane's (named after his Labrador Retriever) in 1996 and the company now has over 700 locations.

The latest news anticipates that the Raising Cane's location in Encino will open on October 22.

Norms closed during the 2022 holiday season, sending a text message to customers informing them of the news. While Norms did not make an official statement regarding its closing, speculation is that inflation costs and negotiations on rent were the main driving forces behind its closure.

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June 16
Linda and Friends Band
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June 23
The Soul Juice Band
Blazing Soul, Funk, Rock & Jazz
EMERGING ARTIST: **Sarah Daye**

June 30
Strange Days
Tribute to The Doors
EMERGING ARTIST: **Eye of the Sun**

Thursday, July 4
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield's
July 4th Extravaganza
Featuring
Angela O'Neill and The Outrageous8
EMERGING ARTIST: **The Paul Litteral Band**

July 14
Foreigner Unauthorized
Tribute to Foreigner
EMERGING ARTIST: **Abby Berman**

July 21
Twisted Gypsy
Tribute to Fleetwood Mac
EMERGING ARTIST: **Paper Citizen**

July 28
Red Corvette
Tribute to Prince
EMERGING ARTIST: **Timothy J. Wilson**

August 4
Wanted
Tribute to Bon Jovi
EMERGING ARTIST: **Saticöy**

August 11
ABBA-LA
Tribute to ABBA
EMERGING ARTIST: **Tomorrow's Tigers**

August 18
Blank Space
Tribute to Taylor Swift
EMERGING ARTIST: **Abigail Fierce**

August 25
Aeromyth
Tribute to Aerosmith
EMERGING ARTIST: **American Superdrive**

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Lineup subject to change.