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ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 5, Issue 106 | A Compendious Source of Information | October 18, 2024

NEWS IN BRIEF

Encino Movie Night at ONEgeneration Oct. 26

ONEgeneration will be hosting a free Encino movie night on Saturday, October 26, from 6 to 9 pm on their soccer field (17400 Victory Blvd). The gates will open at 6 pm, with a costume contest at 6:30 pm and a screening of *The Nightmare Before Christmas* at 7 pm. While there will be food trucks and concessions, you're welcome to bring your own picnic, blankets and chairs. Onsite parking is $5 per car. The event is free, but registration is required at eventbrite.com under "Free Outdoor Movie Night - Encino - Nightmare Before Christmas."

Halloween Party at Encino Community Center

The Encino Community Center and Balboa Sports Complex will hold a "Disney Villains" Halloween event on Saturday, October 26, from 12 to 4 pm. This free community event will have arts and crafts, a moon bounce, a costume contest, cookie decorating, Halloween treats, prizes and more. Plus, there will a dog costume contest at 2:15 pm. There will awards for funniest, scariest, cutest, grossest, most heroic, biggest villian and most creative in various age brackets.

Tarzana Music Night Live! Oct. 26

Join the Tarzana Community and Cultural Center for another Tarzana Music Night: Live! show on Saturday, October 26, from 7 to 10 pm. Performers include JK Jones, Tracy Newman, Art Podell, Kevin Kelso, Jason Gutierrez, The West 79th Street Funk Jazz Band, Karen Tobin, Jay Asher, A. Ken Krupnik, Kathleen Kelso, Kathy Sanders, Claire Bloom, Betsy Jill Jackson, Playin' Out, and Rich Marchetta. Their special guest at 8 pm is Kevin Caldwell. This show will be outdoors and chairs will be provided (or bring your own if you wish). Refreshments will also be available for purchase. Tickets are $5 at mytarzana.org.

The 32nd Annual Sherman Oaks Street Fair To Take Place This Sunday

On October 20th, Ventura Blvd becomes a walking-only neighborhood street fair. A carnival area, pet zone, two live music stages, cocktail lounge and a delectable sampling of food trucks and booths, as well as artisans and craftspeople will once again take over Ventura Boulevard in the largest single-day event in the San Fernando Valley. The event will run from 10 am to 6 pm.

Stretching across Ventura Boulevard in Sherman Oaks, the fair will span nine blocks from Kester Avenue to Van Nuys Boulevard. Admission is free and up to 100,000 people are expected this year.

The fair will feature more than 150 vendors, artisans, colorful displays and exhibits along with a diverse array of food trucks and an outdoor beer and cocktail lounge.

Major attractions include a carnival and fun zone, a community performing arts stage with talent from local schools, a pet zone and a main stage with live bands throughout the day.

"There is always a demand for safe, family-friendly, outdoor entertainment so we are thrilled to present the 32nd Annual Sherman Oaks Street Fair, a beloved community tradition," said Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber CEO Vickie Bourdas Martinez. "People come from all over Los Angeles to shop from the artists and craftspeople for neat and one-of-a-kind items, enjoy foods not regularly available on this stretch of the Blvd; enjoy beer, wine and cocktails; and listen to live music. We are lucky to have the continued support of not only our community but communities across the San Fernando Valley. Individuals, families, schools, non-profits and businesses all come out for the street fair."

Bourdas Martinez said that space is sold out for this Valley favorite, and is thankful for the outpouring of support by event sponsors, food trucks and booth vendors, large corporations and small businesses.

The Sherman Oaks Street Fair is presented by the Sherman Oaks / Encino Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about the activities and entertainment, go to shermanoaksstreetfair.org/activities.

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.

Learn what we can do for you.

SHERMAN OAKS/ ENCINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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United Chambers of Commerce Of the San Fernando Valley

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Community Calendar

* The Encino Neighborhood Council will be holding their general board meeting on Wednesday, October 23, at 7 pm. For more info and the agenda, visit encinonc.org.

* Join the Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce for "Mix and Mingle" on Tuesday, October 22, from 5:30 to 7 pm. Make new connections and have great conversations over light bites at Eide Bailly & On Board (15060 Ventura Blvd., Suite 240). The cost is $20 for members and $30 for guests before October 21. Register at shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* The League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles will present a nonpartisan analysis of California's state ballot measures at the Encino Tarzana Library on Wednesday, October 23, from 2 to 3:30 pm. The speakers will provide the pros and cons of the measures appearing on the November 5 ballot. Bring your ballots for reference and the speakers will guide you on understanding the details.

* San Fernando Valley Audubon invites you on a free guided tour of the Sepulveda Basin on Saturday, October 19, from 9 to 11 am. This beginner walk will include the many birds and other wildlife of the area. For directions and meeting place information, visit sfvaudubon.org/events/free-beginner-walks-at-sepulveda-basin.

* Tarzana Neighborhood Council will hold their general board meeting on Tuesday, October 22, at 7 pm. For more info, visit tarzananc.org.

* The Encino Tarzana Library will host an "Enchanting Halloween: A Family Magic Extravaganza" on Thursday, October 24, from 4 to 6 pm. Grab the whole family for a fun-filled afternoon of crafting, a magic show, and a chance to meet your local firefighters and police officers!

* The American Red Cross, in association with Westfield Fashion Square, will be holding a blood drive on Thursday, October 31, from 10 am to 4 pm. Appointments will be held in the community room in the parking lot near Macy's. To schedule your donation, visit redcrossblood.org.

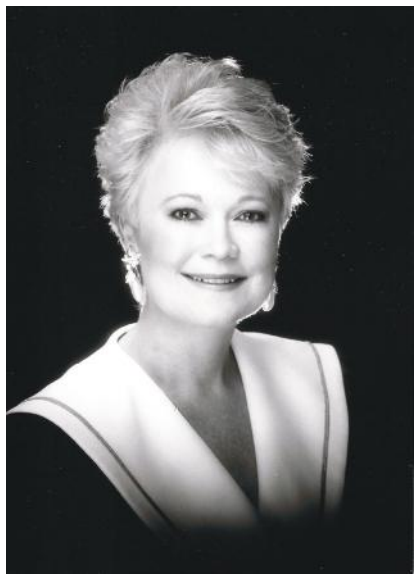
* UCLA Health and Valley JCC will host the second annual Family Health and Wellness Fair on Sunday, October 27, from 8 am to 1 pm at ONEgeneration's farmer's market. This free indoor event will have various health and wellness exhibitors and a vaccine clinic. Those that attend will also receive a $2 voucher for use at any of the farmer's market food booths.

* United Chambers of Commerce will host their 18th annual Mayor's Lunch on Wednesday, October 30, 11 am at Skirball Center. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass will address the group and answer questions from the audience. Tickets are $100 for chamber members; $125 for non-chamber members. They can be purchased at unitedchambers.org.

* Concerned about overhead airplane noise? The Encino Neighborhood Council's Airport Committee represents the residents of Encino in advocating for minimal air traffic noise and maximal safety through all viable channels of the Van Nuys and Burbank Airport complex. Their next meeting will be on Monday, October 28, at 7 pm. For more info, visit encinonc.org.

* The Child Development Institute invites you to "Fallin' Into Fun" on Saturday, October 19, from 10 am to 1 pm at the CDI Campus (18050 Vanowen St). There will be festive activities, free flu shots, free developmental screenings and diapers, face painting and more! This event is free and no reservations are required.

People in the News



Barbara Hancock Dourian, an icon in National Charity League San Fernando Valley, passed away peacefully at home with her daughters by her side on September 26. Born September 12, 1942 in Van Nuys to Helen and Benjamin Weldon Hancock, she was the eldest of two children. Her life was full of accomplishment, love and charity, and she was adored by all who knew her. Dourian was an exceptional wife to her husband, Richard Gregory Dourian, and mother to her two daughters, Paige Dourian Panzarello and Brooke Ellen Dourian. With a deep love of this country, Barbara was a true flag-waving American who always supported our veterans and many other charitable organizations. She was preceded in death by her husband, her mother and father, and her brother.

Services will be held on Friday, October 25, 12:30 pm., at the Church of the Hills, Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills.

Valley News Group congratulates columnist **Marty Cooper** on his 50th submission of "Reel History of the San Fernando Valley." The monthly column focuses on a part of the valley's history and connection to the entertainment industry.

Cooper has written four books, two of them on the San Fernando Valley - *Read All About It: The Valley Times 1946 - 1970* and *North of Mulholland: Essays from the San Fernando Valley Business Journal*. He is currently writing a new book on the history of motion pictures in the valley.

Cooper is president of Cooper Communications, held executive positions with Disney and Universal Studios and served as Chairman of the Board of the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

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.

* The airport boldly asks, "What if the worst sandwich of your life was $20?"

* Why don't monsters eat ghosts? They taste like sheet!

* What's cremation? According to one of our local readers, it's the last chance to get a smoking hot body! Ha!

* Can't stand the corny jokes? Remember, Winston Churchill said it: "A joke is a very serious thing."

*A Halloween riddle: The maker of this product does not want it, the buyer does not use it, and the user does not see it. What is it? Answer...A coffin.

"Scandals Plague The Harvard Egghead, Brad Sherman. Sweep Out The Insanity And Vote In The Sanity Man."

The Harvard Egghead

Brad Sherman (D)

California 32nd District

Bel-Air
Bell Canyon
Beverly Glen
Brentwood
Canoga Park
Chatsworth
Encino
Malibu
North Hills
Northridge
Pacific Palisades
Reseda
Sherman Oaks
Studio City
Tarzana
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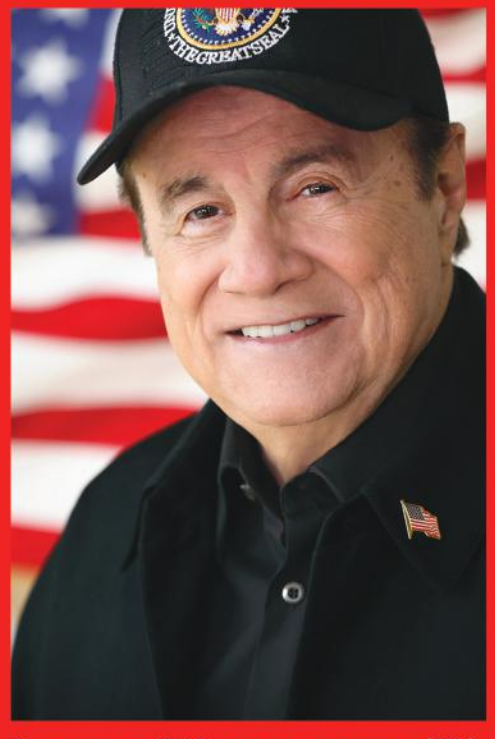
West Hills
Winnetka
Woodland Hills

The Sanity Man



Larry Thompson (R)

LarryThompsonForCongress.com

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How and When to Vote

Vote! In person on November 5, in person early at a specified location, mail-in ballot sent through the Post Office, or mail-in ballot dropped in a ballot box, there are a myriad of options.

Official ballot drop boxes have arrived and are a safe, accessible means to cast your vote. Boxes are located throughout the city and will close at 8 pm on Election Day.

Place your voted ballot card inside the return envelope, seal the envelope, sign and date it and drop it in the box! The boxes are bolted in place, or otherwise secured, and the ballots are picked up by teams of two people so there is no question about one person hiding ballots.

Or you could vote early at a designated early voting location. You still get to vote in person, but with the number of people at the location spread out over a few days. If you love voting in person, but don't want the line on election day, this might be an option for you.

You can even keep track of your vote with a unique code that is printed on your ballot. Tracking your vote-by-mail ballot—when it is mailed, received, and counted—has never been easier.

The California Secretary of State offers "Where's My Ballot?"- a way for voters to track and receive notifications on the status of their vote-by-mail ballot. Powered by BallotTrax, "Where's My Ballot?" lets voters know where their ballot is, and its status, every step of the way.

Sign up at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov to receive automatic email, SMS (text), or voice call notifications about your ballot.

Encino locations are:

Encino-Tarzana Branch Library
18231 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana

Encino Park
16953 Ventura Blvd., Encino

Balboa Sports Center
17015 Burbank Blvd., Encino

Sepulveda Garden Center (Meeting Room)
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino

Encino Park, the Encino Tarzana Library and Balboa Sports Center are ballot drop off locations. The Sepulveda Garden Center is not only a ballot drop off location, but will be an early voting center from November 2 to 4 (10 am to 7 pm) and a location for same day voter registration.

Whichever option works best for you, whichever you choose, remember to VOTE.

CHANGE THE WORLD WITH A GIVING HEART

National Philanthropy Day Honorees Announced for San Fernando Valley

The Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater San Fernando Valley (AFP GSFV) Chapter proudly announced the honorees and nominees for this year's National Philanthropy Day celebration. The event will take place on Thursday, November 14, from 4:30 to 7 pm at California State University, Northridge (CSUN).

National Philanthropy Day is a time to honor the incredible individuals, organizations, and businesses whose efforts are transforming the community through philanthropy.

These honorees exemplify selflessness, compassion, and dedication, contributing significantly to various causes and inspiring positive change.

This year's honorees include:

*Outstanding Individual Philanthropist: Rickey Gelb

*Outstanding Corporation: Mission Valley Bank

*Outstanding Nonprofit Organization: Valley Presbyterian Hospital

*Outstanding Volunteer: Patricia Bates

*Outstanding Youth Volunteer: Gayle Alvarez

Nominees for recognition include:

*Outstanding Individual Philanthropist: Dr. Robert Gohstand

*Outstanding Nonprofit Organization: Penny Lane Centers, Valley Economic Alliance, Cancer Support Community Greater San Gabriel Valley

*Outstanding Volunteer: David Moreno, Patricia Wilson, Kathy McIntyre, Sherrie Vamos

*Outstanding Youth Volunteer: Bridge to the Future Scholars Program

"We are thrilled to shine a spotlight on this year's honorees and nominees who are making an extraordinary difference in our community," said Michele Wray Khateri, President of AFP Greater San Fernando Valley. "Their generosity and leadership are what make philanthropy such a powerful force for good, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements."

The event will feature an awards presentation, networking opportunities, and inspiring stories of how philanthropy is shaping the future of our region.

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are still available for those wishing to attend this momentous occasion and join in recognizing the people and organizations that make philanthropy possible.

Drinks and hors d'oeuvres at 4:30 pm, with the program and award presentation at 6. Tickets are $55.

For more information about National Philanthropy Day, to purchase tickets, or to explore sponsorship opportunities, please visit community.afpglobal.org/afpgsfv/npd48/npd2024 or contact Heather Even at office@afpgsfv.net.

Join the Walk to End Alzheimer's October 20

The Alzheimer's Association is inviting San Fernando Valley residents to join the fight to end Alzheimer's by participating in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 20 at LA Pierce College.

The walk will include a Zumba warm-up, live music, a Kids Zone, fun games, face painting, a photo booth, pumpkin decorating, a churros cart, and more!

On walk day, participants honor those affected by Alzheimer's with the poignant Promise Garden ceremony - a mission-focused experience that signifies solidarity in the fight against the disease. During the ceremony, walkers carry flowers of various colors, each representing their personal connection to the disease.

Nearly seven million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease - a leading cause of death in the United States. Additionally, more than 11 million family members and friends provide care to people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. In California, more than 719,000 people are living with the disease and 1,373,000 caregivers take care of them.

To register and receive the latest updates on this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's, visit act.alz.org/socal.

BUSINESS

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No Tricks, Just Treats: Turning Networking into a "How Can I Help You?" Conversation

by Miri Rossitto

In business, networking is often considered necessary—a task approached with caution, sometimes even dread. The stereotypical view of networking involves awkward small talk, business card exchanges (or scanning QR codes), and the hope that someone will provide a valuable lead. But what if we could shift this mindset? What if networking became less about "What can I get from you?" and more about "How can I help you?"

So, forget the tricks—focus on treating others with genuine care and curiosity.

By approaching networking with the intent to serve rather than to take, you build stronger relationships and open doors to long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships. Here's how you can turn every networking event into a genuine value exchange, without the tricks—just the treats.

Change Your Mindset: It's Not About You

The most significant transformation in networking comes when you change your mindset. Too often, people approach networking with their own goals in mind—what can this person do for me? However, the most successful networkers are the ones who focus on helping others first.

Before you walk into your next event or meeting, shift your focus. Ask yourself, "How can I add value to the people I meet today?" This simple mindset shift turns the conversation from transactional to relational. You'll be surprised at how much more authentic and enjoyable the experience becomes.

Listen More Than You Talk

One of the greatest gifts you can give in any conversation is your attention. Networking shouldn't feel like a sales pitch or a race to get your elevator speech out first. Instead, focus on listening to the person in front of you.

Ask thoughtful questions about their business, challenges, and goals. By truly listening, you'll gather valuable information that can guide how you might be able to help. People naturally gravitate towards those who make them feel heard and understood.

Offer Solutions, Not Sales

As you listen to the needs and challenges of the person you're speaking with, think about how you can offer solutions. This doesn't mean pitching your services right away. Instead, consider what advice, resources, or introductions you can offer to help them solve their problems.

Maybe someone in your network could be a valuable connection. Perhaps you've read an article or listened to a podcast that addresses a challenge they're facing. Offering assistance without expecting anything in return builds trust and shows that you're invested in their success.

Follow Up with Value

Following up after a networking event is crucial—but it's how you follow up that makes the difference. Instead of sending a generic "nice to meet you" email, personalize your follow-up message based on your conversation.

Did they mention a specific challenge? Send them a link to a helpful resource. Did you promise to introduce them to someone? Make that connection. By following up with value, you reinforce that your interest in helping them wasn't just for show—it's genuine.

Be Consistent

Networking isn't a one-time event; it's an ongoing process of building relationships. Don't let your connection end after one meeting. Stay in touch regularly, even if it's just to check in and see how things are going.

Consistency builds trust—people you've helped will likely want to reciprocate. But even if they don't, you'll have built a network of meaningful, value-driven relationships.

Avoid the Tricks: Be Genuine

People can sense when you're being insincere. Don't approach networking with a hidden agenda or the expectation of immediate returns. The goal is to build long-lasting, meaningful relationships based on trust and mutual benefit.

So, be authentic, be present, and most importantly, be patient. Networking done right doesn't result in immediate payoffs, but over time, it becomes a treasure trove of opportunities and partnerships.

When you approach networking with the intent to give rather than to take, you turn what could be a stressful task into a rewarding experience. Not only do you leave people with a positive impression, but you also create opportunities for collaboration and growth.

So, forget the tricks—focus on treating others with genuine care and curiosity. The result? You'll discover that when you ask, "How can I help you?" the rewards often come back tenfold.

Miri Rossitto is CEO of Cowe Communications. Follow them on all social @CoweOfficial.

Universal Studios Hollywood Celebrates 2025 Graduating High School Seniors With Its Popular Grad Bash Event

For the past eight years, Universal Studios Hollywood has feted thousands of graduating high school seniors with its popular Grad Bash celebration, featuring thrilling entertainment and access to the theme park's acclaimed immersive lands, rides and attractions.

As a destination of choice for high school seniors across Southern California Grad Bash 2025 at Universal Studios Hollywood is now available for graduating students on the following select nights: May 14, 21 and 28.

These highly coveted Grad Bash events help celebrate the academic accomplishment students have achieved while creating memorable experiences as they prepare for the next chapter in their lives. A special Jr. Grad Bash program is also available for graduating eighth-grade students with available dates on May 1 and 8.

There are various Grad Bash ticket options available, including Standard Package or Premium Package, which offer students various theme park entry times, but all include a private Grad Bash party from 9 pm to 2 am. DJs, dance parties and themed photo ops, along with exclusive access to lands, rides and attractions are at the heart of every Universal

Studios Hollywood Grad Bash celebration.

Accompanying chaperones also receive exclusive event benefits including free park admission, Universal Express Unlimited access, private lounges with complimentary food and beverages, chair massages and more. Restrictions apply.

School administrators and parents can champion students from the sidelines knowing Universal Studios Hollywood has their best interests at heart.

Grad Bash and Jr. Grad Bash reservations are required, and it is recommended that schools book in advance. For more info and to reserve tickets for 2025, school administrators can visit universalyouthprograms.com/graduation or email GradBash@udx.com.

HEALTH

Ten-Year Deadline Set to Eliminate Lead Pipes to Ensure Safer Drinking Water

President Biden recently set a 10-year deadline for the United States to replace all lead pipes in an aggressive effort to ensure drinking water is safe. This comes almost a decade after the Flint, Michigan water crisis which highlighted the negative effects the neurotoxin has on the human body.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stressed that consuming lead-contaminated water can cause numerous health disorders, from behavioral problems to brain damage. In children, it stunts their development and in adults, it can cause increased blood pressure.

More than 9 million lead pipes remain in use within the United States, primarily in low-income and urban areas. While lead pipes are less common in California, the state does have an estimated 13,000 to 65,000 lead pipes, more commonly found in older homes built before 1986.

The new regulation "requires water systems to ensure that lead concentrations do not exceed an 'action level' of 10 parts per billion, down from 15 parts per billion under the current standard." If higher numbers are found, the public must be informed of safety measures such as using water filters, while the water companies actively work to replace the pipes.

While lead pipes are less common in California, the state does have an estimated 13,000 to 65,000 lead pipes, more commonly found in older homes built before 1986.

The EPA will make available an additional $2.6 billion for drinking water infrastructure through the bipartisan law and will award $35 million in competitive grants for programs to reduce lead in drinking water. Although the announcement was just made, the 10-year timeframe won't begin for another three years to allow water utility companies time to prepare.

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HEALTH

A Pink Ribbon Reminder: Breast Cancer Screening Saves Lives

By Nimit Sudan, MD

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and you're likely seeing pink ribbons everywhere. But why do people wear a pink ribbon, and what does it mean? The pink ribbon is meant to spread the message that a breast cancer screening tool, called mammography, saves lives, and that all women should be screened for breast cancer once they reach a certain age — often between 40 and 50 years old.

Here are three things to keep in mind when it comes to breast cancer screening:

1. Breast cancer screening works. This is a fact. Other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed type of cancer and the most common cause of cancer death in women worldwide. The majority of breast cancer diagnoses in the United States are the result of an abnormal imaging study. A significant number of cases are also brought to a doctor's attention by the patient after a self-examination. This means that we catch breast cancer with regular screening.

2. Mammography helps catch cancer early, when it is more treatable: The risk of dying from breast cancer has dropped since the 1980s. While much of this drop is due to better treatments, catching cancer at earlier stages, when cure rates are better, has contributed as well. Mammograms can detect disease that cannot yet be felt by the patient or their doctor. This is important because when breast cancer has grown large enough to feel as a lump, the disease has usually advanced to a stage that is more difficult to treat. When you catch cancer early, it is more treatable and curable than if it's detected later. Studies confirm that screening mammograms reduce the overall chances of dying from breast cancer.

Other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed type of cancer and the most common cause of cancer death in women worldwide.

3. It's normal to worry, but worth pushing past your fears to be screened: For many of us, completing medical tests and imaging studies can be scary. I remember a few years ago when I had an upper respiratory infection that would not go away. My doctor ordered a chest X-ray to make sure that it was nothing more serious. Even though I am healthy and have never had any real health issues — and I am a doctor who knows the facts and statistics — my mind started racing when I was standing in front of the X-ray machine. What if I had an unusual type of pneumonia? What if the radiologist saw something unexpected, like cancer? I can understand the fear some women feel when they undergo a screening mammography. But it's important to remind yourself that mammograms save lives, and avoiding your breast cancer screening can be deadly.

So, embrace the pink ribbon! Get your mammogram, and tell your sister, your mother, your daughter and your friends to get theirs too. Breast cancer screening saves lives.

Dr. Nimit Sudan is a board-certified hematologist/oncologist who practices both in Encino and Santa Clarita at UCLA Health Hematology/Oncology. His Encino office is located at 15503 Ventura Blvd., Suite150. For more information, visit uclahealth.org/community-cancercare/encino or call (818) 995-8044.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Hitting the Slopes this Winter? Stop in Denver First for Food and Fun

By Kathleen Sterling

Heading to the slopes this winter? Aspen? Vail? Breckenridge?

Consider schussing over to Denver to acclimate to the altitude - and enjoy the ambiance.

The mile-high city has a lot to offer a visitor - for a quick weekend stopover or as a longer vacation spot.

Downtown Denver centers around Union Station and the walkable streets that surround it, filled with art galleries, boutiques and great restaurants.

Sports fan? Stroll over a few blocks to Coors Field.

We based our stay at The Maven Hotel, an award-winning boutique hotel in the heart of downtown. The art-filled, energetic hotel was just blocks from Union Station and adjacent to the cool and funky dining and drinking destination Dairy Block.

Clockwise from top: Colorado elk. Union Station Denver. In-room Victrola at The Maven Hotel. Creme brulée at Bistro Vendome. The colorful Kachina Cantina. Denver Art Museum. The "Gear Garage" at Halcyon Hotel. Short ribs at Sunday Vinyl. The Airstream Bar at The Maven.

The Maven's rooms are large and modern and hello - they had me at the tub - a huge round basin complete with loofahs and bath salts. I could have stayed in the room forever! The shower, for those so inclined, was also extra large, with an amazing rainhead.

We started our first day in Denver with breakfast at Kachina Cantina, a Southwestern-themed, art filled restaurant. Well-fortified with pork green chili burritos and churro waffles (we indulged) we set out to explore Denver!

We visited the historic Union Station, spent far too long at its bookstore, browsed the galleries along Wazee Street and had a lazy morning.

Armed with our City Pass, which gets you discounts to over 22 museums and attractions, we hit the Denver Art Museum to see their beautiful collection of Impressionists - and the modern Oceana exhibit. The passport also gained us entrance to the Denver Botanic Garden, and we spent a quick hour strolling its pathways and admiring the lush gardens.

We cruised the Dairy Block to catch the nightlife and settled back at The Maven for a complimentary happy hour glass of wine at the Airstream bar in the lobby before heading out to dinner.

We have family in Denver, and met them at Bistro Vendome in Park Hill, just a quick Uber ride away from downtown. This local neighborhood restaurant offers authentic French cuisine and a predominantly French wine list. We loved catching up with the family news and dining on traditional steak au poivre and creme brulée.

Not quite ready to tuck it in, we had a late-night drink at The Maven's Poka Lola Social Club off the lobby, with its retro feel and large bar.

Early morning we hit the Milk Market adjacent to The Maven. Milk Market is a 16-venue mix of take-away and dine-in restaurants that flows from the lobby of The Maven. We grabbed great lattes and muffins and took off on adventures.

We took a few day trips out of Denver - up to the gorgeous Estes Park, the base camp of the Rocky Mountains. We saw the quaint little town with its shops and restaurants, and herds of elk just hanging out around town!

Another day we drove out to Red Rocks - the famous open-air amphitheater built right into the gorgeous rock formation. We didn't see a show but toured the arena and the visitors center and got a feel for what it must be like to sit under the stars during a concert.

We returned to the city and checked into the Halcyon Hotel, a luxury property in the ultra chic Cherry Creek neighborhood.

Consider schussing over to Denver to acclimate to the altitude - and enjoy the ambiance.

Cherry Creek is home to upscale boutiques, an amazing golf course, and of course, fantastic restaurants.

The Halcyon staff greeted us with a complimentary glass of rosé or a latte - we were on vacation and went for the rosé! The special treatment continued in our room, which boasted crystal glasses, a shaker, and bottles of Hendrick's Gin so we could make our own martinis. Of course if you wanted to chill out another way, the room also comes with a yoga mat.

The coolest thing about The Halcyon is their theme - all rooms boast a modern Victrola and records. You can actually spin the vinyl (or use a CD or stream from your phone) but we chose to play records and dance around a little to celebrate such a fun amenity.

Service is key - and The Halcyon offers complimentary muffins and a coffee bar every morning. You can also visit their rooftop bar Rare Bird late afternoon for an aperitif and amazing views of the Rockies.

Want the full Colorado experience? Guests at The Halcyon can check out equipment from the Gear Garage - everything from sleds and snowshoes to bikes and scooters.

Since we're more into sipping than sledding, we headed out for drinks and dinner on the town.

We dropped into Tavernetta at Union Station, a Michelin Bib Gourmand restaurant featuring authentic Italian cuisine. We ordered nibbles, wine and cocktails at the bar - sipping a Negroni and sharing a plate of their stellar appetizers - amazing lavender almonds, arancini and marinated olives.

Keeping with the vinyl theme of the week, we dined at Sunday Vinyl, a 2023 James Beard Semi-Finalist, owned by the same Frasca Hospitality Group that owns Tavernetta.

Sunday Vinyl honors the ritual of slowing down and connecting over great food, music and wine. Music plays all day and night, and the food truly is amazing.

We started with a complimentary glass of bubbles, which set the tone for a fun evening, then followed with their grilled cheese app. Sounds basic but the open face sandwich with MouCo Camembert, brioche and strawberry jam was a work of art and a meal in and of itself.

Sunday Vinyl also offers caviar, oysters and a charcuterie plate to start, but we almost ordered another grilled cheese, it was that good.

Our great server recommended wines to complement our meal, laughingly saying, "We have a lot of dishes that go with wine!"

We chose to go with the gnocci Parisien with winter squash, miso, maitake and brown butter. Again, a dish to savor.

You would think we wouldn't have room for dessert, but since we were sharing all plates... we went with a traditional tarte tartin (it was for two) that came with delicious pink peppercorn ice cream.

Fully sated, we returned to The Halcyon for a fabulous night's sleep and our last day in Denver.

After the decadent dinner the evening before, breakfast at Local Jones in Cherry Creek was a healthy green juice and bagels, yogurt and granola.

We took an hour or two to walk around the upscale boutiques of Cherry Creek before heading out for one last look at Denver.

Our City Pass got us into the Natural History Museum and its dinosaur exhibit. The park and lake that front the museum were a great spot to stop and reflect on what were our favorite Denver doings.

Turns out - we loved everything! The city life with the great restaurants and bars, the museums and cool hotels. But also the outdoors - this is Colorado!

Check out current events and happenings and plan your own adventure at visitdenver.com. It offers places to stay and dine, exhibitions, tours and more.

ENTERTAINMENT

Kimberly Akimbo Makes LA Debut at Pantages

Kimberly Akimbo, the winner of five 2023 Tony Awards including Best Musical, and the most critically-acclaimed musical of its season, will make its Los Angeles premiere at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre for a limited three-week engagement, from October 15 to November 3.

Kimberly is about to turn 16 and recently moved with her family to a new town in suburban New Jersey. In this "howlingly funny heartbreaker of a show" (*The New Yorker*), Kim is forced to navigate family dysfunction, a rare genetic condition, her first crush…and possible felony charges. Ever the optimist, she is determined to find happiness against all odds and embark on a great adventure.

Three-time Tony Award nominee Carolee Carmello will star as Kimberly in this national touring production. Book and lyrics by Tony and Pulitzer Prize-Winner David Lindsay-Abaire and music by Tony Award-Winner Jeanine Tesori. Based on the play by David Lindsay-Abaire, choreographed by Danny Meffford and directed by Tony Award nominee Jessica Stone.

Tickets are now available for purchase at BroadwayInHollywood.com or Ticketmaster.com. A $35 digital lottery will be offered for every performance in LA exclusively through the official Broadway in Hollywood App. The app can be downloaded by visiting BroadwayInHollywood.com/App. The lottery will open for each performance at 11 am two days prior to each performance and will close one day prior at 10 am. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre box office.

Around the Valley in 80 Tastes on October 23

The West Valley-Warner Center Chamber of Commerce will hold their 18th annual Food and Wine Tour on Wednesday, October 23, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at Jaguar Land Rover Dealership (22006 Erwin St).

It will be an Around the Valley in 80 Tastes event to eat, drink and network!

Tickets are $60 for chamber members and $75 for non-members.

Food will be available from AJI MORI, Sushi Koo, Noyon Inc, Big Green Egg, Cavaretta's Italian Deli, Fishbone, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, Fogo de Chão Brazilian Steakhouse (Woodland Hills), Jerk Wings Cafe, Gladstone's, The Local Peasant, Lounge 51, Maggiano's Little Italy, Mas Mananitas, Mendocino Farms, Pinstripes and Safir Mediterranean Cuisine.

Beverages from Cappucino Express, The Hula Girl, Malibu Wine and Beer Gardens and YUZY.

Dessert from Arlana's Gourmet Cookies, Cappucino Express, The Ever After Bakery, Läderach Chocolatier Suisse, Macaroninas and Ubatuba Açai.

For tickets, and more info, visit woodlandhillscc.net.

The Reel History of the Valley

By Martin M. Cooper

When Walt Met Leni

It happened on December 8, 1938.

His film studio was flirting with financial disaster when the first full-length animated film came out to rave reviews and a box-office smash. *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* premiered at the Carthay Circle Theatre in Los Angeles on December 21, 1937, and went into general release on February 4, 1938. Snow White would go on to make $184 million domestically at a cost of $1.5 million, and to finance Walt Disney's move from his studio on Hyperion Avenue in Los Angeles' Silver Lake area to a brand-new $4.5 million studio in Burbank.

Was Walt Disney a naïve hick who had been raised in Marcelline, Missouri, who had no idea who Leni Riefenstahl was? Not likely.

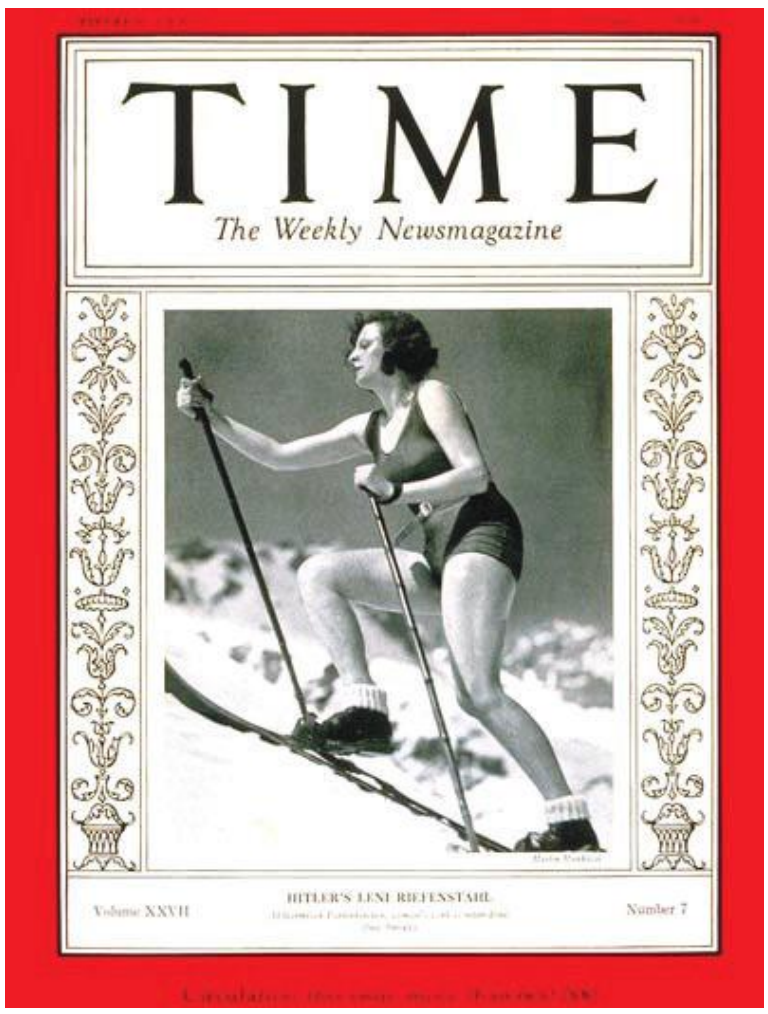
In his January 14,1938, review of the film, Frank S. Nugent of *The New York Times* wrote: "The picture more than matches expectations. It is a classic, as important cinematically as *The Birth of a Nation* or the birth of Mickey Mouse. Nothing quite like it has been done before…"

Her career took her from small roles in pre-war German films to the position of Adolf Hitler's favorite filmmaker and director of two of the most acclaimed films of all time. *The New Yorker*'s noted film critic, Pauline Kael, called *Triumph of the Will* and *Olympia*, "the two greatest films ever directed by a woman."

She heard Hitler speak in 1932 and was mesmerized by him. In her 1987 autobiography, *The Sieve of Time: The Memoirs of Leni Riefenstahl* she wrote, "I had an almost apocalyptic vision that I was never able to forget. It seemed as if the Earth's surface were spreading out in front of me, like a hemisphere that suddenly splits apart in the middle, spewing out an enormous jet of water, so powerful that it touched the sky and shook the earth."

This is the story of the three-hour meeting between Walt Disney and Leni Riefenstahl.

Riefenstahl wrote, directed and produced the highly acclaimed *Olympia*, a two-part German documentary on the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin. She was the winner of the Best Foreign Film award at the Venice Film Festival in August 1938.



Leni Riefenstahl on the cover of the February 17, 1936, edition of Time magazine.

She came to the U.S. seeking distribution for the film. She arrived in New York on November 4, 1938. The timing could not have been worse for Riefenstahl. Just five days later, the Nazis shocked the world with Kristallnacht (The Night of Broken Glass), with more than 7,500 Jewish shops and stores torched; 267 synagogues in Germany, Austria and the Sudetenland destroyed; and 30,000 Jewish men arrested and sent to concentration camps.

If any dates can be considered the beginning of the Holocaust, they would be November 9 and 10, 1938. In 1938, Los Angeles was a tinder box of activities by both pro-Nazi and anti-Nazi groups. Steven J. Ross's excellent book, a 2008 Pulitzer Prize finalist, covers the period and the struggle between the factions of Hitler in Los Angeles.

The arrival of Leni Riefenstahl in Los Angeles on November 24, lit that tinder box.

Both *The Hollywood Reporter* and *Daily Variety* ran advertisements against her on November 29. Placed by the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League, they were headlined, "There is no room in Hollywood for Leni Riefenstahl!" and dubbing her – inaccurately – the "Head of the NAZI FILM INDUSTRY."

But Riefenstahl had many supporters in the city's artistic community, one of them being Jay Stowitts, a former dancer and artist, whom she had befriended when she contacted him about using his paintings of athletes from the 1936 Olympics in *Olympia*.

According to the Stowitts family online history, written by Steven Stowitts Elliott and Mara Elliott (stowitts.weebly.com/history): "Riefenstahl sent him an early print of *Olympia* and he showed it in private screenings to several groups. He welcomed Riefenstahl when she came to LA to promote the film. Her attempt to break into the American film market was thwarted by growing opposition to the Nazis in the U.S. Many Americans were horrified by the Kristallnacht attack on Jewish businesses and homes, which had occurred only weeks earlier. Though Jay escorted Riefenstahl around Hollywood, accompanying her to meet Walt Disney among others, *Olympia* never gained commercial release in America."

Leni Riefenstahl and Adolf Hitler in a happy moment.

Disney toured Riefenstahl and Stowitts around Disney's Hyperion Avenue studio, during which he showed them progress on his current production, *Fantasia*. She volunteered to show him a print of *Olympia*, but he declined.

Was Walt Disney a naïve hick who had been raised in Marcelline, Missouri, who had no idea who Leni Riefenstahl was? Not likely. Riefenstahl's American visit had been covered by U.S. media and, in addition, both Disney's *Snow White* and Riefenstahl's *Olympia* had been screened at the Venice Film Festival just four months prior to her visit to the studio.

Ultimately, Walt Disney was the only Hollywood studio head who would meet Leni Riefenstahl during her unsuccessful trip to the film capital in a vain attempt to find a U.S. distributor for *Olympia*.

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.

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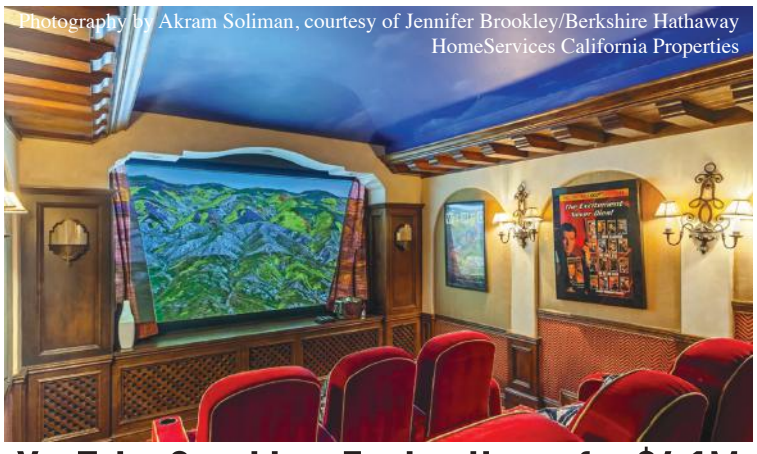

Photography by Akram Soliman, courtesy of Jennifer Brookley/Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties

YouTube Star Lists Encino Home for $4.1M

Philip DeFranco, a YouTube star also known as "PhillyD," is looking to sell the Encino home for $6.5 million he purchased five years ago. Originally purchased for $4.1 million, the hacienda-style home was placed on the market as a rental for $25,000 a month before recently going up for sale.

The single-story home was built in the late 1930s and has four bedrooms and five baths, sitting on approximately an acre of land. Designed in a mix of hardwood and stone floors, arched doorways adorn the halls and high wood-beam ceilings allow lots of natural light through the various skylights. Additionally, there is a formal dining room, a gourmet kitchen, a movie theater, office space and primary suite that includes a fireplace, private patio, custom closet and spa-bath.

The exterior of the property includes a tennis court, saltwater pool, open-air cabana, stand-alone sauna and a pool house that contains two rooms currently used as a gym and soundproof recording studio. Detached from that structure is an additional one-bedroom, one-bath guest house with its own kitchen and living areas.

The listing is held by Jennifer Brookley of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties.

Encino to Kick Off Theatrical Run of Libertate at Laemmle

The successful streak of Romanian New Waves continues with the latest arrival in the U.S. of *Libertate* (Freedom) by renowned filmmaker Tudor Giurgiu.

Following its European festival circuit run, the film premiered in May at the 19th annual South East European Film Festival (SEEfest) in Los Angeles. SEEfest has long been a home to discovery of new talent and specializes in showcasing the culturally rich area of East and South-East Europe. *Libertate* will start its theatrical run at Laemmle Town Center in Encino on October 23.

Libertate tells the story of the chaotic days during the December 1989 revolution that overthrew the Communist regime in Romania, with the Transylvanian city of Sibiu turning into the scene of a violent assault on a police unit that quickly escalated into a bloody confrontation.

In a desperate attempt to escape the siege, Police Captain Viorel is captured by the army and thrown into an empty swimming pool along with hundreds of prisoners accused of being terrorists. The film makes viewers reflect on the fragility of any system buckling under the forces unleashed by the branches of government at war with each other, and with the people they are purported to protect.

A great ensemble cast under the assured direction of Giurgiu benefits greatly from veteran cinematographer Alexandru Sterian's camera capturing the bleak winter ambiance with a rawness of a vérité documentary style.

Libertate to-date has won close to 20 international awards including FIPRESCI Prize at Cottbus, C.I.C.A.E. award in Sarajevo and many others.

For details, and showtimes, visit laemmle.com/film/libertate.

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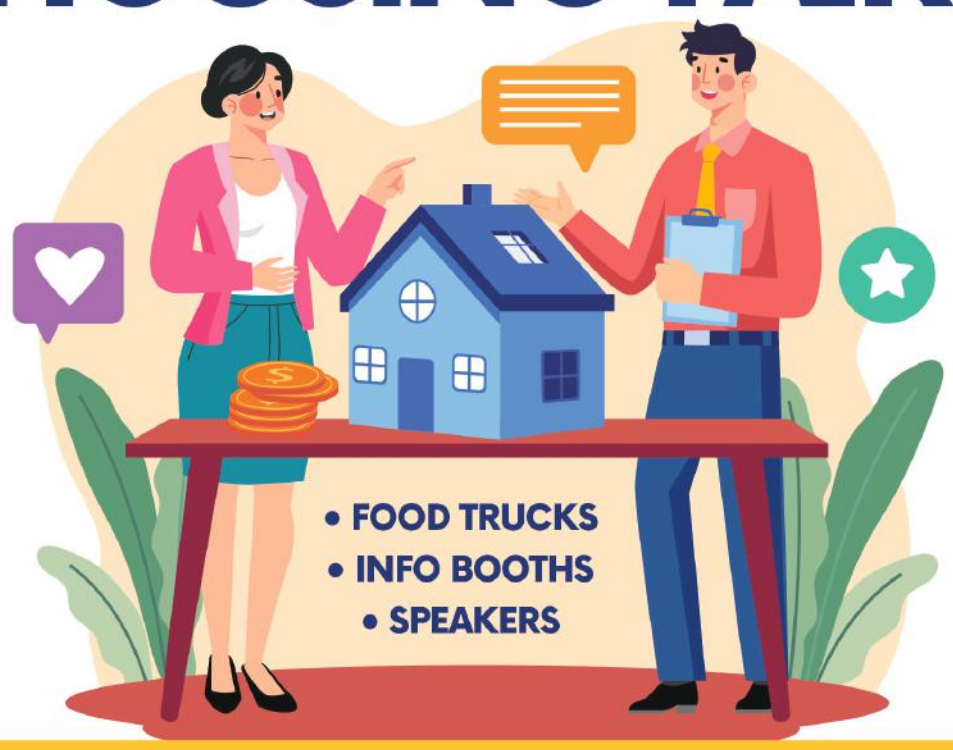

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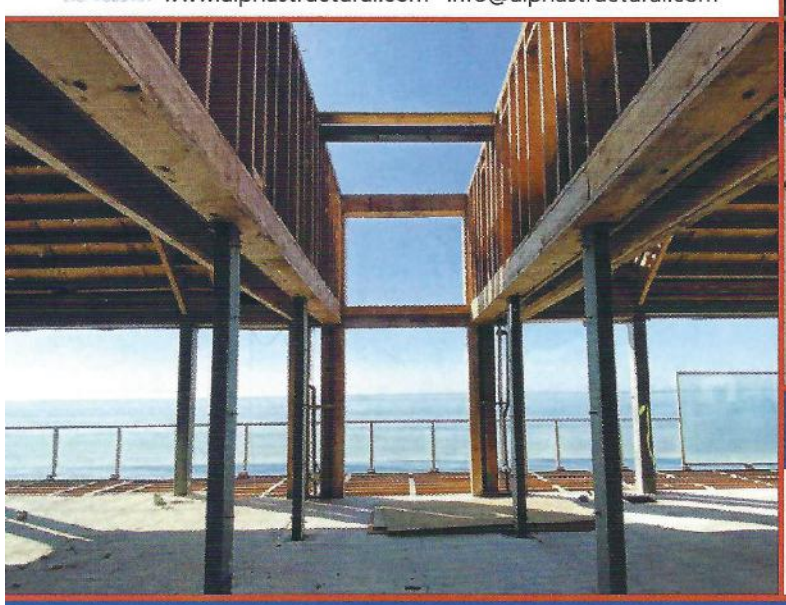

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