Universal Studios Hollywood Introduces Mega Movie Summer

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Project Rise Named Non-Profit of the Year

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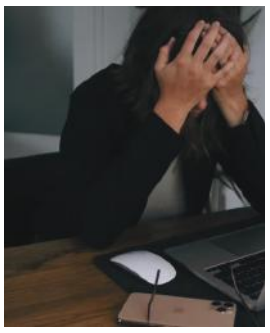
Maintaining Your Health During a Stressful News Cycle



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ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 6, Issue 122 | A Compendious Source of Information | June 19, 2025

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tarzana Community and Cultural Center to Host Music Night June 27

The Tarzana Community and Cultural Center will be hosting another music night on Friday, June 27, from 7 to 10 pm. The lineup includes Art Podell, Tracy Newman, Great Willow, Severin Browne, Karen Hart, Lisa Paschell, Karen Turner, Nick Kirgo, Kim Margolis, Brent Hahn, Tom Hubbard, Claire Bloom, Playin' Out, and Andy Kahn. Special guest Alfred Johnson will also perform. The show is only $5 and will be held outdoors where snacks and beverages will also be available for purchase. For tickets, visit mytarzana.org.

Congressman Sherman to Host In-Person Town Hall on June 28

Congressman Brad Sherman will host an in-person Town Hall on Saturday, June 28, from 2:30 to 4 pm. The meeting will be held at Canoga Park High School (6850 Topanga Canyon Blvd). The Congressman will make opening remarks and then answer questions on any issues facing Congress. Register to attend at bradsherman.house.gov/register. Sherman has served in the House of Representatives since 1997.

Shakespeare by the Sea Returns to Encino on June 27

Join fellow thespians for an open air performance of *As You Like It* by the touring company Shakespeare by the Sea. Organized by the Encino Neighborhood Council, Councilmember Raman, Supervisor Horvath and LA County Arts and Culture, the performance will take place on Friday, June 27, at 7 pm at the Sepulveda Garden Center (16633 Magnolia Blvd). Parking and admission are free. Seating is on flat grass so attendees are advised to bring blankets or low-backed chairs. For more info, see shakespearebythesea.org.

Meet Your New Encino Neighborhood Council

The Los Angeles City Clerk has released the official results of the June 3 election for local Neighborhood Council Elections. Results for the Encino Neighborhood Council are as follows:

-Area 1 Representative: Josh Sautter.

-Area 2 Representative: Adam Wright.

-Area 3 Representative: Shaindi Schwebel

-Area 4 Representative: Joanna C. Power.

-Area 5 Representative: Diane Rosen.

-Area 6 Representative: Laure Stevens.

-Area 7 Representative: Jennier Moghaddam Novian.

- At-Large Representatives: Kristin Moss, Anita Kamjoo and Heather S. Michaels.

- Business Representatives: Victoria Biddle and Varant Majarian.

-Community Interest Stakeholder Representative: Jennifer Luce.

- Homeowner Organization Representative: Roy Nwaisser.

-Parks and Recreation Representative: Glenn Bailey.

-Planning and Land Use Representative: Kelvin Tolbert.

-Renters Representative: Pilar Defreest.

-Youth Member: Tess Guralnick.

The swearing in of the new council is scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, at 7 pm at the monthly general board meeting which will take place in-person at the Woman's Club at the Encino Community Center (4935 Balboa Blvd). For more information on the council, visit encinonc.org.

Studio City Joins Nationwide "No Kings Day" Protest

By Mark Hovater

On Saturday, June 14, Americans from coast to coast marked "No Kings Day" with peaceful protests demanding the preservation of democracy and a rejection of authoritarianism. More than 11 million people participated nationwide, including a powerful turnout in Studio City, where an estimated 5,000 demonstrators gathered at Ventura Blvd. and Laurel Canyon.

The event, organized by the SFV Indivisible Organization, stretched nearly 10 blocks west and four blocks east along Ventura, drawing a sea of American flags, protest signs, drums, and high spirits. The tone was peaceful, energetic, and unified, as people of all backgrounds came together to raise their voices.

The Studio City protest stood out not only for its size but for its overwhelming positivity. Attendees arrived early, filling sidewalks and spilling into the streets with smiles, chants, and a sense of purpose. Despite the crowd, the event remained well-coordinated and safe, a testament to strong local organizing. Parking proved difficult due to the sheer number of participants—an encouraging problem for any civic movement. Scheduled for two hours, the event wrapped up right on time, with participants dispersing respectfully and leaving the streets with the same hopeful energy they brought with them.

Photos: Mark Hovater

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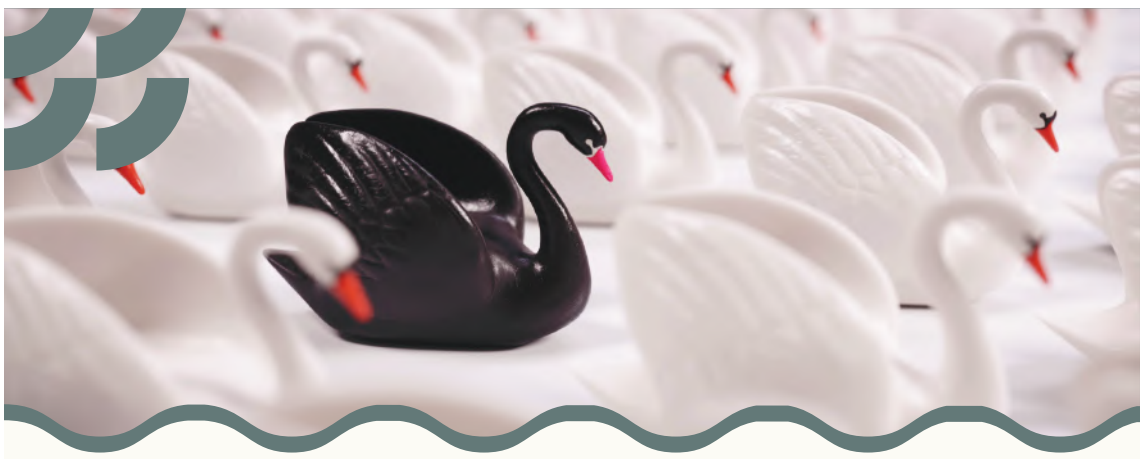

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Community Calendar

* The Encino Neighborhood Council will be holding their monthly general board meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, June 25, at 7 pm. For the link and agenda, visit encinonc.org.

* The United Chambers of Commerce will hold a Mega Mixer on Thursday, June 26, from 5 to 8 pm at Anheuser-Busch (15800 Roscoe Blvd). Join the largest networking event where more than 10 different chambers of commerce will attend. Day-of prices will be $45 for members and $60 for non-members. To register, sign up with your local chamber. Sherman Oaks and Encino businesses can register at shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* Join the Encino Tarzana Library on Tuesday, June 24, from 4 to 5 pm for Bubblemania. This will be an interactive, educational, and entertaining program about the science of bubbles. Bubblemania crafts soap bubble creations that will mesmerize the audience with shimmering reflections of light, color, and flowing liquid motion.

* Are you curious about the world of birds? Do you love exploring nature and discovering feathered friends in your own backyard or local park? The San Fernando Valley Audubon's Eagle Eyes Young Birders Club is open to all children aged six to 12 who are excited to discover the amazing variety of birds living right in their own backyards and local parks. No prior experience needed—just bring your curiosity! All children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the event. Outings occur on the last Sunday of every month. For more information, visit sfvaudubon.org/event/young-birders-walk-6.

* Are you looking for a new creative outlet? Why not join the Encino Tarzana Library on Saturday, June 28, from 11 to 12:30 pm for an intro to watercolor class? During this 90-minute session, instructor Melissa Elliot will cover the fundamentals including a discussion of supplies, materials, attributes and techniques. Live demonstrations will be followed by hands-on practice by participants. For ages 13 and up.

* The Tarzana Neighborhood Council will be holding their monthly board meeting on Tuesday, June 24, at 7 pm at the Tarzana Child Care Center (5700 Beckford Ave). For more info, visit tarzananc.org.

People in the News

At the United Chambers of Commerce Small Business Awards, New Apothecary was recognized by the Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce as their Small Business recipient. The dispensary has been open since 2012 and a member of the chamber since 2018.

Located on the border of Encino and Sherman Oaks, New Apothecary has been vital in giving back to the community that surrounds them. Some of their accomplishments include petitioning for a crosswalk in front of their establishment after a tragic vehicular accident, supporting philanthropic activities for the Tunnel to Tower Foundation and Toys for Tots and facilitating the installation of fiber internet in their neighborhood.

At right is **Manoj Srinivasan** of New Apothecary and Chamber CEO **Vickie Bourdas Martinez.**

June is Pride Month and **Councilman Bob Blumenfield,** above right, recognized **Amos Marvel**, MPS, SHRM-SCP, PHR, above left, as the 2025 LGBTQ+ History Month Honoree for Council District Three. Marvel is a small business owner and dedicated community leader who has called Reseda home for the past eight years.

He is the founder and owner of Seniors Helping Seniors, providing in-home care services that enable seniors to maintain an independent lifestyle in their own homes for as long as possible. The trusted caregivers of Seniors Helping Seniors are also a source of connection and companionship, helping seniors continue to enjoy a wide range of activities at home and around the community. Marvel is the recipient of not one, but two, Top 500 National Caregiver of the Year recognitions in 2024 by the Home Care Association of America.

He currently serves as Secretary of the Reseda Neighborhood Council and Chair of its Unhoused Neighbor Advocacy Committee. Since joining the board in 2023, Marvel has been a driving force in addressing homelessness, working closely with Council offices and serving as the Homelessness Liaison to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. He is also a member of the Board of Advisors, Transformative Leadership In Disruptive Times Executive Program at the University of Riverside.

A proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, Marvel is currently working with city leaders to organize the 2025 Valley Pride Celebration and continues to advocate for greater visibility, resources, and support for LGBTQ+ residents. Blumenfield said "He's a go-getter and a valued partner to our community and my office."

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.

• If a terminator ends something, shouldn't an exterminator bring it back?

• More lexophilia for our enlightned readers:
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crêpes.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

• Niki Budd chimes in with this factoid: the name "Jason" is the only name acronym for five months of the year: July, August, September, October, November.

• Three may keep a secret if two are dead.

• What happens when you throw a library full of books into the sea? You get a title wave.

• Didja' hear this one? A beggar walked up to a well-dressed woman on the boulevard and told her, "I haven't eaten anything in four days." To which she replied, "God, I wish I had your willpower!"

• Here's a thought for today: "Before borrowing money from a friend, decide which you need most."

• Politicians need to remember that "no comment" is a comment.

• For all you real estate folk out there, another weird fact. Do you know what "Impignorate" means? It means to mortgage something!

• Fun word fact! A word that contains a synonym inside of the whole word is often called a "kangaroo word." Examples include, MAscuLinE (male), cHickEN (hen) and hoNOuraBLE (noble). Can you think of any?

Congressman Brad Sherman

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Assemblymember Gabriel Names Project Rise as Non-Profit of the Year

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D - Encino) honored Project Rise, a Dawoodi Bohra Initiative, as his 2025 California Nonprofit of the Year for Assembly District 46. Assemblymember Gabriel was accompanied by (from left to right) Sakina Diwan, Project Rise Community Outreach Coordinator, Saif Mogri, Aamir Turab Hatami, Nominee of Dawat Hadiyah America, and Adnan Hamid, Project Rise Community Outreach Leader, for a luncheon in the State's Capitol, where they received the honor and recognition.

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, center, with from left, Saif Mogri, Adnan Hamid, Project Rise Community Outreach Leaders; Aamir Turab Hatami, Nominee of Dawat Hadiyah America, and Sakina Diwan, Project Rise Community Outreach Coordinator.

Launched in June 2018, Project Rise is a philanthropic initiative committed to addressing the needs of marginalized communities through a variety of impactful programs.

Launched in June 2018, Project Rise is a philanthropic initiative committed to addressing the needs of marginalized communities through a variety of impactful programs. With a core focus on tackling issues like malnutrition and environmental conservation, the organization has made significant strides in both global and local efforts, demonstrating unwavering dedication to environmental sustainability, humanitarian service, and interfaith collaboration.

"Project Rise has been an incredibly dedicated partner in protecting the environment, promoting interfaith collaboration, and serving the most vulnerable in our community," said Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino). "I'm so grateful for their service and I am proud to recognize them as our 2025 Nonprofit of the Year."

"We are honored and grateful to Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel for nominating Project Rise – A Dawoodi Bohra Initiative – as a 2025 Nonprofit of the Year," said Aamir Hatimi, representing The Dawoodi Bohras of Los Angeles. "This recognition reaffirms our commitment to uplifting communities and addressing global development challenges, ranging from hunger and poverty to climate crisis and education through compassion, sustainability, and service. We share this honor with many dedicated volunteers and partners who make our mission possible every day."

Project Rise is an active community partner in the West San Fernando Valley. For each of the last three years, Project Rise has participated in Assemblymember Gabriel's Annual Valley Day of Service, sponsoring thousands of lunch kits that are distributed to local food pantries and homelessness outreach organizations.

Project Rise also took the lead on multiple efforts to support fire relief efforts following the Palisades and Altadena fires, donating outreach kits for the City of Los Angeles' Inside Safe program, and coordinating community cleanups with Volunteers Cleaning Communities.

Where the Locals Go: Building Brand Presence Through Community Partnerships in the San Fernando Valley

by Danrochelle D. Yumul

These days, authenticity drives consumer trust, and brands are discovering the best way to connect with people is to show up where they already are. For businesses rooted in the San Fernando Valley, it means becoming part of the community's cultural fabric. The Valley offers endless opportunities for businesses to deepen their brand presence by investing in the people and places that make it special.

Community partnerships foster trust and visibility. Reputation travels fast in the Valley. When a business supports a local initiative or forms an authentic partnership, it's not just seen as marketing; it's seen as care. And, care builds loyalty.

Cultural Engagement

Few entities celebrate Valley pride like the Valley Relics Museum and My Valley Pass. The museum, packed with neon signs, classic BMX bikes, vintage fast-food memorabilia, and rare photos, draws in both locals and tourists. Meanwhile, My Valley Pass curates uniquely San Fernando Valley experiences, like summer drive-in movies, film location tours, and restaurant and brewery tours that keep the Valley's history alive and relevant.

Brands that partner with either of these organizations gain a priceless connection to Valley nostalgia, pop culture, and hometown pride. For example, local breweries and restaurants often sponsor events through My Valley Pass, earning grassroots visibility among tight-knit, loyal Valley audiences.

Retail That Gives Back

Large retailers can still act local, and Westfield Topanga has proven this. Through recurring partnerships with Hope of the Valley, a local nonprofit addressing homelessness, Westfield has hosted charity drives, awareness campaigns, and in-person donation stations. By using its platform to uplift a local cause, the mall transcends commerce and enters the realm of civic leadership.

The Events Connection

Events like the Sherman Oaks Street Fair, The Valley BlockFest, San Fernando Outdoor Market, and 818 Night Market provide a goldmine for brand interaction. Local businesses and service providers get direct access to thousands of residents, not just to sell, but to connect. These events bring together local food trucks, live entertainment, artisan booths, and local creators. Businesses that participate in these events benefit from strong foot traffic, social media buzz, and direct engagement with a community-minded audience.

Valley Relics Museum is the epitome of Valley pride.

Successful partnerships are built with intention. The most effective brand-community connections stem from genuine engagement, shared purpose, and consistent presence. Here are a few tips to help your business create lasting, meaningful relationships in the San Fernando Valley and beyond:

Align with Shared Values: Choose organizations or events that reflect your brand's core values. Authenticity is key.

Building brand presence in the San Fernando Valley isn't about slick ads or flashy campaigns. It's about becoming a trusted neighbor.

Show Up Consistently: Presence builds trust. Being a recurring name at annual events or monthly meetups matters.

Empower the Community: Don't just promote—give back. Whether through sponsorships, mentorships, or volunteer hours, community investment shows character.

Listen and Adapt: Ask local leaders what's needed. Being a partner means responding to real needs, not just assumed ones.

Building brand presence in the San Fernando Valley isn't about slick ads or flashy campaigns. It's about becoming a trusted neighbor. Whether you're a national brand with Valley roots or a family-owned business looking to grow, investing in community partnerships is one of the most powerful, long-term strategies you can employ. When your brand becomes synonymous with where the locals go, you become part of the community's story.

Danrochelle D. Yumul is a Communications Manager at Cowe Communications. Follow them on social @CoweOfficial or visit the website at Cowe.com.

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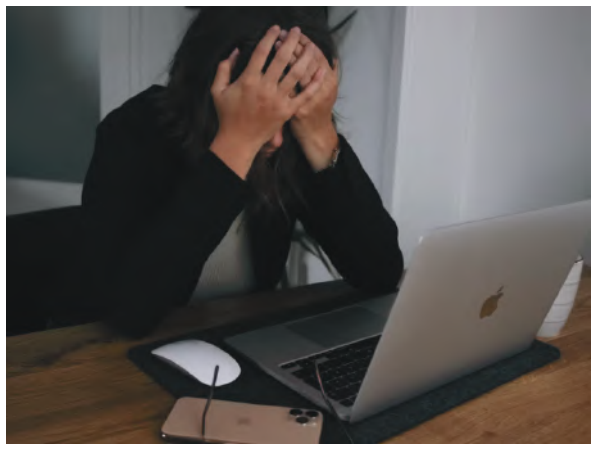
HEALTH

Maintaining Your Mental Health During a Stressful News Cycle

It goes without saying that Southern California has recently been inundated with an overwhelming amount of stressful local news. As the world becomes more dependent on technology, the news cycle is now not only instantaneous, but widely available. At any time, an individual is flooded with the latest headlines, breaking news and continuous alerts on events locally and worldwide. Programs are continously interrupted with news conferences, spreading recent information, but also potentially spreading further fear on the issue.

While important to stay informed and thus, better understand events at hand, there's no doubt that the influx of information can take a toll on your mental health. So how do you navigate the news during heightened media coverage? How do you balance your consumption of media while protecting your mental health?



Remember, more information is not always better. Just because there seems to be a limitless number of articles, clips, tweets, etc. doesn't mean one must attempt to ingest it all.

With a myriad of outlets reporting on the same topics, a lot of the information will be redundant. Consuming all the information you can find won't aid in easing anxiety, but could rather fuel it as reading the same repetitive information may make you feel as if you're not getting any answers.

With that being said, stick to select trustworthy news sources. There are countless outlets that will be disseminating information and many will exude fear-mongering, sensationalism or regurgitating false information.

Find sources that deliver the facts in a non-panicked and straightforward way and stick to those. Strategically curate your social media feeds to only show you these outlets.

Unfollow accounts that make you feel frustrated or anxious, mute certain key words or hashtags that you no longer want to see and block those that are not credible. Even turning off phone alerts for certain news apps can lessen anxiety and decrease distraction without the constant pinging of new updates.

With certain parameters in place, it's also helpful to set time limits for news consumption. If you find yourself in an endless bought of doomscrolling, limit your media intake to select parts of the day and try and not stray from those set times.

Make an hour of your morning dedicated to media updates and then only check your newsfeed once again at night. Or make certain areas of your home no-phone zones so the temptation to constantly pick up your cell for the latest information is diminished.

Don't feel guilty about needing to temporarily tune out of news coverage for the sake of your mental health. Whether you unwind with your favorite television series or a novel, there's no shame in tuning out of world events to unwind and have a mental reset.

The influx of horrific and never-ending news coverage can make anyone feel powerless, but by utilizing the strategies above, individuals can attempt to find balance in being informed without being overwhelmed.

If you find yourself in an endless bought of doomscrolling, limit your media intake to select parts of the day and try and not stray from those set times.

Small, tangible actions can lead to better well-being that will not only benefit yourself but others. By taking the time to step away from regurgitating news cycles, individuals can also step towards actions and partake in small acts of change to aid the crisis seen on screen. Whether it be donating your time or donating money to a credible non-profit aiding the humanitarian crisis, stepping away from the news by personally participating can also make it feel like you have a stronger grasp on the situation.

While media breaks may be brief, the benefits on mental health are crucial. You can consume the news without it consuming you.

Do You Follow the 10-3-2-1-0 Sleep Rule?

In the arsenal of tricks to get a good night's sleep, the 10-3-2-1-0 rule focuses on the measures an individual can take during the day to ensure a restful slumber. The numbers represent the hours before bed and the habits you should implement during the countdown to bed. Take the time you typically head to bed and count backwards to determine the timing on when each rule should be instigated.

Ten hours before bed you should eliminate caffeine as it can increase energy levels and make falling asleep more difficult. So, for example, if you go to sleep at 10 pm, your last intake of caffeine should be before 12 pm. This is because caffeine effects can last for up to six hours and experts suggest avoiding it for several hours before bedtime to allow lingering effects to wear off.

Three hours before bed, stop consuming any food or alcohol as research shows eating too close to bedtime makes you wake up more frequently with digestion issues or needing to use the restroom. Concurrently, alcohol disrupts your sleep cycle by reducing REM (rapid eye movement), the type of sleep critical for rest.

Two hours before bed, experts suggest signing off from work or any stressful activities that stimulate your brain, making it harder to fall asleep. If possible, keep work out of your bedroom entirely by not allowing a laptop or cell phone in bed where you might be tempted to send emails or do work.

Then, one hour before bed, shut down all screens including your phone, tablet, television and such. Artificial light that emits from screens can negatively affect your circadian rhythm as the blue light can suppress melatonin release, which tells your body it is time to rest.

Lastly, zero indicates the amount of time you should hit the snooze button in the morning. Studies have shown that hitting snooze can disrupt your sleep pattern and make you groggier upon waking, so experts advice to avoid hitting that button as much as possible.

The more consistent one can be with their sleep schedules, the more restful and beneficial a good night's sleep can be. Attempt to fall asleep and wake up at roughly the same time daily, create a calming sleep environment and avoid napping during the day.

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Seasonal Depression is Possible in Summer Too

While seasonal affective disorder, or SAD, is most likely associated with the winter months, it is possible to suffer the same depression during the summer months instead. Whether rain or shine, mental health can be negatively affected by major seasonal changes. When it occurs during the warmer months, the National Institute of Health refers to this as summer sadness.

Although classified under similar monikers, the symptoms can vary greatly depending on the season they occur in. Summer SAD is typically associated with a loss of appetite, insomnia and a higher risk of suicide. Conversely, winter SAD is associated with eating more and lethargy. These symptoms can occur in part because of the drastic change in weather, but also for many, the change in normal routine.

Firstly, heat can be a strong trigger as high temperatures and bright light can negatively impact certain individuals bodies, creating a physiological imbalance that can harm their mental health. Rising temperatures also means dressing differently which can trigger body image issues.

In terms of routine, many use school or work to keep themselves grounded and on a predicated schedule. With summer vacation, normal routines get disrupted which can make an individual feel lost. Seeing others on elaborate vacations, when you possibly can't make that happen for yourself, is also a strong emotional trigger. Since summer is a time most associated with fun, it can be triggering to feel isolated or depressed.

While most coping mechanisms for winter SAD involve getting outdoors and exposing oneself to sunlight, these tips don't translate for summer SAD. Researchers are still attempting to study this form of depression, but offer the suggestions of balancing time spent indoors (in early morning or late night when its cooler), luxuriating in cool water or simply making sure to wear sunglasses to combat the extreme light. Like winter SAD, it's imperative to keep track of your emotions and talk to those closest to you for support. If the feelings of depression persist or worsen, seek the aid of a medical professional. If you or someone you know is struggling with depression, dial 988, the nation's mental health crisis hotline.

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LEISURE CARE

The Reel History of the Valley

By Martin M. Cooper

A Strange Name for a Very Talented Man

Ever heard of Ubbe Ert Iwerks?

Probably not, yet a large measure of the success of the behemoth Disney organization's early achievements belongs to him.

An artist and animator just like Walt Disney, Ub, as he was known, was a key part of the Burbank Mouse House organization from 1923 to 1930, left for a decade and then returned to Disney from 1940 to 1964, a total of 31 years.

Iwerks and Disney met while both were working at the Pesmen-Rubin Art Studio in Kansas City. Iwerks was just nine months older than Disney and the relationship they struck up lasted for decades. They went into the cartoon and animation business together, but their fledgling firm's bankruptcy led to Disney relocating to Los Angeles in 1923.

While you would never know it, since the near-deification of Walt Disney by the company's publicity machine leaves little room for others to stand in the spotlight (and that was one of the major causes of the studio's cartoonists' bitter strike in 1941), Iwerks was nearly as responsible for the creative and technical achievements of the company as Walt himself.

To prove the point, a few of Iwerks achievements: He refined the look of Mickey Mouse, based on Disney's initial sketch and developed Oswald the Lucky Rabbit with Walt; much of the animation for the early *Silly Symphony* cartoons, which included Steamboat Willie and several others; and was responsible for much of the technical advancements in animation.

In January 1930, he and Walt had a disagreement. Some biographers say it was over the issue of who received credit for what creations, but in any event, Iwerks set up his own firm, and provided services for MGM, Screen Gems, and others.

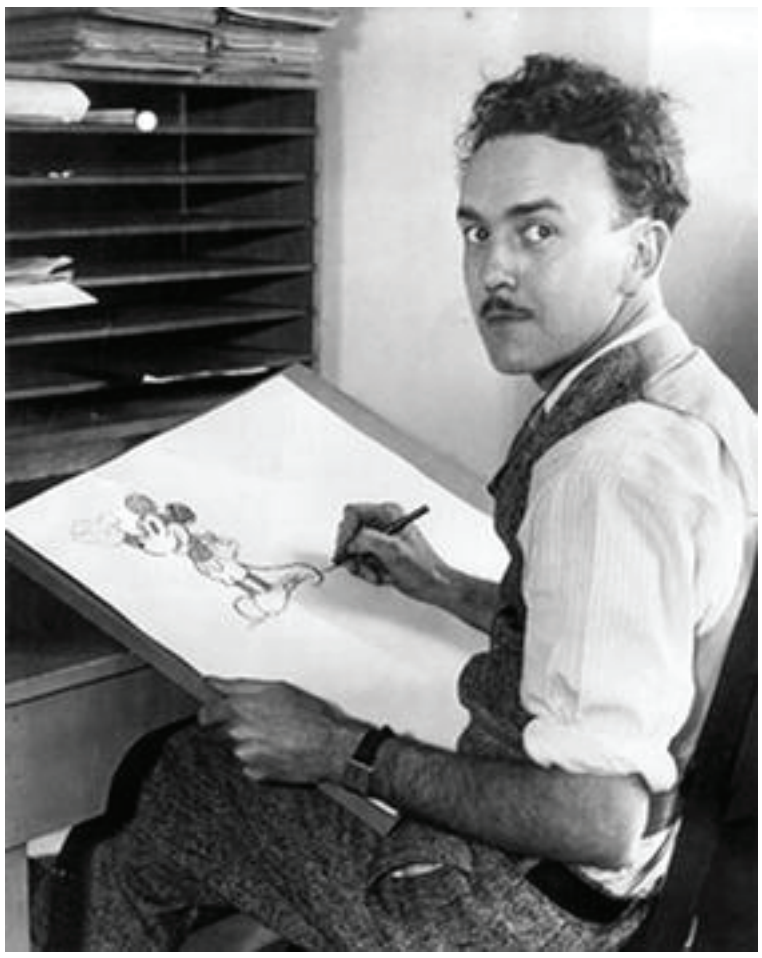
He returned to Disney in 1940 and stayed there until his retirement, but the closeness of the early relationship was never rekindled.

Some of his activities during that 24-year stint included much of the animation for 1946's *Song of the South*, technical advances used in such films as *101 Dalmatians* (1961), the matte system for the "Feed the Birds" sequence in *Mary Poppins* (1964) and he developed a number of attractions for the Disney theme parks. His last Disney contribution was to the Hall of Presidents attraction at Disney World in Florida.

It's not as if the Disney organization totally ignored Iwerks' substantial contributions to its success; he was posthumously made a Disney Legend in 1989; was honored with three Academy Awards nominations and one Academy Award, and other honors.

Iwerks died at the age of 70, successful as an animator, cartoonist, film producer, inventor, and special effects technician. *The Hand Behind the Mouse: The Ub Iwerks Story*, a documentary film, was released in 1999, followed by a book written by Iwerks.

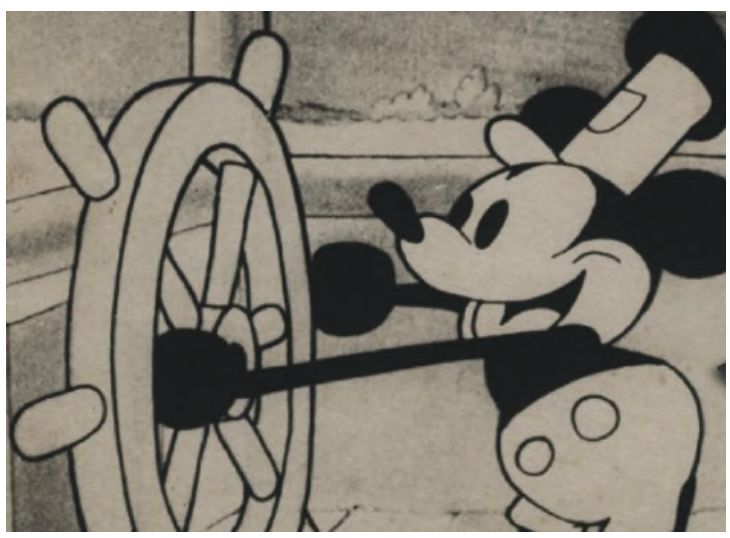
But the truth of the matter is that – to a large degree – Ub Iwerks has never received all the credit he deserves as one of the creative pillars upon which the Disney organization rests.



Ub Iwerks at his drawing board.

The title card for Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, which Iwerks played a major role in creating…but his name is not on the credits.

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 was Board Chairman of the UCLA Film & Television Archive. He is currently researching his next book, The 'Reel' Hollywood: The San Fernando Valley, the history of motion pictures in the Valley.



An Iwerks-created illustration of Mickey Mouse in Steamboat Willie, a short directed by both Disney and Iwerks.

ENTERTAINMENT

Universal Studios Hollywood Introduces Mega Movie Summer

This summer, Universal Studios Hollywood will become movie buff central when iconic movies leap from the silver screen to the theme park as part of Universal Mega Movie Summer, an all-new seasonal event designed to offer guests the best summer day in L.A. Having debuted Friday, June 13 and continuing daily through Sunday, August 10, Universal Mega Movie Summer will create experiences for guests that redefine how they can "beat the heat," "hang with friends" and "party in the park."

With the addition of ingenious menu items, curated by Universal Studios Hollywood Executive Chef Julia Thrash and complemented by all-new collections of exclusive merchandise, including apparel and toys, Universal Mega Movie Summer will delight guests and fans with an array of exclusive in-world, themed offerings.

Highlights include:

Jurassic World—The Ride Featuring Mosasaurus Splash, inspired by Universal Pictures' highly-anticipated movie *Jurassic World Rebirth* opening in theaters on July 2, roars to life within the theme park's popular dinosaur-laden thrill ride. The iconic 84-foot water drop at the ride's finale will reverberate with the menacing roar of a mosasaurus. Four new spitter dinosaurs will join the melee and water geysers will erupt to shower guests.

An all-new adorable dinosaur from *Jurassic World Rebirth* will join Blue the velociraptor, Juliet the triceratops and Baby Tango. These highly realistic, lifelike dinosaurs will engage with guests alongside the debut of an all-new adventure character, also inspired by *Jurassic World Rebirth*. A larger-than-life photo op of a spinosaurus dinosaur will welcome guests to step into a thrilling scene from the film for a memorable photo for instant social postings, and an inspiring scavenger hunt game featuring Compy will entertain visitors while keeping them on their toes.

Jurassic Cafe will serve up a sampling of new prehistoric delicacies, plus Isla Nubar will feature new cocktails, The Jurassic Water Rebirth and Spicy Jurassic Pearadise.

To mark the 50th Golden Anniversary of *Jaws* the movie, Universal Studios Hollywood is reintroducing its iconic hanging shark, a larger-than-life dimensional sculpture photo op, and paying homage to this Academy Award-winning blockbuster with the debut of meet and greet characters, Captain Quint and Chief Brody. On the Studio Tour, *Jaws* will be

featured on the iconic Hollywood Sign replica, situated along the backlot hillside, and the infamous Jaws Lake attraction as it celebrates July 4th all summer long.

Hollywood & Dine, located just inside the theme park's main entry, will transform into Amity Island Cafe, serving up a menu fit for a great white. Menu and beverage highlights will include lobster roll, vegan crab cake sandwich, fish and chips, fish and chicken basket, Shark Bait Burger, Shark Fin Funnel Cake, Amity Island Parfait and Amity Beach Lifesaver Donut, as well as The Shark Bite cocktail and Amity Open Water, a non-alcoholic beverage.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the landmark film *Back to the Future,* the iconic time machine from the film will be staged on the theme park's Upper Lot, adjacent to Mel's Diner. Characters Doc Brown, Marty McFly and Einstein the dog will all be on hand and paw to greet guests and pose for timeless photo ops.

With its decades-old throwback sensibilities, Mel's Diner idyllically captures the essence of *Back to the Future*, serving up such menu options as the Flux Capacitor Patty Melt, Time Machine Pastrami Melt, Doc Brown's Chicken Pot Pie, Outatime Cookie, Time Traveler's Milk Shake, Flux Capacitor Mocktail and Wake Up Juice Cocktail.

Guests and fans of Universal Pictures' blockbuster *Wicked* will have a chance to rejoicify with popular characters, Elphaba and Glinda, when they step out in style to greet guests at the theme park's existing vibrant *Wicked* themed photo op, located adjacent to the main entrance.

A sculpted dimensional photo op of Toothless from Universal Pictures and DreamWorks' live action movie *How to Train Your Dragon* will take center stage within Universal Plaza. This lifelike, 730-pound, larger-than-life sculpted dimensional dragon will tower at nearly 6' in height, measuring 24' in length and 8' in width. Surprised guests posing next to Toothless will no doubt be able to imagine themselves soaring with their favorite dragon within the Isle of Berk.

A dedicated food cart within Universal Plaza will serve scrumptious treats that only a dragon could devour, such as Toothless and Light Fury cookies and a Toothless popcorn bucket.

As construction continues on Fast & Furious: Hollywood Drift, Universal Studios Hollywood's first-ever high-speed outdoor roller coaster opening in 2026, the theme park will offer guests an exciting sneak peek at one of the ride vehicles for this all-new adventure. The Dodge Charger ride vehicle, designed to look like Dominic Toretto's 1970 Dodge Charger, will park within Universal Plaza for guests to enjoy as the theme park races towards the roller coaster's grand opening next year.

Universal CityWalk Hollywood is also toasting Universal Mega Movie Summer with a variety of entertainment and limited-time offerings.

For more information about Universal Studios Hollywood, visit UniversalStudiosHollywood.com, follow @UniStudios on Instagram and X and like Universal Studios Hollywood on Facebook.

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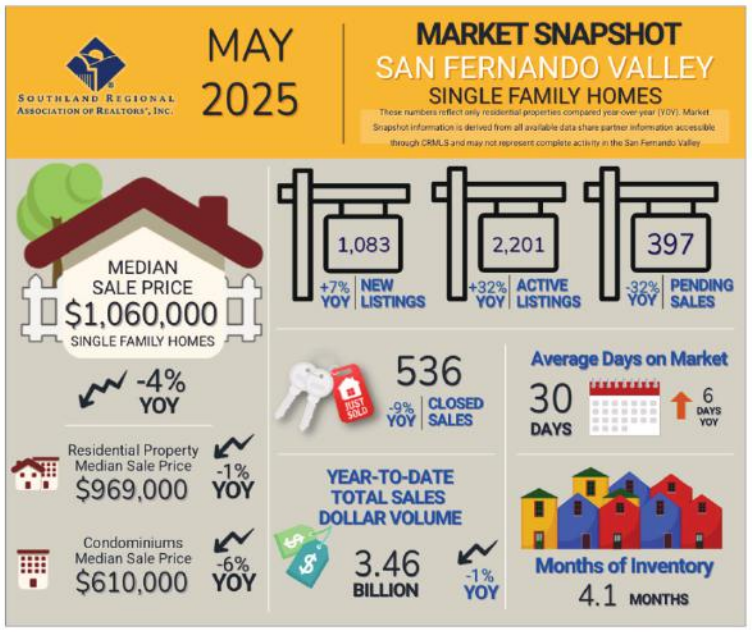

Valley Home and Condo Sales Fell During May While Inventory Soared to Highest Level in Five Years

After rising for four consecutive months, closed escrows of existing single-family homes and condominiums fell during May throughout the San Fernando Valley while the number of properties listed for sale climbed to the highest level in five years, the Southland Regional Association of REALTORS® (SRAR) reported today.

While low by long-term historical standards – the record for any month for combined home and condo listings was 14,976 active listings set in July 1992 – the 2,201 single-family home active listings reported this May surpassed the peak tally reported prior to the pandemic of 2,161 in June 2019.

Similarly, the 649 condominium active listings in May came in just under the totals reported in April through September 2019. The home active listing total was up 46.0% while the condo tally rose 64.7% compared to May 2024.

"Prospective buyers were coming out in numbers, eager to sort through a suddenly expanded selection as the inventory swelled," said Anthony Bedgood, President of the SRAR. "Then the impact from the January wildfires, the threat of international tariffs, and now lingering economic uncertainty continues to cloud the future, making some buyers hesitant. Sales were rising, as they often do in the early months of each year," he said. "But after a hopeful start, May totals went in the other direction."

The Association reported the close of escrow on 536 single-family homes and 119 condominiums. The home total was down 9% while the condo tally plunged 20.7% compared to May 2024 – numbers closer to when the economy shut down due to the pandemic.

"There's always opportunity, regardless of the market," said Valerie Biletsky, SRAR's Chief Executive Officer. "Slowing sales and rising inventory typically translate into slower price appreciation or even price reductions, especially if an owner must sell in a hurry."

The median price of single-family homes that closed escrow last month was $1,060,000, which was down 3.6% from a year ago and well below the record high $1,140,000 of July 2024. The condominium median price – which means half the sales had prices higher and half lower – of $610,000 fell 6.2%.

Pending escrows – a measure of future closed escrow totals – reported a 32% drop for homes and a plunge of 51% for condominiums.

Bedgood and Biletsky agreed that rising inventory, softening prices and fewer closed escrows are all reflections of ongoing buyer concerns over the direction of the economy. Plus, listings are staying on the market longer – 30 days for homes, up 6 days from a year ago, and 44 days for condos, up 21 days.

At the current pace of sales May saw a 4.4-month supply of homes and condos, a number approaching a historical tipping point where sellers' grip on the market loosens and buyers gain bargaining leverage. (For perspective, over 38 years, SRAR reported a 5.3-month average supply while the five-year average from 2019 to 2024 came in at a 2.6-month supply.)

SRAR's Income-to-Loan guide for May found that an income of $158,326 was needed to qualify for an 80% loan of $488,000 on a San Fernando Valley median-priced condominium of $610,000. With the national average interest rate at 6.64%, the income needed to qualify was down 9.1% from a year ago. The monthly PITI — principal, interest, taxes and insurance payments — totaled $3,958.

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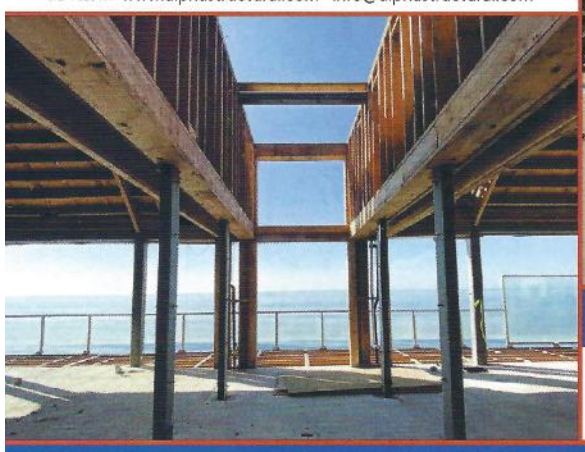

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DJ Quik
EMERGING ARTIST: **Trevan**

June 29
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EMERGING ARTIST: **Cherose**

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July 4th Extravaganza
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Strange Days - Tribute to The Doors

July 13
Twisted Gypsy
Fleetwood Mac Re-imagined
EMERGING ARTIST: **Ava August**

July 20
Kenny Hale
The Music of Neil Diamond
EMERGING ARTIST: **Jeffrey Chan**

July 27
Surfin'
The Beach Boys Tribute
EMERGING ARTIST: **Millie Oliver & The Missing Pieces**

August 3
Live From Earth
Tribute to Pat Benatar & Beyond
EMERGING ARTIST: **Abby Berman**

August 10
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EMERGING ARTIST: **Astral Mixtape**

August 17
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EMERGING ARTIST: **Velzy**

August 24
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