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ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 5, Issue 108 | A Compendious Source of Information | November 15, 2024

NEWS IN BRIEF

Encino Neighborhood Council to Hold Home Security Town Hall

Join the Encino Neighborhood Council on Wednesday, November 20, at 7 pm for a Town Hall meeting about home security issues at the Encino Women's Club (4935 Balboa Blvd). Roy Nwaisser, the Encino Neighborhood Council's Public Safety Representative & Vice President, will give a presentation covering a wide range of topics including: low-tech and high-tech security devices, home security myths, strategies for making your home less appealing to burglars, and more. There will be a Q & A session for your home security questions following the presentation. Light snacks and beverages will be served.

Location Election Results

Congressman Brad Sherman (D) was re-elected as United States Representative for the 32nd District, which includes most of the San Fernando Valley. He received 65.02% of the votes with challenger Larry Thompson (R) receiving 34.98%.

Nathan Hochman, (N) a former federal prosecutor, U.S. Assistant Attorney General, and LA Ethics Commission President, received 61.35% of the vote to become L.A.'s new District Attorney, over incumbent George Gascon (N) who received 38.65%.

California Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D) held on to his seat in the 46th District, which coversfromBellCanyonthrough Encino and parts of Van Nuys, with 61.0% of the vote with challenger Tracey Schroeder (R) receiving 39.0%. *Voting numbers per lavote.gov as of 11/7/24.*

Small Plane Crashes Near Sepulveda Basin

Early Thursday morning, a small plane crashed in Sherman Oaks close to the 15000 block of Burbank Blvd., near the Sepulveda Basin. As the Cessna aircraft was approaching Van Nuys Airport, a distress signal was sent out that they would not be able to make the airport. An emergency landing was undertaken and the plane landed upside down.
The man and woman aboard were uninjured and refused medical transportatation after being rescued. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating what caused the crash.

Sue Du Brin Wins 2024 Fernando Award

The 66th annual Fernando Awards were held last Friday night at the Skirball Center, and Sue Du Brin was named the 2024 Fernando Award winner.

The Fernando Award is the highest accolade in the San Fernando Valley, and is given to someone who exemplifies outstanding service to the community. Du Brin was recognized as a community advocate and for her work with ONEgeneration and the West Valley Medical Center.

She has worked with ONEgeneration and the Encino Chamber to create a first-of-its-kind senior services directory and with the Child Development Institute to meet medical needs of children.

She helped bring Providence Tarzana Medical Center (Now Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center) and the Parkinson's Resource Organization together to create a Parkinson's caregiver and educational support groups which are still active today. These groups provide patients and their caregivers a place to share their fears, hopes and questions with others facing the same battle.

"I try to do two things – help address a need, and in turn, help those volunteering to thrive and succeed."

– Du Brin

Of her volunteering she said, "I love identifying opportunity where previously unintroduced people discover each other and take joy in working together on something that serves a group or organization. I try to do two things - help address a need, and in turn, help those volunteering to thrive and succeed."

Fernando winner Du Brin.

Du Brin has also worked with other chambers and organizations on disaster preparedness and has volunteered with the Alzheimer's Association, Leukemia/Lymphoma Society and The Help Group.

She was nominated for the Fernando Award by ONEgeneration and Lee and Arlene Alpert.

"Singing" Freeway to be Fixed

Many thought they had a tire problem. Some thought it was engine trouble.

For more than a year drivers on the 101 Freeway have been bothered by a humming sound, leading some to call it the "singing freeway."

The noise and drag on cars is the result of Caltrans' replacement of the concrete median along 19 miles of highway from Calabasas to Hollywood.

When they finished the median, they changed the traffic pattern and so changed lane stripes temporarily. When it came time to permanently re-stripe the pavement, they ground out the old stripes, which left grooves in the roadway.

The grooves are what cause the humming noise, most noticeable for drivers in the lane next to the median. Last week Caltrans began the job to "smooth out" the freeway using a machine from Skidabrader, a California company.

The machine propels steel forward along the pavement that abrades the surface and removes the grooves.

Work is nearly completely on northbound lanes, and work on southbound lanes will take place this week between 11 pm and 5 pm on certain weekdays.

CALENDAR

Community Calendar

* The Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce will hold their monthly "Mix and Mingle" on Tuesday, November 19, from 5:30 to 7 pm at The Aftermath Bar & Lounge (14537 Ventura Blvd). Make business connections over light bites! The cost is $20 for members and $30 for guests before November 18. RSVP at shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* Join master performer and teaching artist Martin Espino at the Encino Tarzana Library on Thursday, November 21, at 4 pm for "LA Made Presents: Indigenous Music of North, Central and South America." This program will present ancient music from the deserts, rainforests, mountains, and beaches. Espino gently motivates his audiences to play from his vast collection of native percussion and to sing songs in languages such as Maya, Dine, Xingu, and Nahuatl. Each program offers well-researched information on music, culture, geography, language and history.

* Southern California Garden Club, the oldest and largest garden club in the Valley, invites you to celebrate their 98th season with a Garden Club meeting featuring a program, "Floristic Diversity of California Vernal Pools" by Jamie Kneitel, Ph.D. Dr. Kneitel is a Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at California State University, Sacramento. Learn about California's vernal pools – seasonal wetlands that support many threatened and endangered species, but have been reduced by 90%. The event will take place on Tuesday, November 19, at 9:30 at the Sepulveda Garden Center (16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino). For the agenda of this free event, visit SouthernCaliforniaGardenClub.com.

* ONEgeneration will hold a free flu vaccine clinic at their Encino Farmer's Market on Sunday, November 17, from 9 am to 12 pm. No health insurance is required, but a photo ID is required. To make an appointment, call 818-847-3860 or visit myturn.ca.gov.

* GO Campaign is proud to announce the return of its Icons of Design event on November 16 and 17 at Hagerty Garage + Social (7933 Haskell Ave). The two-day event brings together creative independent brands including artists, fashion, footwear, watches, jewelry, antiques, and more, offering unique and one-of-a-kind merchandise on exhibit and for sale. Top automotive and motorcycle brands and custom shops will be on display, as well as food trucks, cocktails, and music. 100% of net proceeds will directly support GO Campaign's efforts to help vulnerable children in Southern California and around the world. Tickets are $35 for adults and $10 for children 12 and under. For more info, visit give.gocampaign.org/event/icons-of-design-2024/e608838.

* 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, November 23, 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/event/sbwr-habitat-restoration-2/2024-11-23.

* The Encino Neighoborhood Council will be holding their Outreach Committee meeting on Monday, December 2, at 7 pm. For more info, visit encinonc.org.

* The Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce will hold their Health and Wellness Committee meeting on Thursday, December 5, at 12 pm at ONEgeneration (17400 Victory Blvd). A light lunch will be provided by their featured speaker, Amy Kalajian of Remedy Home Health Care.

People in the News

Encino resident, Los Angeles Board of Public Works Commissioner, and Valley Advisor to Mayor Bass **Vahid Khorsand,** left, has been named President of the Board of Public Works.

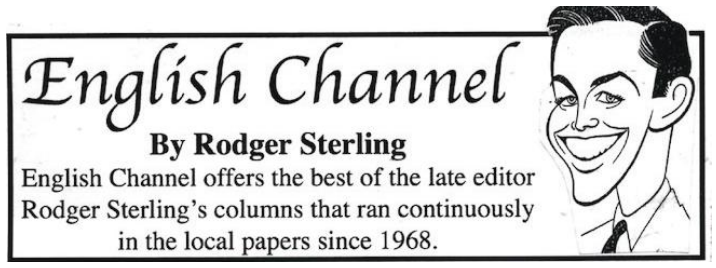
Khorsand helps ensure that San Fernando Valley communities have a strong voice and advocate at City Hall. Among his achievements as Public Works Commissioner, he spearheaded a task force within the Board of Public Works Office of Accounting that successfully reduced the processing time for Office of Community Beautification vendor invoices by 50% within 12 months of its launch. He also leads the Mayor's Office Quarterly Infrastructure Series, which offers neighborhood council leaders valuable updates from public works bureaus and creates a platform for collaboration on area-specific issues. This initiative fosters open communication and strengthens partnerships to address community needs effectively.

Khorsand is a long time valley leader and small business owner and since 2007 has served on the boards of 13 community based organizations, and five municipal stakeholder bodies prior to serving on the Board of Public Works. Khorsand continues his appointment following his reapproval by Council in June 2022.

Congressman Brad Sherman, center, was a major sponsor of Hope the Mission's "Homeless From Coast to Coast" 43-day bike ride. He donated $850,000 to the mission to help purchase boxable housing units for affordable senior housing. Seniors 65 and older are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.

Hope the Mission CEO Ken Craft, right, and **President Rowan Van Sleve,** left, rode 3,500 miles from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., to bring awareness to the crisis of homelessness in the country. In D.C. they lobbied to prioritize mental health services, drug and alcohol treatment, and fund shelters and low-income housing.

"We wanted to show the consequences and cures of homelessness," Craft told *Valley News Group*. "We talked to other service providers, homeless and politicians along the way." He said that they realized it's not just an L.A. problem - but a national one. He laughed, "We're probably idiots - neither of us is a cyclist." But that didn't stop them and they are making a documentary about the adventure, which they have titled *The Ride*.



* There are 11 types of people in the world; those that understand Roman numerals and those that don't.

* Didja know? Los Angeles is the birthplace of the internet, with the first message sent from UCLA to Stanford in 1969.

*We love to let you know that these very modern sayings all originated in the works of William Shakespeare, about 500 years ago!

- Vanish into thin air.

- Wild goose chase.

- Send him packing.

- and this true adage... Love is blind.

* My grandpa started walking five miles a day for exercise when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we have no idea where the hell he is.

*• A bartender is just a pharmacist with a limited inventory.

* Borrow money from a pessimist. They don't expect to get it back.

* More historical fun - there used to be a giant slide on Topanga between Erwin and Victory - loads of fun for kids and loads of worry for parents.

LOCAL NEWS

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Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley to Host Holiday Event, "Not So Silent Night"

Bytyqi, Congressman Sherman, and the Coopers.

Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley is thrilled to announce its annual holiday event, "Not So Silent Night," to be held on Saturday, December 7, at 7 pm at Braemar Country Club, 4001 Reseda Blvd. in Tarzana.

This elegant evening will feature an array of charcuterie appetizers, hors d'oeuvres and desserts, live entertainment, and a silent auction to raise vital funds supporting the Club's programs and services for local youth. A highlight of the night will be the presentation of four prestigious awards to those that have made a significant impact on the Club and its community.

The Spirit of Philanthropy Award will be presented to Barbara Roisman Cooper and Martin M. Cooper for their lifelong commitment to education, literacy, and philanthropic service. Cooper, a former Boys Club of Venice member, has been a vital part of Boys & Girls Club since 2006. Together with his wife, Barbara, they launched the Cooper Reading Challenge, fostering a love of reading among the Club's youth in 2007. In 2021, they established the Cooper Family Endowed Fund for Literacy Programs, ensuring their impact will continue for generations.

The Program Champion Award will be presented to the Get Together Foundation for their support of the Club's Music program. Since 2021, the foundation, founded by Kevin and Mare Wachs, has provided music teachers and instruments, expanding the Club's reach to several local schools. Their commitment to music education has empowered hundreds of youths to pursue their creative passions.

Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley is proud to honor Congressman Brad Sherman as the 2024 Community Leadership Champion for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support during and after the COVID pandemic. Congressman Sherman's instrumental efforts, including securing a $450,000 federal appropriation for after-school programs and an $850,000 appropriation for the renovation of the Gary M. Thomas Clubhouse, have directly benefited nearly 2,700 youth. His ongoing dedication to enhancing the Club experience exemplifies the leadership and commitment needed to empower youth and strengthen the community.

The inaugural Youth Advocate Award will be presented to Diellona Bytyqi, a recent graduate of Cleveland High School and a dedicated member of Boys & Girls Club. Since moving to the U.S. from Kosovo in 2022, Bytyqi has been an active participant in Club programs, including the Youth of the Year initiative and the STEPSS (Skills That Empower & Prepare Students Success) Program. Now a Youth Development Professional at the Club, she continues to inspire and support the next generation.

For more information or tickets, visit bgcwv.org/silentnight, contact K.Ventimiglia@bgcwv.org or (818) 644.5157 or CEO, Geovanny Ragsdale at G.Ragsdale@bgcwv.org or (805) 558.6077.

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Pathways to Inclusion: How Tierra Del Sol Empowers People with Developmental Disabilities to Thrive

By Danrochelle D. Yumul

In 1971, a group of dedicated parents took a bold stand for their children with developmental disabilities, founding the Tierra del Sol Foundation. Their vision was to build an alternative to institutional care, fostering inclusion, belonging, and the opportunity for these individuals to become valued members of society. Over 50 years later, Tierra del Sol still holds true to its founding mission: to empower people with developmental disabilities to reach their full potential and participate fully in the community's economic, civic, and cultural life.

What began as a passionate dream evolved into a groundbreaking reality. By the 1990s, Tierra del Sol reshaped its approach, launching an integrated workforce program focused on volunteerism and paid employment as pathways to community involvement. This shift was inspired by the organization's core belief that people with disabilities deserve meaningful opportunities to work and contribute.

Rebecca Lienhard, Chief Executive Officer at Tierra del Sol, recalls one of the first employment experiences she took her clients to. "We were at FAO Schwartz in the Glendale Galleria. We had an employment contract that started at 6:00 am until about 10:00 am. It wasn't a fancy contract but we were working with people with very pervasive, developmental disabilities. There was a group home that had brought their folks into the mall and had kind of parked them, facing the store. So, we were facing our counterparts and they were kind of in awe that we were working. They asked, 'How did you do that' and we basically said, 'We just found a job. They were just so in awe of what we were doing. It was really kind of a new thing, the thought of people with pervasive disabilities working in the community."

Since then, Tierra del Sol's workforce development program has grown---from 30 to 50 participants in the beginning to now having about 450 to 500 participants in the program. To date, they have 111 competitively paid employees at 31 businesses and 630 professional volunteers

(continued to page 11)

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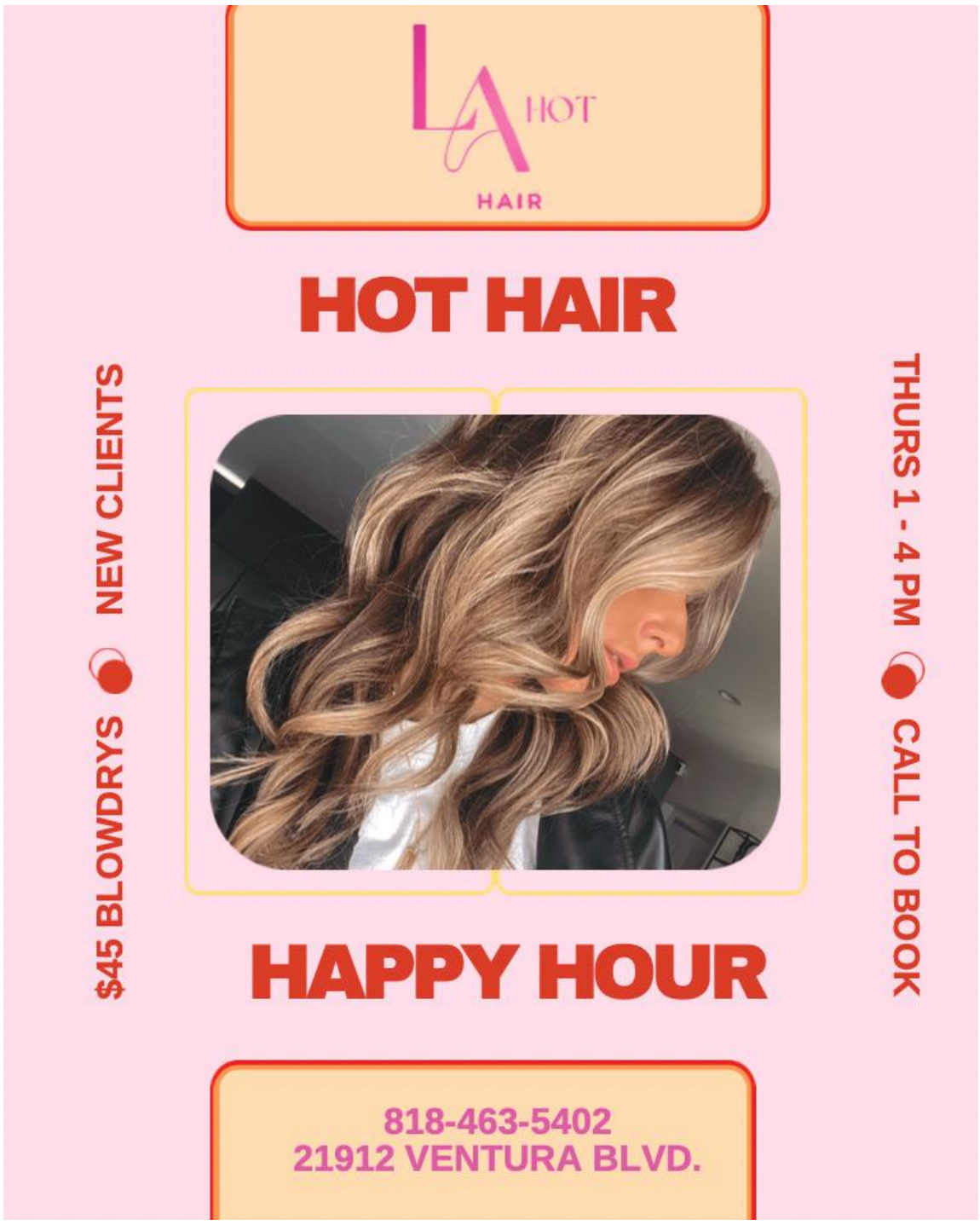
HEALTH



TROOT Holds First Tree Planting at Lanai Road Elementary in Encino

On Sunday, October 13, 2024, TROOT, a California non-profit that plants trees to improve the environment, held its first school planting at Lanai Road Elementary in Encino.

With the help of LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin, City Plants LA, LA Conservation and Lanai Elementary School staff and PTA, TROOT was able to plant six new trees.

The LA based non-profit was founded three years ago by actress, Dana Melanie. TROOT's mission is to create a positive environmental impact by planting trees, while deepening the roots of Los Angeles communities through their tree adoptions. TROOT is rooted in the idea that giving back can be as simple and monumental as watering a tree.

It's been estimated that Los Angeles County has about 55% of potential space for greens but only 13% of tree coverage currently exists. "TROOT is here to help change those statistics" says founder, Dana Melanie.

Students decorate rocks to surround the newly-planted trees.

She adds, "We love when families and kids participate and adopt our trees. We believe children who are taught to care and nurture the environment, grow up to be adults who care and nurture the environment".

You can donate and learn more about this organization at troot.org.

FDA to Potentially Remove Drug Found in Most Cold Medicine

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently announced their intent to remove the ingredient phenylephrine from numerous over-the-counter drugs. The committee has claimed that the oral version of the drug, which is often used to treat nasal congestion, does not work.

Phenylephrine is thought to work by reducing swelling of the blood vessels in the nasal passages, thus aiding in relieving congestion. Brands that use oral phenylephrine include: Children's Sudafed PE Nasal Decongestant, PediaCare Children's Decongestant, Sudafed PE Congestion and Suphedrin PE.

Combination products that include phenylephrine as an active ingredient include Alka-Seltzer Plus, Benadryl, Excedrin, Robitussin, Sudafed PE, Theraflu, Tylenol, Vicks DayQuil/NyQuil and numerous store brands such as Walgreens, CVS, Target, etc.

Phenylephrine became the popular ingredient in over-the-counter cold medicine in 2006 after pseudoephedrine was banned in over-the-counter products because many people were using it to make methamphetamine. Since this time, numerous studies have shown that phenylephrine does not work as effectively, if at all, a previously believed.

For patients with a common cold, nasal spray with phenylephrine is recommended as well as oral pseudoephedrine if you are 18 years or older. If you have a medication with oral phenylephrine in it, there's no danger in continuing to use it, but it may not prove effective in combating a cold.

The FDA's proposal is open for public comment until May 7, 2025 and then they will make a final decision on whether to remove the drug or not.

Mystic Healing Faire Nov. 26

The Tarzana Community and Cultural Center will be holding a Moonlight Paradise Mystic Healing Faire on Sunday, November 24, from 11 am to 6 pm.

This free event brings together a vibrant community of healers, spiritual practitioners, and artisans to offer a day of transformative experiences.

Explore a curated marketplace filled with crystals, sacred tools, and holistic products. Plus, participate in interactive workshops and sessions led by experts in energy healing, tarot, sound therapy, and more.

Moonlight Paradise Mystic Healing Faire is a unique gathering designed to elevate your mind, body, and spirit. Whether you're a seasoned spiritual seeker or just beginning your journey, this faire offers something for everyone!

Tarzana Community and Cultural Center is located at 19130 Ventura Boulevard. For more info, visit their Instagram @moonlightparadisefaire888.

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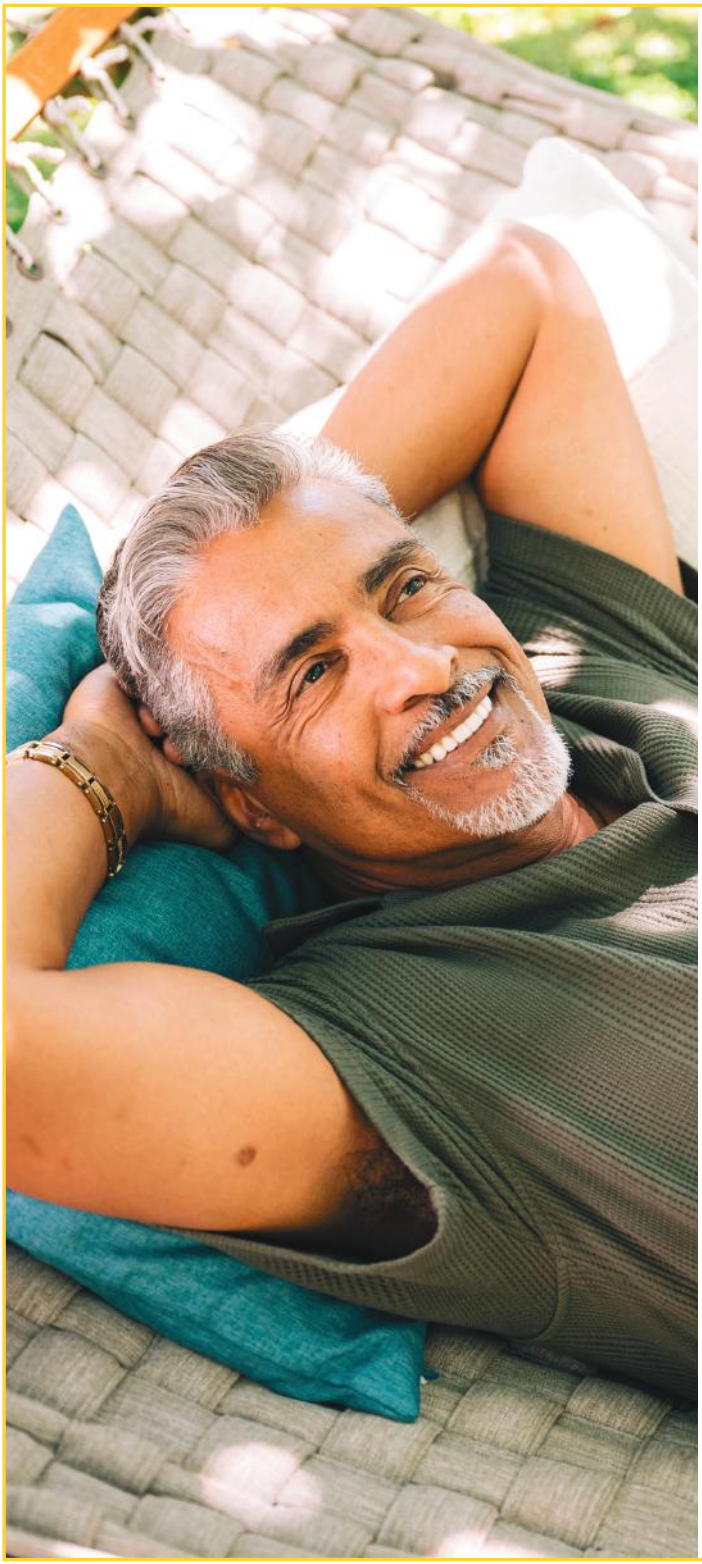

It's Here: A Medicare Advantage plan designed by doctors for The Valley

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HEALTH

Over 70? No More DMV "Knowledge Tests"

Welcome news for those who dread the DMV's "knowledge test" when renewing their license.

The California Dept. of Motor Vehicles has announced that drivers aged 70 and over don't have to take the test to renew.

Up until September, drivers had to take the long written test (of which there are multiple versions) as part of their renewal after expiration. It was not a state law but a DMV requirement. The change is designed to improve customer service.

"We are removing the written knowledge test for drivers without traffic violations to streamline the process," said DMV Director Steve Gordon. "Fewer people will need to visit the DMV, allowing us to better serve those who must come in."

It's not a total hall pass. Drivers 70 and older must still complete a vision test and update their photo when renewing their license.

New drivers and those new to California still need to pass the written test - as do those with poor driving records or those involved in accidents.

Some may be able to take the DMV's e-Learning course as an alternative.

If you have two or more accidents in two years prior to your renewal, or three or more in three years, a DUI suspension or two or more violation points, you'll need to take the written knowledge tests.

The National Safety Council reports that accidents actually lessen as drivers age, except for those 75 and older, who have the highest fatality rates in collisions

Drivers will receive a written notice if a test is required. However, it may be waived during the in-office visit. It's best to start the renewal process early online.

FDA Recommends Dual COVID/Flu Tests

As the colder months quickly approach, illnesses tend to become more prevalent. Given that both COVID and the common flu create respiratory issues, it can be difficult to tell what ailment you might be suffering from exactly. The Food and Drug Administration has recently approved several over-the-counter kits that test for both the flu and COVID. The Healgen Rapid Check COVID-19/Flu A&B Antigen Test is the first of these tests to be greenlit by the FDA.

The authorization "expands the options for individuals with respiratory symptoms to receive information about their health from the comfort of their home," Michelle Tarver, MD, PhD, acting director of the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health said.

These tests are quite similar to at-home COVID tests that use a nasal swab to test for each virus. After approximately 20 minutes, the test will tell you whether the swab is positive or not for the flu and/or COVID. Those who test positive should follow up their doctor, as well as people who test negative but are still experiencing symptoms.

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The Reel History of the Valley

By Martin M. Cooper

A Brush With Fame

The first thing a visitor notices when walking into Bob Tanenbaum's studio on the second floor of his Calabasas condo is the brushes. Of course, he is one of the most successful film art artists of all time, but the vast number of brushes he uses to convey his ideas from his brain to his canvas is overwhelming.

Tanenbaum has created art for more than 250 motion pictures over a career spanning half a century, which may be unequalled productivity in the annals of film art.

Tanenbaum says he has been retained for so many commissions because he is good at portraits and brings an adaptable style to his work. His poster art spans a number of styles, from Norman Rockwell to cartoon-like, and all executed with an underpinning of his own style that film marketing executives call, "the Tanenbaum look."

Artwork for a souvenir plate Tanenbaum designed. John Wayne's son said Tanenbaum captured his father's image better than any other artist had.

Just a few of the films for which he had created the poster artwork are: *Battle for the Planet of the Apes* (1973), *High Anxiety* (1977), *Battlestar Galactica* (1978), *The Cheap Detective* (1978), *A Christmas Story* (1983), *Red Headed Stranger* (1986), *Outrageous Fortune* (1987), and *Kansas City* (1996). In 1986, he did 10 Disney films.

Of course, when you've done so many films, some of them are bound to be overlooked for Oscar mention, such as: *5 Fingers of Death* (1973), *Scum of the Earth* (1974), *Death Weekend* (1976), *Kinky Coaches and the Pom-Pom Pussycats* (1981), and *Dance of the Dwarfs* (1983).

He is known for his perfectionism: "I won't let a piece of artwork out of my studio until it's the best I can do." One of the biggest artistic challenges he faces is the contractual obligations attached to films, usually related to the size and position of the film's stars. For example, it is not only whose name is on top, but the type size of each star's name, whose face and body are larger in a montage, and who is on the left…or the right.

He considers himself an artist, not an illustrator. He takes his art seriously…but not himself.

Tanenbaum doesn't restrict himself to motion pictures; he has created advertising artwork for automobiles, beer companies, clothing manufacturers, and numerous other categories.

A stickler for accuracy, Tanenbaum almost always uses live models to pose for his movie paintings. He typically starts with stills from the film ("I almost never see the actual movies"), but for the poster to imbue interest and action, he has to photograph models. "You'd never find the head on the body doing what you wanted. So I go through the still books and find headshots. Then I hire models, get them in the right clothes, and pose them. The trick is to make sure the model's head is turned in exactly the same angle as the photo. The head and neck are two crucial parts of any likeness," he says.

Tanenbaum in his Calabasas studio.

"When I can't find a model, I use myself." Speaking of his rendering of Paul Newman for his artwork for *The Color of Money* (1986), "Paul Newman has his face on my body," he says, "that's why he won the Academy Award as Best Actor," he kids with a grin.

With just a slightly sly look, Tanenbaum admits he's "good with cleavages and long legs," and indeed he is.

A very talented Bob Tanenbaum drew this portrait while still in high school.

"Movie posters basically have a single function—to tell a story," says Tanenbaum. "People look at the poster and if it or the movie ad excites them, they will go see the film. Two weeks after that, it is word of mouth. But it is the posters that brought the people in. They have to make you want to know what was going to happen in the movie."

One of his greatest compliments came when Michael Wayne, John Wayne's son, told Tanenbaum that he had captured his father's look better than any other artist; "That's real praise," Tanenbaum says. Other personalities whose portraits he has painted are Muhammad Ali, Karen Carpenter, Tom Selleck, and Frank Sinatra.

Today, computer illustration, Photoshopping and retouched photography have largely replaced movie art... another example of art being substituted by technology.

"I won't let a piece of artwork out of my studio until it's the best I can do." – Bob Tanenbaum

At 88, Robert Tanenbaum is still a working artist, fulfilling commissions and painting portraits. His latest venture is to participate in the production of a new book, *The Movie Poster Art of Robert Tanenbaum*, an annotated collection of more than 200 of his motion picture illustrations.

He obviously knows how to use all of those brushes.

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. Cooper 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. Cooper is currently researching his next book, the history of motion pictures in the San Fernando Valley.

And these aren't ALL of Tanenbaum's brushes!

ENTERTAINMENT

Conclave is an Election You'll Actually Want to Indulge In

By Katie Sterling

The political climate as of late has been, in a word, exhausting. Continuous coverage, endless debating and elevated tension has led to election exhaustion. Dare I say that the best escape at the moment might be to turn to another election? Not of the presidential variety, but that of the pious. Etiquette rules say that in order to have a copasetic conversation with others, it's best to avoid religion and politics… well, *Conclave* throws those rules out the window. After all, when called to elect the new Pope, all must be forgiven as sanctimonious men become self-regarding.

Based off Robert Harris's novel of the same name, *Conclave* highlights one of the most sacred, and yet rare, practices in the Catholic Church: the election of a new Pope. One hundred and eighteen cardinals have gathered at the Sistine Chapel to enter into seclusion until a new Supreme Pontiff has been agreed upon. At the helm of this ordeal is the dean of the College of the Cardinals, Thomas Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes), who is tasked with overseeing this event. Lawrence is a deeply conflicted individual who must grapple with these cardinals, who despite being men of humility, start to show their true colors when the height of power is within their reach.

At one end of the spectrum is the conservative candidate Goffredo Tedesco (Sergio Castellitto), who laments the fact that Latin has been abandoned in mass and leans towards the more traditional ways. Opposite him is the more liberal candidate Aldo Bellini (Stanley Tucci) who recognizes that in order for the church to survive, it must adapt with the times. These are just two of the candidates in the running, but serve to showcase the two extreme directions the Catholic Church could find itself heading towards if one of them succeeds in becoming the next Pope.

Despite being sequestered, gossip finds itself trickling in from the outside word and Lawrence grapples with the dilemma that these cardinals are hiding more secrets than the Vatican itself.

What transpires is a heated, catty, can't-look-away election process that finds the cardinals in a continuous loop as the winner must secure a two-thirds majority to become Pope. When the film gets to its climax, and much-talked about twist, you can't help but gasp along with the rest of the audience.

Conclave is a slow burn of a thriller where the dialogue is the driving force, allowing you to feel that edge-of-your-seat tension as truths come to light and alliances shift. While each actor inhabits their character so perfectly, Fiennes is the absolute star of the show and should be heavily awarded for his performance. His character is rich in dichotomy – meek one moment and fiercely intense the next, spearheading the narrative in one of the best performances I've seen all year.

In addition to the dialogue, what truly elevates this film is the stunning cinematography. From the close ups of gilded vestments to wide sweeping shots of the cardinals moving as one across a rainy courtyard, these shots are not only beautiful, but serve to add to the tension of the situation at hand.

Conclave may present itself as a religious-centered movie, but the true message is not necessarily about having faith in a higher power, but having faith in your fellow man. It's a poignant movie to watch given the current climate because it touches on cultural matters that transpire to those of a secular nature. The overarching themes in the world of tolerance versus intolerance, tradition versus change and most importantly, the individuals that will hinder or push progress forward.

Conclave is the rare film that enthralls audiences in its ability to be both stirring in its moral messaging as well as sinfully entertaining.

REAL ESTATE

Pathways to Inclusion: How Tierra Del Sol Empowers People with Developmental Disabilities to Thrive

(continued from page 5)

at 130 non-profit organizations. Various local industries and businesses support the workforce program, employing Tierra workers in areas such as clerical, retail, janitorial, and assembly work. The key to the program's growth is understanding the impact of having a job for the population they serve along with the dedication and growth of the organization.

The key to the program's growth is understanding the impact of having a job for the population they serve along with the dedication and growth of the organization.

Building on their progress, the Tierra del Sol team continues to grow its programs, creating new opportunities for clients to grow and thrive.

"We want to make sure that we help each person design their work based on who they are uniquely. We do work with a wide range of disabilities. So, some folks are bound to a wheelchair and need a lot of additional support throughout their day. And so how they define employment is going to look very different from somebody who may have just graduated and can navigate a college campus free of any additional assistance. We want to make sure that employment is defined in a very person-centered manner for each person. We also want to make sure that we understand that we work with people throughout their lifetimes too," shares Lienhard.

Tierra continues to be a leader in advocating for growth and inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities. In the early 2000s, seeing the success of their workforce program, they created the PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) program, focusing on individual career identification for those they serve. In 2007, they launched NEXUS, a College to Career model, to provide an opportunity for young adults with developmental disabilities to experience higher education. The program started at Los Angeles Valley College with only six participants but grew to 90 participants within 9 months. Today, they have 178 students at eight local colleges.

The Tierra del Sol Foundation's remarkable journey proves that when we believe in the potential of every individual, we create a world where everyone can thrive. With unwavering commitment and a vision for a more inclusive future, Tierra del Sol continues to break barriers and pave the way for lasting change. Their story is a call to action for all of us: to support, learn, and join in building a community where every person's contributions are valued. The journey is far from over, and there are countless more lives to uplift and opportunities to create.

Danrochelle D. Yumul currently works at Cowe Communications as the team's Communications Manager. A freelance writer, her articles were published by the Valley News Group, My Daily Find, Patch.com, Huffington Post, and Yahoo! Contributor network. She is also the editor of Meet The (818), a blog featuring San Fernando Valley locals and their stories.

Belong

THE SORAYA

SAT NOV 2 3PM
Mummenschanz
50th Anniversary Tour

SUN NOV 3 7PM
Emanuel Ax, piano

SAT NOV 9 3PM 8PM
Leyendas del Mariachi
Reuniendo a Los Mejores Talentos del Mariachi

WED NOV 13 8PM MEMBERS
Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra
Avi Avital, mandolin
Estelí Gomez, soprano
ONSTAGE SESSIONS

SAT NOV 16 8PM
Conrad Tao & The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra
Gershwin's Rhapsody in ***JAZZ***
Christopher Rountree, conductor
with musicians from Wild Up

SAT NOV 23 8PM
Ballet BC
New Works by Medhi Walerski and Crystal Pite

SAT DEC 7 3PM
SUN DEC 8 3PM
Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular
Featuring Ballet Folkórico de Los Ángeles with Special Guest Camila Fernández

THU DEC 12 8PM
Dorrance Dance: *The Nutcracker Suite*
Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn, arrangement
Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky, composer

SAT DEC 14 3PM
The World Famous
Glenn Miller Orchestra
In the Holiday Mood

SUN DEC 15 2PM 7PM
Lea Salonga
At Christmas

THU DEC 19 8PM
SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK®
50th Anniversary Tour
Celebrating the HolyDays

SCAN FOR TICKETS

Dorrance Dance

Nochebuena

Conrad Tao & John Clayton

TheSorayaStage | TheSoraya.org