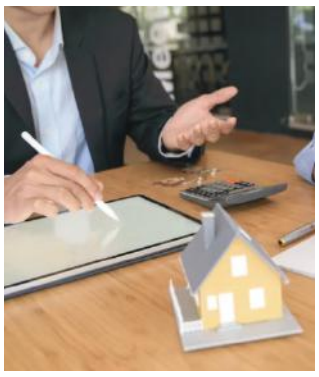

Is Your Trust a Named Insured on Your House?

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Reel History of the Valley – See Page 9

Brad Sherman Defends FEMA

See Page 5

ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 5, Issue 114 | A Compendious Source of Information | February 14, 2024

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dept. of Homeland Security Sets Deadline for Real ID As May 7

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has set May 7, 2025 as the deadline to acquire a Real ID. While the deadline was pushed multiple times over the past few years, thanks to events like COVID, the government is now urging all individuals to switch over as soon as possible. Starting May 7, travelers will need either a Real ID or a passport to get through airport security as driver's licenses will no longer be accepted as a proper form of ID. To acquire a Real ID, you will need to provide the DMV with your full legal name, date of birth, social security number, two proofs of address of principal residence and lawful status. To apply, visit REALID.ca.gov, upload the appropriate documents and then visit a DMV with your confirmation and a $35 fee.

Man Charged with Murder in Encino Following Argument

Last Tuesday evening, officers were called to the 51000 block of Hesperia Ave. shortly before 7:30 pm when 54-year-old Linda Farzan-Kashani was shot to death in Encino by her 64-year-old husband, Sean Farzan. According to sources, the couple were arguing inside of their SUV with their teenage son in the backseat. The woman got out of the vehicle and the suspect began following her before shooting her. Those in the neighborhood said they heard so much gunfire, they initially assumed the sound was fireworks. After temporarily locking down the neighborhood, the police found the suspect two blocks away and promptly took him into custody. The two were in the middle of a divorce. Farzan was charged with one count of first-degree murder and one count of felony child abuse under circumstances or conditions likely to cause great bodily injury or death.

Plant Fair at Tarzana Community and Cultural Center Feb. 23

Tarzana Community and Cultural Center will host their 4th Annual Native Plant Fair on Sunday, February 23, from 11 am to 4 pm. This free community event features planting and watercolor workshops for kids, an interactive presentation by Native American storyteller Greywolf, build-a-seed-bomb stations, plant and seed giveaways, and special guest speakers on a variety of topics – including a very timely talk about fire-defensive landscaping. More than 30 info booths hosted by leading environmental organizations in Southern California will be in attendance, and the event will also feature live music and the Bella Luna food truck.

After the Fires: Steve Soboroff – Rebuilding L.A.

He's been named L.A.'s "Recovery Czar" and Steve Soboroff feels up to the challenge.

The L.A.-based businessman and developer was Chairman and CEO of Playa Vista, served on the Harbor Commission, Police Commission and more. He has both a public sector and private sector perspective on what it will take to put Los Angeles back together after the devastating wildfires.

Valley News Group asked Soboroff how much autonomy he had to make decisions about the clean up. He said he will work within the system of Los Angeles, saying "I can make calls. Can't authorize contracts. Don't need to." He said he was not taking any work away from any City employee.

His job is to oversee recovery efforts in the Palisades Fire, which now have moved into Phase II debris clean up.

"We've got to get that all out," he said. "We're removing six inches of dirt, putting mulch in and making lots ready for reconstruction." He recommended that property owners also remove their remaining slabs. "Foundations need to go because rebar has melted. The utility lines could also not withstand the 1,800-2,000 degrees, at which appliances, cast iron and even glass melted."

When asked about the controversial decisions about where to dispose of the toxic substances, Soboroff said that landfill arrangements are all made by others - the EPA and Army Corps, and that sites are chosen for what they normally accept.

He urged homeowners not to do "self help." If you accept city help you're good. If you reject it you can't come back later and say you want the Army Corps of Engineers to step in.

Leading the recovery is Steve Soboroff, seen here, with Mayor Karen Bass

Valley News Group asked Soboroff about why the Mayor and city and county officials kept claiming that clean up was "free" when in fact, the county bills your insurance company? He was adamant that the cost is free - unless you have insurance. A portion of that insurance goes to the lot clearance, and goes from the insurance company to the funding county, that then pays the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mayor Karen Bass is telling people to sign leases for 12 months. We asked Soboroff if that was realistic, given the clean up and the fact that DWP has to now replace all infrastructure underground.

"I don't know the answer," he replied. "I would like to see it done in a year and three months. That doesn't mean there won't be power - we're stringing up power poles now."

When asked about the expedited permit process to rebuild, Soboroff said that he is bringing in a team of architects and outside inspectors to expedite the plan and permit process. Most developers agree that right now in Los Angeles you can't get a permit quickly. It takes months. Inspections are also on a backlog. Plans go into a "black hole" of soils reports because there is no one manning the desk, it's all a drop off system.

"As long as you don't build over 110% of the previous structure you'll go quickly. ADU's can also now be built," he explained. "The goal is that by the time Phase II is done homeowners would have plans and permits."

His recommendation to homeowners was to bring plans to an architect who is qualified and certified to approve them on behalf of the city. "A bigger kitchen, fewer bedrooms is fine. If you want to go bigger you have to take it back to the city for plans and permits."

The job of coordinating the rebuilding of almost 6,000 homes in one location is enormous - given demolition, infrastructure, and individual contractors and suppliers.

(continued to page 7)

CALENDAR

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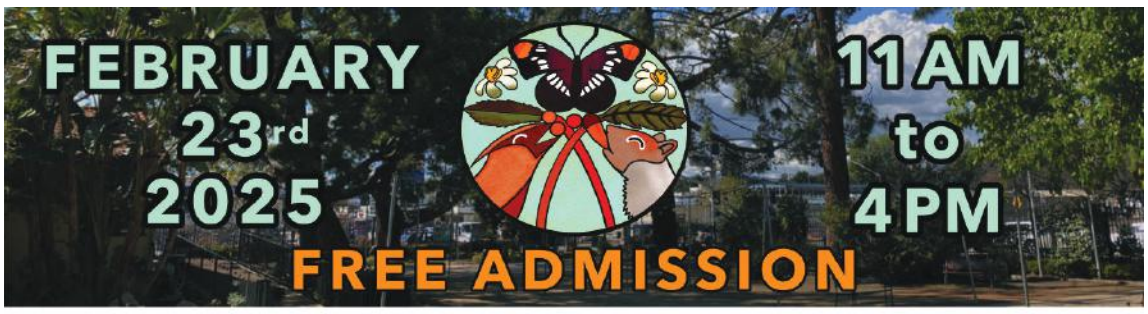

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Community Calendar

* The Encino Neighborhood Council will hold their general board meeting on Wednesday, February 26, at 7 pm. For the agenda and Zoom link, visit encinonc.org.

* The 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 18, from 8 to 10 pm. Those looking to participate will meet at the Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber that evening and must register at count.lahsa.org/pages/volunteer-registration.

* Join the Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce for Mix & Mingle on Tuesday, February 25, from 5:30 to 7 pm. End your workday by making new connections and strengthening relationships with other business, nonprofit, school, and community partners. The cost is $20 for members and $30 for non-members. RSVP at shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* Westfield Fashion Square and the American Red Cross are hosting a drive on Thursday, February 20, from 10 am to 4 pm. Sign up at redcrossblood.org.

* Southern California Garden Club, the oldest and largest garden club in the San Fernando Valley, continue their 98th season with a Garden Club meeting featuring a program, "Feng Shui in the Garden," presented by Shelley Sparks, a licensed landscape architect, author and speaker. The program on Tuesday, February 18, is preceded at 9:30 am by a plant market and country store (for fundraising) and plant specimen display (judged by an accredited Flower Show Judge) and business meeting at 10 am; and a workshop, a book review of *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America* by Timothy Egan, at 10:30 am, presented by club member Martha Smyser. Lunch (bring your own) follows the program at 12 pm. The club provides beverages and desserts. No admission charge for guests. Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino. For more information, visit southerncaliforniagardenclub.com.

* The West Valley Regional Library will be holding a Libby e-media class on Saturday, February 15, at 3:30 pm. Learn how to download and read electronic books (ebooks) or listen to audiobooks using Libby, a free app. Bring your own device (smartphone, Kindle, iPad, etc.) for a hands-on class to learn all about this library resource. This event is for teens and adults.

* The Encino Community Center (4935 Balboa Blvd.) will be holding their spring camp from April 14 to 18 for ages five to 13. Registration is now open at laparks.org/reccenter/encino-community.

* The Encino Tarzana Library is offering "Homework Help" Mondays through Thursdays, from 3 to 6 pm. Visit their Student Zone after school where their Homework Helper can offer assistance or supplies. Plus, their branch has computers dedicated solely for the use of teens and children.

* Tarzana Music Night returns on Friday, February 28, from 7 to 10 pm. The lineup includes Paula Fong, Kevin Kelso, Art Podell, Kim Margolis, Justin Richard, Nick Jester, Jackie Lee Domi, Rocky Rosen, Kathy Sanders, WillCall, Jenni Alpert, Joseph Eid, Jay Asher, Claire Bloom and Scott Memmer. Special guest Great Willow will also perform. This show is $5 and will be indoors so space is limited; guests are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance at mytarzana.org.

* The Tarzana Neighborhood Council will be holding their Council Board meeting on Tuesday, February 25, at 7 pm at the Tarzana Child Care Center (5700 Beckford Ave). For more info, and the agenda, visit tarzananc.org.

People in the News

Russell Steinberg, PhD, was recently named one of the "Top 30 Professionals of the Year" by *Musical America*, the oldest American trade magazine covering classical music. The designation recognizes those who are "educating and building future audiences, managing artists and arts groups, raising funds – an impressive group nominated by their peers and chosen by the editors."

Steinberg has been the Founder, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra, based in Encino, for a quarter of a century. He is a composer with a Ph.D in music from Harvard University, where he studied with Leon Kirchner.

The Youth Orchestra has up to 120 members from eight to 18 years old – divided between intermediate and advanced orchestras – who participate in Sunday rehearsals at the Encino Community Center from all over Los Angeles County. Besides performing locally, the orchestra has gone on tour to Carnegie Hall twice, and traveled to Italy, and two times to Vienna and Prague to perform with youth orchestras there and get steeped in the history of the Masters.

"Because I have the students for a whole semester, I have the luxury of getting the music into their bones – talking about the political context of the piece and trying out different ideas. I want them to know that each of their parts is telling a story," said Steinberg.

For more info on Steinberg, the Youth Orchestra and upcoming concerts, visit losangelesyouthorchestra.org/concerts.

The San Fernando Valley Branch of the California Writers Club will welcome the author Mandy Jackson-Beverly, as the keynote speaker on Saturday, March 1 at 1 pm with a presentation entitled: "Self-Publishing and the Independent Bookstore."

Jackson-Beverly will expertly guide writers through the essential steps of self-publishing while delving into the nuanced rules and etiquette crucial for successfully placing self-published works onto the shelves.

Jackson-Beverly is the author, host and executive producer of "The Bookshop Podcast," event manager and host of the "Lunch with an Author Literary Series" and has taught publishing and creative writing workshops.

Her 45-minute talk will be given within the Motion Picture & Television Fund. See cwc-sfv.org for Zoom and in-person attendance details.

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.

* Given recent egg prices, the internet has been circling the joke that "back in my day, we had such a surplus of eggs and toilet paper, that we would throw them at the homes of our enemy!"

* Spring is just around the corner - I'm so excited, I wet my plants!

* Carry this thought for a happier life. "Time is all you have and the idea isn't to save it - but savor it!"

LOCAL NEWS

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A Note from Councilmember Raman: Los Angeles After the Fires

Dear Friends,

It has been an incomprehensibly difficult start to the year here in Los Angeles, watching entire communities be destroyed and so many families displaced. I have such intense gratitude for our first responders who have been working around the clock to keep us safe and for every Angeleno who has shown up to help a neighbor in need.

While the devastation has been overwhelming, I am reminded of why I love this city so much – its people are extraordinary.

As we look ahead, I have been thinking a lot about resiliency, for us as a city and for us as individuals. What do we need to do differently to ensure that we are more resilient against natural disasters – whether they come in the form of wildfires, earthquakes, intense rains, or winds? How can we plan better as a city for these events? How can we ensure that our city's residents and small businesses are able to plan for and weather these events better?

As a first step, we put forward a motion, in partnership with Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, that improves and expands the City of Los Angeles' Red Flag warning system to ensure that our neighborhoods in very high fire hazard severity zones are secured adequately during periods of risk.

Before and during the fires, my team and I were on the ground personally coordinating park closures and traffic enforcement resources in an effort to limit any non-essential activity in these areas, including in Griffith Park and across the Hollywood Hills. This work should not be left up to individual council offices to plan for, coordinate and fund – we need crystal clear protocol and formalized practices for implementing precautionary measures, closures, and restrictions, and coordinated operations for relaying these messages to the public.

Our motion directs relevant city departments to develop a comprehensive response plan when Red Flag Warnings are issued or Particularly Dangerous Situations (PDS) are declared by the National Weather Service, including:

-Temporary closures of all parks in high risk areas during Red Flag Warnings

-Suspension of construction, debris hauling, and film permits in these areas

-Notification to all residents in Red Flag warning areas to cease all outdoor activities that increase risk of fire, such as use of outdoor barbecues or fire pits

-Increased fines for violation of any existing or future Red Flag Warning ordinances

To me, this is simply non-negotiable for protecting our communities in high fire risk areas. With climate change increasing these risks for our hillsides, we must do more than we have done in the past.

Another motion that we presented seeks to ensure that city departments who jumped into action to provide emergency services not accounted for in their annual budgets are properly reimbursed for any costs incurred. This includes the Department of Recreation & Parks which, as mentioned above, was instrumental in preventing further devastation by closing all of our parks in High Fire Severity Zones.

The Department of Transportation and Bureau of Street Services also took action to keep our streets in compliance with Red Flag warnings in the event residents needed to evacuate, and the Los Angeles Police Department deployed additional resources when evacuations did occur. Our motion directs the City to outline what services may not be eligible for federal or state reimbursement and to identify potential funding sources so that we can ensure these agencies aren't saddled with bills that impede their regular services.

But there is so much more to think about as we move ahead. Have our building codes and our infrastructure plans appropriately accounted for fire resiliency? Can our plans to rebuild after the fires go hand in hand with increasing housing availability across the entire city, including in neighborhoods that have lower levels of fire risk?

My office will continue to advocate for the resources necessary to keep our community safe and to build and rebuild stronger with climate resiliency in mind.

In the meantime, you can find the latest recovery resources on our website at councildistrict4.lacity.gov, including a new FEMA resource center in Sherman Oaks at the Sherman Oaks East Valley Adult Center to provide navigation support for people applying for FEMA assistance.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office for additional assistance at contactcd4@lacity.org, or by calling us at 213-473-7004.

Brad Sherman Defends FEMA

Since the start of the disastrous Palisades wildfire, thousands of FEMA employees have been working 12-hour days, seven days a week, helping my constituents all while facing threats of dismantlement by President Trump and a full-scale assault by Elon Musk making the U.S. less – not more – ready to respond to the next historic emergency.

FEMA has more than 5,000 permanent full-time staff and thousands of additional reservists and temporary employees. Incident management teams supplement and provide technical support to local authorities' disaster response efforts.

Smaller states need FEMA's technical assistance and immediate emergency response resources even more than California does. Embedding FEMA experts into the local government's emergency response command, FEMA can deploy response teams to disaster areas quickly – which states simply do not have the capacity to do on their own.

Not even a huge state like California can obtain the quantity of people with the quality of expertise on the payroll waiting for the next disaster. And, most of our states are much smaller. Should Rhode Island maintain an enormous staff on their payroll year in and year out? Should every state have 28 search and rescue teams waiting in case there's a North Carolina level disaster?

During Hurricane Sandy in 2012, one of the costliest disasters in U.S. history, FEMA sent millions of meals, cots, blankets, and bottles of water to northeastern states ahead of the storm.

The Los Angeles Fires are estimated to cost upwards of $275 billion in property damage and lost economic activity, making it the second costliest disaster in U.S. history – second to only Hurricane Katrina, which cost $320 billion after adjusting for inflation according to AccuWeather.

At the Palisades Fire Roundtable in January, President Trump claimed that FEMA was very well-run during his first term. Americans affected by disasters across the country – in red states and blue states – are counting on the President to make sure FEMA is well-run during his second term.

It's true that FEMA is a large federal bureaucracy and could be made more efficient. Trump's Executive Order establishing a commission to review federal disaster response may lead to improvements. The President's job is to ensure that the agencies that make up the executive branch are managed effectively, rather than give up and abolish them.

Sherman is the U.S. representative for California's 32nd congressional district, which includes city of Malibu and the LA neighborhoods of Pacific Palisades, Beverly Glen, Bel Air, Studio City, Sherman Oaks, Woodland Hills, West Hills, Canoga Park, Winnetka, Reseda, Tarzana, Encino, Chatsworth, Northridge, Brentwood, North Hills, as well as the south side of Granada Hills.

Amplifying the Valley: How Hector Perez-Roman is Giving the SFV a Voice

By Danrochelle D. Yumul

Hector Perez-Roman

Hector Perez-Roman started Valley Views SFV with a clear mission in mind: to uplift stories of brilliant people, organizations, businesses, and social movements that have a positive impact on the San Fernando Valley and beyond. As the host and executive producer of Valley Views on KROJ 101.5 FM, Hector has become a prominent voice in the community, highlighting the often-overlooked narratives that make the Valley vibrant.

His foray into broadcasting was driven by a desire to create a platform to celebrate the positive aspects of the San Fernando Valley. He recognized that mainstream media often focused on negative stories, leaving a void when it comes to showcasing the region's culture and the individuals contributing to its growth. This realization led to the creation of Valley Views in December 2019. The show is dedicated to bridging communities through deep and engaging discussions at the intersection of politics, economics, culture, art, and music.

(continued to page 7)

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Vitamin Vitality: Small Steps to Boost Your Immunity

By Allie Priore

There is no doubt that fatigue has set in for many of us following the last few weeks, but I wanted to take a moment to remind you of simple ways you can boost your immune system and keep yourselves as healthy as possible. Below are a few of my favorite products that are great to take on a daily basis:

1. Multivitamin – Make sure you are taking a quality multivitamin – check the ingredients to make sure there are no random ingredients thrown in (such as artificial coloring, xanthan gum, lead and mercury to name a few). A lot of companies use fillers in their products and casings, so I always steer myself toward organic vitamins to avoid any sneaky, harmful toxins. Make sure it includes vitamin C and zinc, two properties crucial in building up immune support.

2. Probiotic & Prebiotic – These will help your gut health. You want to ensure you have a healthy gut to properly process and clean out your internal system. Too often we overlook our gut health, and it is so important to make sure it is getting the proper bacteria that our bodies need, while ridding it of the toxic bacteria. A prebiotic will help the probiotic absorb better into your body, but you do not need to take one every day. You can absolutely do so but if you have a queasy stomach when taking pills, try taking it once a week to start and then increase to three times if you can. If you have to choose one over the other go with a probiotic.

3. Mushroom Capsules – I love taking a mushroom supplement. Do not fret if you do not like the taste of mushrooms because these do not taste like them. Mushrooms are one of the best foods you can consume for immune support. They aid in inflammation of the body, hypertension, can calm nerves and serves as a great anti-aging property! Adding this into your daily regimen will increase your immune system and help to strengthen it.

4. Elderberry – Taken in a syrup form, it is not the best tasting supplement, but it will do wonders for your immune system. It helps fight specifically against cold and flu symptoms (we love that!), protects your heart and can aid in stress relief. Incorporate it a few times a week for that extra immunity boost. Try to avoid a syrup that is high in sugar if you can. If you have trouble finding low sugar syrup, I would advise to take the elderberry every other day.

Adding the above supplements into your daily routine will ensure you are getting the proper vitamins and nutrients your body needs to help fight against infection and viruses. Given that it is still cold and flu season, we can't control much in this situation, but we can take better control of our health as best we can.

This year has already been a wild ride, but keep your head up. As well as feeding your physical body, make sure to take time to take care of your mental health as well. Take a moment of quiet when you can, breathe deeply and focus inward. And always, drink your water!

Until next time Encino – stay safe and stay healthy!

Allie Priore is a certified Pilates Instructor and teacher of mindful movement. She teaches at various studios and now offers both private sessions and classes on the virtual sphere. For inquiries about sessions, email her at alessandra.c.priore@gmail.com.

Amplifying the Valley Cont'd

(continued from page 5)

"When I started with this vision, it was all about creating a space on the radio waves to highlight individuals of the San Fernando Valley and/or folks that have a positive connection to the Valley. It has been my goal to continue to grow the platform and have featured guests tell their story through an organic, thoughtful, and genuine format," shares Perez-Roman in a previous interview.

In the past six years, Valley Views has become more than just a radio show. It's grown into a catalyst for community networking, connecting influencers, entrepreneurs, community organizers, professionals, and organizations.

To date, Valley Views has featured over 460 guests across 174 episodes, showcasing individuals and groups making significant contributions to the community. The show airs on Thursdays at 7 pm and Sundays at 10 am. Under Hector's leadership, the platform's expansion includes a monthly newsletter, community hikes, and participation in local events, all to foster connections and partnerships within the community.

Perez-Roman's commitment to the community is evident in the diverse range of guests featured on Valley Views. From local entrepreneurs to social activists, each episode delves into the stories of individuals making a difference in the San Fernando Valley. This approach highlights their contributions and inspires listeners to engage and contribute to their communities.

Looking ahead, Perez-Roman envisions Valley Views continuing to grow as a multifaceted media platform. Plans include expanding content offerings, increasing community engagement initiatives, and exploring new ways to highlight the stories that define the San Fernando Valley. What was originally a one-man show grew into a team committed to its original mission.

Through his unwavering dedication, Hector Perez-Roman and his team are not just reporting on the community; they are actively shaping its narrative, ensuring that the positive aspects of the Valley receive the recognition they deserve.

Danrochelle D. Yumul is the Communications Manager at Cowe Communications. She's written for several publications including the Huffington Post, Patch.com, My Daily Find, and Valley News Group.

HEALTH

After the Fires Continued

(continued from page 1)

"We were able to build Playa Vista with 3,000 people a day," Soboroff claimed. "We're trying to provide a 'yellow brick road' for homeowners now with an 'a to z' to get to the end of the road in an efficient, cost-saving manner."

When asked if this was now the time to make changes other than putting utilities underground, such as widening the narrow roads of the Palisades or finally getting all of Malibu on a sewer system, Soboroff deferred that decision to the City of Malibu and said that this would be a long-term job, with an "all solutions in" system for watersheds, residential and commercial rebuilding and public infrastructure resilience.

Valley News Group asked Soboroff if he is also talking to Rick Caruso, who has created his own "Steadfast LA" team to drive the city's rebuild.

"I've called him a couple of times," he replied. "Asked him some questions."

When asked where the money was coming from for all of this, Soboroff said he was taking $1.00 a year from the City, and was depending on philanthropy, taking donations from people who were not planning to give money to the City. He said FEMA and banks would cover the gap from what insurance pays and what rebuilding costs. DWP improvements will be passed on to residents.

Valley News Group asked Soboroff one last question. This is not L.A.'s last disaster. Will this expedited permit process and more inspectors continue on in the city or is this a one-shot deal?

He said that once rebuilding was done the City's Program Managers would continue with their regular oversight.

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HEALTH

February is American Heart Month

February is Heart Month and a great time to refocus your energy on easy ways to improve your heart health. When your heart is healthy, you feel healthy. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, especially for women, with one in every five deaths attributed to the disease.

"Heart health management can be as simple as paying attention to what you eat and your daily activities, which both can make a big difference in how good you feel," states Sam Kalioundji, MD, Cardiologist, Dignity Health – Northridge Hospital Medical Center. "Your heart can benefit from just 10 minutes of physical activity each day – a brisk walk, a bike ride, or even taking the stairs instead of waiting for the elevator."

The American Heart Association provides helpful tips for eating healthy, including preparing your own meals at home so you can control the ingredients, such as salt intake, which can lead to hypertension. Be sure to add more fruits and vegetables to your diet by using them as snacks throughout the day.

Remember to maintain regular fitness activities. Check your local parks and recreation areas to find available open space for walks, trail hikes, yoga, or other outdoor activities – stay active, stay safe. In addition to eating healthy and staying active, know your numbers – blood pressure is the measure of your heart health.

Be as consistent as possible with regular health checkups because the best course of action is prevention. The ABC's of heart health include: aspirin if directed by your healthcare provider to take, blood pressure control, cholesterol control and avoiding smoking.

Talk to your healthcare provider to find the best tips and actions to keep your own heart healthy and happy!

For more info on heart health and cardiovascular disease, visit heart.org.

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LEISURE CARE

The Reel History of the Valley

By Martin M. Cooper

The G.O.A.T. of All Stuntmen

It doesn't happen frequently, but on rare occasions, someone is universally acknowledged to be the best in his or her field. Today, the often-used expression is that someone is a G.O.A.T. – The Greatest of All Time. When it comes to movie stunt men, Yakima Canutt stands well above the rest of the herd.

Canutt was an actor, stunt man, screenwriter, stunt coordinator, and second-unit director. He was involved as one or more of these in more than 400 films.

Canutt was born in 1895 and became a working cowboy. He was named the All-Around Champion Cowboy in 1917, 1919, 1920, and 1923.

His first film was the 1915 Tom Mix-directed, *Foreman of Bar Z Ranch*. His final credit was *John Wayne: Cold Vengeance* (1935).

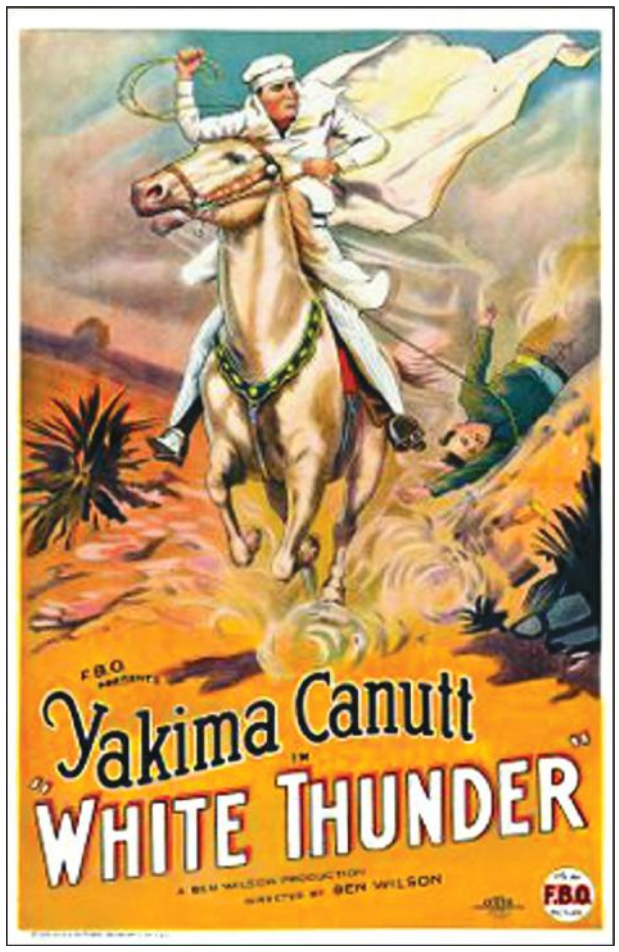
When talkies came in at the end of the 1920s, Canutt looked to continue what had been a mediocre silent film career. In his autobiography, *Stunt Man, The Autobiography of Yakima Canutt*, he explained why he moved from acting to focus on his stunt career:

"By 1928 all the pictures were talkies. I realized that I was in trouble. I had had the flu in 1918, while in the Navy, and my vocal chords were permanently damaged. My voice lacked resonance, a quality needed for good recording. When I heard it for the first time on a sound track, I thought they were kidding me."

He was the stunt man stand-in for Clark Gable in 1939's *Gone with the Wind* and also in *Boom Town* (1940); backed up John Wayne in more than 30 movies; and performed on-screen stunts for Errol Flynn, Tyrone Power, Henry Fonda, Randolph Scott, Roy Rogers, and scores more.

Canutt performed two of the most famous stunts of all time in 1939's John Ford-directed *Stagecoach*. In the first, he portrays one of the Indian warriors attacking the stagecoach; he leaps aboard one of the galloping horses, is shot, and falls underneath the traces to the earth. In the second, he doubles for John Wayne. As the six-horse stagecoach is racing to escape the Indians, Canutt leaps from the wagon to the back of a speeding horse and then jumps from horse to horse to the lead steed to bring it to a stop; cut to close-up of John Wayne.

That scene was filmed 86 years ago and is as exciting today as it was then. To miss it on YouTube is to miss an exhilarating piece of filmmaking as there is. See it at youtube.com/watch?v=5__GP5BBm6I.



Exactly 100 years ago, in 1925, FBO Pictures released one of the few films starring Yakima Canutt. Like many films before and after White Thunder, such as the Mark of Zorro (1920) and The Scarlet Pimpernel (1934), a costumed fop turns out to be our brave hero.

1939's Stagecoach features two of the most famous stunts in all movie history. In one of them, a band of Indians is pursuing the stagecoach and Yakima Canutt leaps from the stagecoach onto the back of one horse to another to bring them to a halt.

Less known but perhaps even more exciting is a scene at the end of *The Trail Beyond* (1934). Canutt, again doubling John Wayne, is galloping after a buckboard driven by the bad guy. Canutt misses the horse-to-wagon leap, falls onto the trail; remounts; renews the chase; and this time successfully makes the jump onto the speeding buckboard (youtube.com/watch?v=2L5rjogXy-w&t=2760s).

In the 1940s, a combination of injuries and age caused Canutt to reduce stunt work and focus on stunt coordination and second-unit directing. Throughout that decade, he was the director or co-director on about 20 Republic Studios westerns and serials.

During the 1950s and '60s, he was a second unit director and stunt coordinator for, among others, *Ivanhoe* (1952), *Knights of the Round Table* (1953), *Spartacus* (1960), *Cat Ballou* (1965), and *Where Eagles Dare* (1968).

He was the stunt coordinator for *Ben-Hur* (1959) starring Charlton Heston, with the famous chariot scene that Canutt staged.

So it was appropriate that Heston present Canutt with his Oscar at the 1967 Academy Awards, saying: "Before movies could even talk, he had already performed some incredible stunts that have since become legendary. And by the time he'd made his reputation as the greatest stunt man of all time, he devised special safety devices and stunt techniques that are still used by the men who make up the profession to which he gave so much…When he stopped doing stunts himself he became what the film world acknowledges as the most talented director of action sequences ever to put motion on the screen."

Canutt lived for many years at 11808 Riverside Drive in North Hollywood. He died at the age of 90 on May 24, 1986, at the North Hollywood Medical Center; his ashes are scattered in the Garden of Remembrance at the Valhalla Memorial Park Cemetery in North Hollywood.

Yakima Canutt's obituary in the *Los Angeles Times* quoted Charlton Heston: "When it comes to movie stunts, no one stands above Yakima Canutt."

But don't just read about Yakima Canutt, do yourself a favor and enjoy viewing his heart-stopping stunts. You'll be watching the greatest of all time.

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.

Rough Riding Stranger was a 1935 Western with Yakima Canutt in a supporting role, filmed in Calabasas. It was produced by Weiss Brothers Artclass Pictures Corp., a small production company that made more than 200 films in the first quarter of the twentieth century.

ENTERTAINMENT

Universal Studios Hollywood Honors First Responders with a Special "First Responder Heroes Ticket"

Universal Studios Hollywood expresses its sincere gratitude to the first responders for their heroic efforts in tackling the devastating Los Angeles wildfires with the "First Responder Heroes Ticket."

All eligible active first responders can enjoy one complimentary 1-Day General Admission ticket and a 50% discount on up to three 1-Day General Admission tickets, now through April 10, 2025.

"The selfless dedication and tireless resilience exhibited by the first responders in response to combatting the L.A. wildfires has been nothing short of extraordinary and we are very grateful to these unsung heroes for their courage during this difficult time," said Scott Strobl, Executive Vice President and General Manager, Universal Studios Hollywood. "When these first responders are ready for a much needed break, we look forward to welcoming them to our theme park."

The "First Responder Heroes Ticket" offer extends to all eligible U.S.-based, active first responders within public or private agency/entities who assist the community in the following categories: Firefighters, Police Officers, Sheriff's Deputies, National Guard, and Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians. Offer excludes retired and volunteer first responders.

The "First Responder Heroes Ticket" may only be redeemed once per eligible first responder and must be redeemed in person at the theme park's dedicated "First Responder Heroes Ticket" ticket booth located at the Front Gate entrance. The ticket can only be redeemed for the same day visit. Online redemption will not be available.

Eligible first responders will need to show a valid government-issued photo ID and valid employee ID card for qualifying first responder occupation.

In addition to the complimentary ticket, first responders have the option to purchase up to three additional 1-Day General Admission tickets for guests within their party at a savings of 50% off the front gate price on the day of visit. All accompanying guests must be present at the time of visit to receive the discounted rate. Visit www.UniversalStudiosHollywood.com for additional terms and conditions.

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The Wild Robot is a Delightful Adventure for All

By Katie Sterling

With the recent rainy weather, sometimes it's nice to do absolutely nothing but stay inside. While this can sometimes lead to restlessness, there's the perfect movie to pop on to appease family members of all ages. Based on the YA science fiction novels of Peter Brown, *The Wild Robot* will have you laughing, crying and enchanted by the heartwarming tale of what it means to truly live.

The story follows Roz (voiced by Lupita Nyong'o), a personal assistant robot who has found herself stranded on a remote island after a shipwreck. Programmed to fix any problem or complete any task, Roz is thrown for quite a loop when she realizes her new environment is not her intended destination. The woodland creatures see her as a threat given her demeanor and her vastly different manners of survival. After all, as a highly intelligent computer, Roz may have extreme book smarts, but lacks (woodland) street smarts.

In an attempt to find her intended master and complete any sort of mission before she can return home, Roz encounters a roster of quirky creatures. There's a wily fox named Fink (Pedro Pascal), a beaver named Paddler (Matt Berry) and an opossum named Pinktail (Catherine O'Hara), whose children are obsessed with death and frankly, the best characters in the whole film. They don't quite understand Roz, but are willing to help her when a gosling imprints on the robot as his mom. Brightbill (Kit Connor) is a runt and wouldn't have a true chance of survival given the unforgiving world of nature. But, most goslings don't have a fully-equipped robot as their mother with the tools to increase their survival odds.

As the film progresses, Roz must reckon with the notion that as a goose, Brightbill must fly south for the winter. The two have grown as a little family despite their obvious differences, but it's at this stage of life that Roz realizes she isn't quite equipped to handle this problem. While she may have a wealth of knowledge, none of it can compete with life experience. Roz recruits the help of a sage goose named Longneck (Bill Nighy) who is planning on leading his own pack south come winter. It's the first true instance where Roz must grapple with the mechanics of feelings instead of programming. After all, this gosling must literally fly the coop, and Roz must come to terms that this mission was actually one of love.

After all, as a highly intelligent computer, Roz may have extreme book smarts, but lacks (woodland) street smarts.

It's a poignant story of connection that weaves together the themes of love, loss and survival. While many children's stories steer away from loss, *The Wild Robot* tackles the theme of death quite openly and honestly. From the nature in which Brightbill is brought into the world to the likelihood of Roz being decommissioned, death is at the forefront of each storyline.

Although heavy, the filmmakers present the tale in such a beautiful way, in large part thanks to the captivating animation. Each character is so carefully thought out, with their own emotional depth and story to tell. From every high to every low, the details of the film so accurately portray the emotions each character feels without relying too heavily on dialogue.

The Wild Robot is clear in its messaging that love knows no boundaries despite the differences you may have with others. Coexistence is possible if one can simply lead with grace and understanding. It's a film that stresses the importance of wanting connection in life and while the path to get there might be a wild adventure, the destination is always worth it.

The Wild Robot is streaming on Peacock.

Will Your Home Insurance Company Deny a Claim If Your Trust Isn't Listed?

By Tim Gaspar

Most people don't spend much time thinking about their home insurance—until they need it. If insurance policies were a category in trivia night, they'd probably be grouped with topics like paperclip manufacturing or the rules of competitive yo-yoing.

When I mention that I work in insurance, I don't usually get a flood of burning questions from people eager to pick my brain, like I'm the real-life Jake from State Farm.

However, the recent wildfires in early January have sparked an important conversation: Do you really know what's in your home insurance policy? More importantly, could a technicality leave you without coverage when you need it most?

Why You Should Care About Your Home Insurance

If disaster strikes, you don't just want home insurance—you want home insurance that actually works. Yet, many consumers have been trained to focus solely on price rather than coverage, simply because that's what gets the phone to ring. The truth is, if you ever have to file a claim, the cost of your premium quickly becomes irrelevant.

Like any significant purchase, you should understand exactly what you're paying for. A good insurance policy isn't just about having coverage; it's about having the right coverage. Take time to sit down with your agent and review:

•Your policy limits

•The types of events covered (fire, theft, water damage, etc.)

•Any optional coverages available that may not be included in your standard policy

Even the most conscientious homeowner can run into coverage issues due to an often-overlooked concept called insurable interest—and this is where family trusts come into play.

How Insurable Interest Can Affect Your Coverage

Insurable interest is a fundamental principle of insurance: to insure something, you must own it. You can't insure your neighbor's house or your nephew's Toyota. (On a side note, this is also why you should never co-sign a car loan—but that's a topic for another day.)

A quick review could mean the difference between a paid claim and a denied one. So take a few minutes, check your policy, and make sure your trust is properly listed.

Now, let's consider family trusts. Many homeowners establish a trust to ensure their property avoids probate after their passing. If you've done estate planning, there's a good chance your home is held in your trust rather than in your personal name.

Here's where it gets tricky:

•Some insurance carriers require the trust to be listed as the named insured on the policy.

•Others may allow it as an additional insured—but it must be explicitly included somewhere.

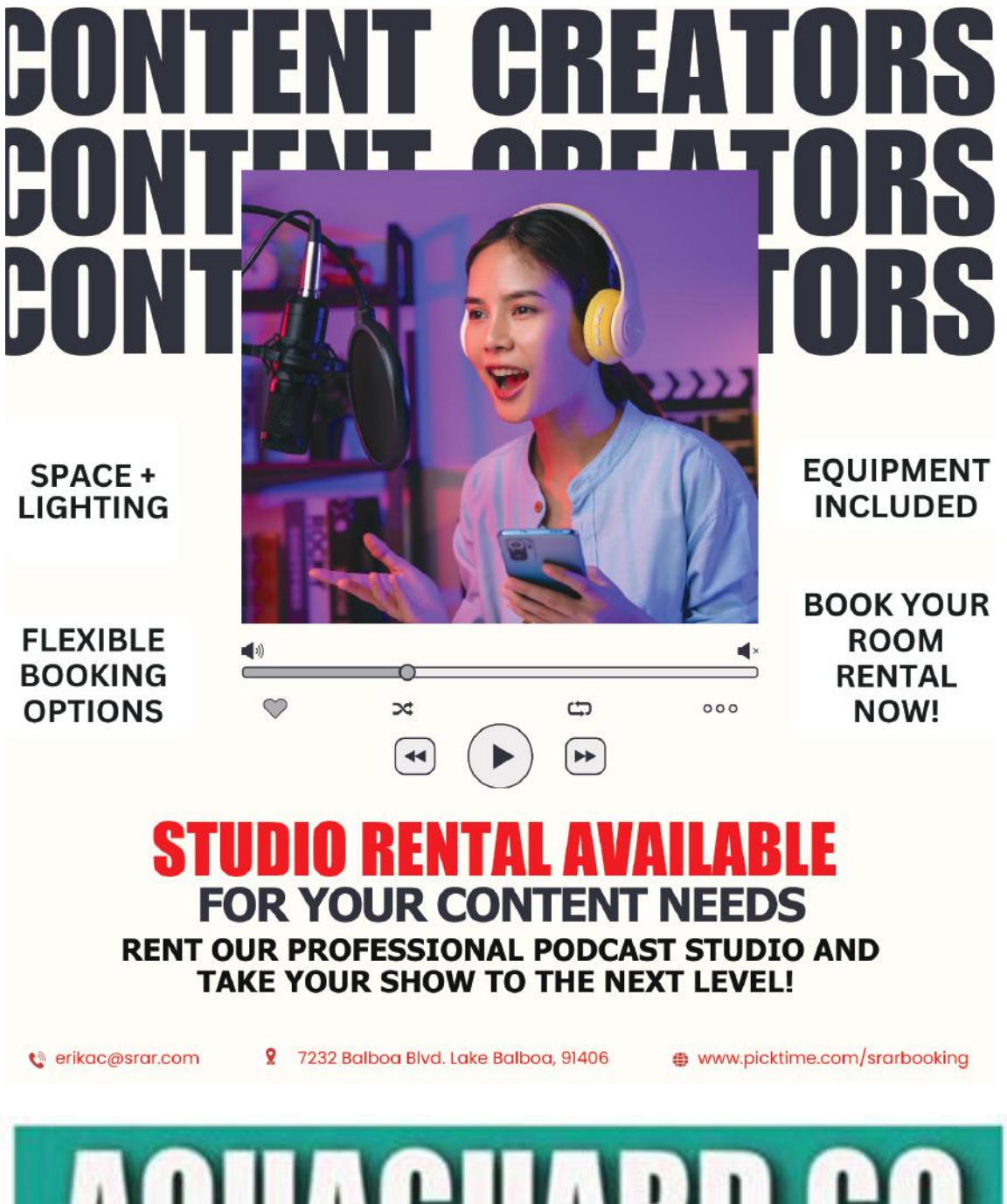
If your trust owns your home but isn't properly listed on your insurance policy, your insurance company could deny your claim—even if you've been paying your premiums on time for years.

What You Should Do Next

This is one of many reasons why you should review your home insurance policy annually with an insurance professional. Think of it like a dentist appointment or filing your taxes—not the most exciting task, but critical in the long run.

A quick review could mean the difference between a paid claim and a denied one. So take a few minutes, check your policy, and make sure your trust is properly listed. It's a small step that could save you from a massive financial headache down the road.

Tim Gaspar is the founder and CEO of Gaspar Insurance and a candidate for LA City Council 2026. You can reach him at tim@timgaspar.com.



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